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# GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

## Historical, Biographical, Statistical.

*Chronicling the events of the first Sixty Years of the County's Existence as the abode of white men; with County, Township, City and Village matters fully detailed, and with Miscellaneous Events of importance duly and suitably treated; by one who has been a resident of the County nearly half a Century.*

WILLARD D. TUCKER.



FINELY AND PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED.

1913.

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SAGINAW, MICH.

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# PROEM.

Inasmuch as "Proem" means about the same as "Preface" and has the advantage of being a trifle shorter, I use it here to "preface" a few remarks relative to the why and wherefore of this volume. So, to proceed at once to business, it seems proper to remark that the book comes in response to quite a general demand for something that would pass for a complete history of the county from the time of its organization to the present year of grace. Of course the "demand" became more apparent and more pronounced after I had called the attention of the people to the matter, and had enlarged eloquently upon the feasibility, the merits and the desirability of such a work.

It has been well along toward six years since the matter was first suggested; twice as long a time as it seemed likely that such an undertaking would consume. But no apologies seem necessary for that fact. The expense of time and money has been on me and not on the patrons. If the object had been to get out a book to barely fill the bill, just for the sake of the little money there was in the project, the work could have been done, somehow, probably in two or three years by employing enough help. But the object was to get out something thorough and worth while, so as to meet the expectations of those who were encouraging the project. That being the state of facts, I soon found that, to satisfy the people, and myself as well, a long time would be required, particularly as it seemed desirable that I should do the work personally, and not depend on hired, and consequently uninterested helpers.

In this connection, and right here, it seems appropriate, and it is certainly a pleasure, to put in permanent form the words of encouragement that sent me on my congenial, though tedious and perplexing mission; also the names of the prominent citizens responsible for them. Of course I think, or at least hope, that they will be proud of the fact that they encouraged the undertaking. And still the chance exists that after they have seen and perused the book, they may feel any way but proud. Here is the document which is in some measure responsible for the work now before you:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Our well-known fellow-citizen, Willard D. Tucker, has made known to us whose names are hereto attached, that he has in mind an important project, namely: the publication of a reliable, complete and up-to-date history of Gratiot County, with full details brought down to date of publication. Realizing that such a work would call for an immense amount of research, labor and time, besides the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, he deems it wise before positively deciding the matter, to get the views of a number of his friends as to the wisdom and feasibility of the undertaking; whether or not such a work would be likely to meet a want with the people, and whether or not he would be a suitable person to undertake it.

After getting his ideas in the matter, and an outline of the scope and thoroughness of the proposed work, we feel impelled to say, freely and without hesitation, that in our opinion the project is one of especial merit and promise, and therefore it meets our hearty approval and commendation.

Mr. Tucker is well qualified to write of pioneer days for he is something of a pioneer himself, having been a resident of the county for the past 41 years. His experience and record as a newspaper publisher for 25 years, and his well-known ability as a forcible, concise and entertaining writer, commend him as especially fitted and equipped for the undertaking; a man also in whom the people can have great confidence in a matter of this kind. We are satisfied that if he concludes to go forward with the work he will produce a book that will not only be a credit to himself, but one of great interest and value to the people of the county for its historical merit and also as a convenient and trustworthy book of reference in all matters within the scope of its purpose.

Signed:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Geo. P. Stone | Jno. T. Mathews | O. G. Tuttle |
| Kelly S. Searl | John M. Everden | I. S. Seaver |
| C. F. Pike | I. N. Cowdrey | M. R. Salter |
| N. Church | A. S. Barber | J. H. Winton |
| W. E. Winton | C. G. Graham | B. H. Sawyer |
| J. Lee Potts | Nettie Comstock | Henry Read |
| A. McCall | A. E. Barstow | Gaylord Helms |
| Silas Moody | Wm. T. Pitt | D. L. Sharrar |
| J. W. Holmes | N. J. McCullough | D. L. Johnson |
| Wm. A. Bahlke | C. L. Delavan | Jas. G. Kress |
| John T. Swigart | Geo. W. Pulfrey | T. W. Whitney |
| C. J. Chambers | C. M. Brown | K. P. Peet |
| A. B. Darragh | John Burns | Jas. K. Wright |
| C. W. Giddings | A. R. Wheeler | A. P. Lane |

A perusal of the names at this time recalls the sorrowful realization that six of those whose names are attached—Wm. T. Pitt, T. W. Whitney, N. J. McCullough, Wm. E. Winton, A. E. Barstow and B. H. Sawyer—have since left the scenes of their earthly labors and have gone to their long rest. All of them, dead or alive, and scores of others, have my grateful appreciation of their cordial support of the enterprise, from first to last, for their interest in the undertaking, and their faith in the "undertaker". For disinterested kindness in furnishing information—disinterested because he has no interest in the county excepting perhaps in a general, or perchance in a political way—thanks are due to Hon. Francis O. Lindquist, member of Congress from this district, and to his courteous private secretary, Mr. H. S. Shaw. At a cost of much time and trouble they furnished me with a complete list of Gratiot County's postoffices, big and little, from first to last; also lists of postmasters in their regular order for every one of the postoffices, running from the first appointee to the last one; all taken fresh from the official records at Washington. All is embodied in this completed work, and forms an important and interesting feature for future reference.

While I do not claim to have put in all of my time on this work since it was commenced, I certainly have a realizing sense of the fact that I have given it a great amount of time, and have given it the most painstaking attention to secure accuracy and completeness in all of the multitudinous details involved, and have endured an infinity of perplexities; all of which, however, I believe have been fully compensated for in the production of a work that I am vain enough to believe will be approved by the patrons and people generally.

It was a pet consideration with me in this work, to produce a book, the price of which could be kept down within the reach of a large number of people, as I much prefer to sell a large number of copies at a popular price, rather than a few at a large price. So I adjusted my prices to a very low scale, and have adhered to them strictly, and still adhere to them, notwithstanding the fact that I have put to the work twice the time, and twice the preliminary expense that I expected to, and, notwith-

# *Two Small Favors Solicited*

Dear Friend and Patron:—

After more than five years of strenuous labors, and at an expense probably twice as great as you suspect, and certainly more than I anticipated, here is the result of my work. I hope and believe it will please you. If it does not it will be my misfortune rather than my fault, for it has been my earnest endeavor, according to the best of my ability, to get out a book to cover the ground thoroughly, and to the satisfaction of the people who so kindly and with so much faith have encouraged the work along. I call your attention to the extra large number of pages. You will remember that right from the start I promised a book of 800 or 1000 pages. Here is a book of over 1300 pages; four or five hundred pages absolutely thrown in at an extra cash cost to me of many hundred dollars, besides the time and research required; and not a cent of additional cost to you. The workmanship—type, presswork, paper stock, engravings, binding—speaks for itself; it is before you.

Favor No. 1. After looking the book over pretty thoroughly and finding out whether or not it meets your approbation, I would be pleased to have you say a good word for it to any neighbor or friend as you have opportunity, calling his attention to whatever features that strike your notion as being valuable or interesting. In that way you can not only do me a favor, but possibly by so doing you may do him or her a favor fully as great. Even a letter to a distant friend who perchance was a former resident here might seem to you an appropriate act, and undoubtedly could do no harm. There will be a limited number of extra copies—not a large number, but enough to supply the demands of the first comers at least; and at a very moderate price considering the great expense of getting out such a work; about one-half the price generally charged for county histories.

Favor No. 2. Write me a letter or postal card, stating as briefly or as fully as like, your opinion as to the merits and value of the book, not only for this generation but for a long time to come. The book covers the important events of the first 60 years of the county's history. Even with its faults—and without doubt it has them—is there anything to take its place; or is there likely to be anything to take its place in this generation or the next? Is it good for the old? Is it good for the young? Is it good for school pupils of the county? Is it good to have in the family? Write what you want to about it, giving your views freely, whether they are favorable or otherwise; and with the understanding that I may want to quote some of the sentiments expressed by you.

Hoping for an early response to these suggestions,

Yours very truly,

W. D. T.

standing the still more important fact that the charges of the engravers, printers and binders are fully 50 per cent. greater than I had reason to expect. But I have had to modify my ambition as to selling a large number of copies beyond the number already subscribed for. These will be supplied exactly as agreed, and the price of extra copies will still be low; but the number of extra copies, on account of the combination of adverse circumstances and conditions mentioned, will necessarily be limited to a number much below what I had expected to secure. Aside from this one drawback, I am pleased to announce the fact, in connection with the completion of the work, that the price remains very moderate; a fact that will be very apparent when comparison is made with other local histories, and especially when compared with the prices and merits of the two other Gratiot County books, heretofore produced; prices running from $15.00 to $85.00. Merits may be compared by the reader of these lines; I have not the heart to do it. These things are referred to only for the purpose of comparison, and not to find fault with another man's work.

One of the hardest things to do in writing a history of this kind when so many localities, so many people, and so many years have to be considered and dealt with, is to keep up a general continuity of subjects, times and events. Information and pointers come from so many different sources, covering such a great range of time and referring to so many localities, it seems unavoidable that breaks and jumps and irregularities will frequently occur. "Try it yourself" might not be an altogether inappropriate response to anyone unduly critcising along this line.

The meagerness of some of the old records and the lapse of time that has killed off so many of the pioneers—almost all of them in fact—who could give information from personal knowledge and experience, have impelled me to take advantage of the narratives of some of the pioneers as presented at pioneer meetings and on other occasions. No apology is needed for this, for they constitute a line of facts and reminiscences strictly authentic, because they come from the actual participants in the events and experiences of which they treat. One should begin at the beginning and read through in regular order, as near as may be, entering into the spirit of the times written of, and into the spirit of the individual written of, living his life with him, and seeing the future as he saw it, by the eye of faith, and not as you now see it. Only in that way can you fully enjoy the reading of history; local history at least.

Some of the matters written are based on my own individual knowledge and experience. It could hardly be otherwise, considering the fact that I have been on the scene, in the body, for a period of forty-seven years. For this reason some of the events written of will seem to have a personal flavor. It has been the aim, however, to avoid anything like a personal coloring in dealing with such matters, and to give the facts fairly, though fearlessly, as the people are entitled to know them. History is history; and good history is such as tells facts, regardless. And the mere fact that some of the actors may still be living should make but little, if any, difference. The Good Book itself is sometimes a little rough on some of its most prominent characters. A history that narrates facts is bound to "hit" somebody, sometimes; and the history of a county that confined itself to a statement as to boundary lines, the lay of the land, the timber, the date of organization and the names of the prominent organizers, and didn't go into details, would interest about twenty people, and would last the average reader about twenty minutes. The work of writing this history was undertaken for the reason, in a measure, that I

believed I could scrape up a lot of information relative to the county and its people, from the records, from those on the scene and from my own personal knowledge, that would interest a large proportion of the people, and interest them for many years to come.

A word or two as to contradictions and inconsistencies, real or only seeming. There may be a few, and the reader may find them. If he does, the best course possible will be for him to strike an average and let it go at that. And perhaps the version given may be better than the real thing would have been. However, it is believed that there will be but little trouble on that score, for, as before stated, no time or expense has been spared to secure accuracy.

A few words as to biographical sketches. Not all of the extra good men and women of the county are represented with sketches. It is a safe statement, however, that all who do have sketches are among the very best of Gratiot County's citizens, and every one of those sketches add value to this volume. The absence of certain sketches may be a disappointment to some. But whatever regrets there are will come mainly from those prominent citizens, who, having the opportunity, through false modesty, or for small considerations of economy, or thorough procrastination failed to take advantage of their opportunities. Through indifference and neglect still more reprehensible, quite a large number of meritorious early settlers, pioneers who have gone to their reward, after lives of toil and hardships endured for the benefit of their families, are deprived of the full recognition fairly due them. In such cases, wherever possible, I have given them the best "whirl" I could, with the best data available as to their lives and achievements, thus making amends as far as possible, for the neglect of those who might have been expected to show a little extra regard for their memories. The portraits are of prominent people, good and appropriate; and the other illustrations are first class and in keeping with the general object and scope of the work.

Someone said that "the best thing about Mr. Jones is Mrs. Jones." In a general way the same may be said of all women—that the best thing about a man is a woman. But the exception comes in when a fellow starts out to canvass for book subscriptions. My experience is that in such a case the worst thing about a man is the woman. In about nine cases in ten, when a man said, "Let's go to the house and see what the woman says about it," a dark and dismal shadow seemed to at once settle over the landscape. "What do you want of any more books? You don't get time to read the weekly papers, let alone books. What does it cost? Oh, Henry! And you can get any quantity of books for fifty cents apiece! Gimme the money and I'll buy something for the house that we need more than we do atlases!" And in some cases I am free to say that I hadn't the heart to blame the woman one bit.

Drawing these remarks to a close, I desire particularly to impress upon the readers mind the fact that the official records given so fully in this volume, may be relied upon for all matters which they purport to cover; and they are given in their regular order. They need not all be read seriatim; at least not at the first reading. And still, some of them, like the "Supervisors Doings," covering as they do important features of the organization of the county, the location of the county seat, the organization of the townships, the appointment of officers, dealing with the "starvation period," buying the lands and conducting the County Farm matters, building the old log court house, the next court house and the jail, the new court house, and a thousand and one other things of interest and import-

ance, not the least among them being the mention of the hundreds of prominent men of the townships, who have made up the membership of the board for the past nearly sixty years; all this will be intensely interesting to many if read as a continued story; and valuable to all for reference. All this, together with the presidential, state and county elections, supplemented by the township, city and village elections in their appropriate places, cannot fail to interest the politician and all others who enjoy matters of this public and official nature. Other features need not be referred to. They are there by the score, for perusal.

Without further remarks this "Proem" ends here, with the earnest hope expressed, that the work will fairly meet the approval of all those who have honored and flattered me with the confident belief that my years of labor and research would result in the production of a reasonably complete and trustworthy history of Gratiot County. I would not enjoy, tolerate, nor deserve applause. I do not expect adequate compensation for the time, money and worry cost of the work. I have worked hard, in my way, to satisfy my friends and myself, and hope I have succeeded.

W. D. T.

Ithaca, Mich., Sept. 5, 1913.



GRATIOT COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

# GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

## Historical, Biographical, Statistical.

### INTRODUCTORY.

In writing and compiling this history of Gratiot County, it seems expedient and consistent to give a few of the more prominent details of Michigan history. Gratiot County being a part of Michigan, its history, in a sense, is co-existent with that of the state. The creation of the continent, and its discovery by white men, are subjects very properly left to men of talent and of higher educational attainments. But the relation of the territory now comprising the state, with the general government of the country as matters progressed down to the admission of the state into the Union, and in some particulars and along some lines still further, seem to be proper subjects for record here, preliminary to the chronicling of a more detailed history of the county as a county.

Following the short department on Michigan as a state, the other departments and divisions come along, in as plausible sequence as possible, but for various reasons the arrangement of subjects and parts of subjects have to be somewhat arbitrary.

With these remarks the reader is left to tackle the matter, with the hope that he may be able to assimilate and enjoy, in the perusal, a reasonable degree of profit, satisfaction and pleasure.

## MICHIGAN.

### Some Facts in its History prior to the Organization of the County.

In giving a few facts relative to the State of Michigan as a whole, preliminary to launching forth into a consideration of Gratiot County as a county, it will be understood that works on the country and state have had to be depended upon for the facts given. Especial credit is due to a serial publication issued in the East in 1884, and also to an educational publication issued in this state at a more recent date. It is believed that every line can be relied on as strictly trustworthy. Some passages are quoted verbatim, while in other cases the substance only is given. The reader will have no trouble in gleaning a lot of valuable information from this department.

The State of Michigan illustrates in itself almost all the facts and peculiarities of physical geography. It has mountains, bluffs, hills, high table-lands, rolling prairies, forests, plains, marshes, great sand dunes, sandy and rocky shores, and many islands. Brooks, creeks and rivers traverse its entire territory. Great fresh-water seas and beautiful straits have their

boundaries broken by capes and peninsulas, large and small. Immense bays and charming coves indent its extensive coast line. Thousands upon thousands of lakes glisten here and there on its broad surface like diamonds in the sun. Its coast line is the longest of any state in the Union, and longer than from Maine to Florida.

The lower peninsula has an approximate width of 200 miles from east to west and is about 300 miles in length, its surface gradually rising in gentle undulations from both sides toward the center to an elevation which in the southern part is from 400 to 600 feet above Lake Huron. In the northern part the ordinary height of the central plateau is about 800 feet above Lake Huron, and some summit points reach to an elevation of 1,100 feet. In the middle portion of the upper peninsula a mountainous watershed reaches an altitude of 1,250 feet above Lake Michigan, the hills commonly being 800 to 1,000 feet in height. Lake Michigamme lies at an altitude of 980 feet.

The origin of the first occupants of this region is shrouded in mystery. Several writers have adopted the theory that they were the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel, and they fortify their position with a variety of interesting facts. The archives of France contain a lengthy memorial written by Cadillac in which he distinctly asserts his belief that the Indians are descendants of the Hebrew race, strengthening his argument with statements of many remarkable coincidences and customs confirmatory of the idea. The researches of Schoolcraft, Prescott, Pickering and others indicate that the first comers were from Asia, that they were driven by winds and waves over the Pacific and made their way to Alaska by way of the Aleutian Islands or Behring Strait, and from thence southward to Mexico and South America, afterward spreading eastward and northward over the American continent.

These theories and speculations may or may not be correct. No attempt will be made in this volume to prove or disprove them.

The name Michigan is derived from two Chippewa words—"Mitchaw," meaning great, and "Sagiegan," meaning lake—Great Lake. The latitude and longitude of the state is given as follows: Reckoning the southern boundary of the state when it strikes Lake Erie as its most southerly point, and the north end of Isle Royale in Lake Superior as its most northerly point, the state lies between 41 degrees and 44 seconds and 48 degrees 12 seconds, north latitude. Counting Port Huron as its most eastern point and the mouth of Montreal River at the west end of Gogebic County as its most westerly point, the state lies between longitude 82 degrees 25 seconds and 90 degrees 25 seconds west of Greenwich.

The Indian tribes that inhabited this region when it first became known to history were Pottawatomies and Hurons, whose hunting and fishing grounds were mostly in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie, and in the eastern portion of the lower peninsula; the Chippewas, or, as sometimes called, the Ojibbeways, who, with the Ottawas, seem to have lived together peaceably in the central and western portion of the peninsula.

It is probable that one or more Jesuit missionaries visited the present site of Detroit as early as 1620. In 1641 Charles Raymbault and Isaac Jogues, two of these missionaries, visited the Sault Ste. Marie, and admired the wonderful rapids. They found there a camp or settlement of 2,000 Indians. Though they remained there a few weeks and partook of the delicious whitefish which abounded there, they attempted no settlement; and it was not until 1668 that Allouez, Dablon and James Marquette, three others of these heroic Jesuit missionaries, founded the Mission of St. Marys, at the Sault Ste. Marie.

In 1671 Father Marquette laid the foundation of a fort at Mackinac Island. In 1701 the French commandant Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, Lord of Bouagnat and Montdesert, was ordered to Detroit, and under a commission of the king, left Montreal with a body of one hundred men, a Jesuit missionary and the necessary means for establishing a permanent colony. The party reached its destination in July and began a settlement.

This expedition was preceded by a grand council of Indians at Montreal, attended with much pomp and ceremony. The Iroquois opposed the settlement, but the Algonquin race to which the Michigan tribes belonged and which was friendly to the French, favored it, and Cadillac went forward and commenced the settlement, building a rude fort.

The accomplished Jesuit, Pierre F. X. de Charlevoix, was commissioned by the king of France in 1721 to visit what is now Michigan. There were nine French trading posts established on the shores of the lakes, of which those of Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac and Detroit were the largest.

In consequence of the great battle on the Heights of Abraham, September 13, 1759, between Wolfe and Montcalm, the French surrendered to the English Crown, on September 8, 1760, the ports at Detroit, Michilimackinac, and all other places remaining in the possession of France; and this surrender was ratified by the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763.

But three months had elapsed after the ratification of this treaty, when Pontiac, an able and sagacious chief of the Ottawa tribe, a firm friend of the French, united the Indian tribes in a conspiracy for the annihilation of the British, and in May, 1763, ordered a simultaneous attack to be made on all the nine little forts and trading posts, and the massacre of all the British who were there in any capacity. The plan was adroitly carried out and was entirely successful in all except Detroit, where Pontiac commanded in person. He besieged that settlement for a year, but was finally compelled to withdraw by the advance of General Bradstreet with 3,000 troops. Pontiac refused to concur in the treaty of peace which followed, but retired to Illinois, where he was assassinated by an Indian of another tribe.

The British re-occupied these forts. The Hudson Bay Company extended its operations to Michigan in 1766, establishing one of its most important posts at Mackinac.

The long war, incident to the great struggle for Independence, took place altogether outside the limits of Michigan. None of its scenes were enacted within her borders. The French and Indians, however, sided against the colonies in the struggle, and the posts of Detroit and Mackinac were the rendezvous at which were congregated hostile savages, who set out in marauding bands to prey upon the white settlements of the East. Arms were furnished, and scalps were paid for to such savages as could be induced to attack the Americans.

The peace which followed in 1783, left Michigan within the borders of the new nation, and it was claimed by several of the eastern states as "crown land," by virtue of grants from the English sovereign. These claims, were relinquished, however, in favor of the United States, with the view that the sale of the lands would realize a fund that would extinguish the debt created by the war.

Congress became thus possessed of all the lands lying northwest of the Ohio River, and in July, 1787, this region was organized under the title of the Northwest Territory. General Arthur St. Clair was made the first governor. For a long time, however, there was little increase of settlement in Michigan. English enmity was directed to fomenting and increasing the natural jealousy and hostility of the savages. The Indians resisted settlement in Michigan, and notwithstanding the fact of its conveyance to the

United States by the terms of the treaty with the English government, the actual and unobstructed possession of the country was not obtained until 1796. Up to that time British troops were stationed at Detroit and Mackinac, and at other points beyond Michigan, to compel, as it was claimed, the fulfillment on the part of the Americans, of the stipulations of the treaty. But the undoubted object was, whatever the pretense, to obtain some final advantage through the animosity of the Indians against the Americans to cripple the development of American industry in the Northwest, and to possibly regain a permanent foothold in the country. Every effort was made to unite the northwestern tribes against the Americans. Several great councils were convened at Detroit, which were largely attended, and every effort was made by the English agents to unite the savages against the Americans.

It is authentically related that Alexander McKenzie, well-known in the annals of the extreme northwest through a long period, attended one of these meetings of the representatives of a large number of tribes at Detroit. He came so well disguised as an Indian as to escape detection, and by his wily arguments, aided by other causes, succeeded in inducing the Indians to take up arms against the United States. In the war which followed, General Harmar, with a force of fourteen hundred men, was defeated near Chillicothe, Ohio, and many of his men were massacred. General St. Clair, governor of the territory, immediately took the field with two thousand men. In October, 1792, he was drawn into an ambuscade by the Indians, and defeated with great loss. General Anthony Wayne, who succeeded him, soon after administered to the Indians a most severe punishment, defeating them in battle on the Maumee, destroying their villages and establishing important military posts in their country.

Though this battle was fought in Ohio it had a good effect in breaking up the English influence previously exerted on the Michigan Indians.

When Michigan was finally delivered to the United States it was included in the Northwest Territory. In 1800 this territory was divided into two parts, and the eastern portion, which included Michigan, was called Indiana Territory. General Wm. Henry Harrison was appointed governor of this territory. In 1805 the Indiana Territory was divided into two territories, named Indiana Territory and Michigan Territory. General Wm. Hull was appointed governor of Michigan Territory and entered upon his duties July 1, 1805. The population of the territory at this time was about 2,500.

Open conflict with the Indians under Tecumseh began in 1811 on the Wabash, and in the following year, when congress declared war against England, they allied themselves with the British forces. At this date the total population of Michigan Territory was about 4,860.

In 1807 General Hull, by a treaty with the Indians, succeeded in making the first considerable progress in obtaining an undisputed title to the lands. There were about four hundred farms in the territory. The subsistence of the people was, to a great extent, derived from the forest, as wild game existed in abundance; and the chief commerce of the towns was the traffic in furs.

The knowledge of the declaration of hostilities—War of 1812—was first conveyed to the Michigan posts by their enemies, and was followed soon after by their surrender to the British and Indians. Mackinac had but a small garrison and was surrounded by a force of one thousand men, mainly Indians. Its surrender was demanded, and its commander, Lieutenant Hoaks, concluding that resistance against so great a force was useless, surrendered.

General Hull, who commanded at Detroit, after making some offensive demonstrations against the British on the Canadian side of the river, retreated to Detroit, and ignominiously capitulated to the British on the 16th of August.

In January, 1813, one of the most infamous and blood-thirsty events of the war occurred on the River Raisin. The American forces consisting of about one thousand men, were defeated after severe fighting, by the greatly superior numbers of the British and Indians, and finally surrendered to General Proctor, after which the wounded and prisoners were indiscriminately massacred.

The settlements in Michigan and elsewhere on the frontiers were at the mercy of the English and their savage allies until Perry's great victory on Lake Erie—September 10, 1913—destroyed the British fleet on the lakes, and opened the way for the advance of General Harrison into the Northwest, and the restoration of the captured posts to American control.

Soon after, the utter defeat of the British and Indians under Proctor and Tecumseh left Michigan in comparative safety. An unsuccessful attempt was made to recapture Mackinac, in which Major Holmes, a gallant officer, was killed. The post was surrendered at the close of the war.

After the fall of Tecumseh, peace was concluded with the Indians—the Chippewas, Pottawatomies, Ottawas and Miamis, and in 1815 peace was proclaimed with Great Britain.

In October, 1813, Colonel—afterward General—Lewis Cass was appointed governor of Michigan Territory. General Cass continued as governor for nearly 18 years, and was an important factor in the development of the resources of the territory, and later was a figure of national importance for many years; probably standing at the head of Michigan's list of eminent citizens.

Michigan was admitted into the Union as a state by act of congress January 26, 1837. Previously, for several years a controversy over the boundary line between Ohio and Michigan had been in progress. The act of congress admitting Michigan gave to the State of Ohio what that state contended for, and pacified the people of Michigan by including within its boundaries the western portion of the upper peninsula, a section of territory that had not previously been reckoned as a part of the Territory of Michigan.

At the time of the creation of the State of Ohio by congress in 1802, the north boundary was fixed as a line due east and west through to the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan. When the Ohio constitutional convention met to frame a state constitution, it was believed that a due east and west line from the southern point of Lake Michigan would not intersect the head of Lake Erie and include Maumee Bay, and the convention sought to have the boundary so described as that in any event the most northerly cape of Maumee Bay would be included in Ohio; but congress refused to accept the proposition. When the Territory of Michigan was formed in 1805, and from that time to the passage of the act admitting the territory into the Union as a state in 1837, the line was left undisturbed, and the tract of country in dispute was admittedly under the jurisdiction of, and a part of the Territory of Michigan.

The region was not deemed of surpassing value, but Ohio greatly desired a larger lake coast, and made such a struggle for the strip in question that congress, in the law admitting Michigan into the Union insisted that assent be given to the claim of Ohio, and, as heretofore stated, soothed the feelings of the Michigan people by including within the boundaries of the state all of the upper peninsula as we now know it. The territory coveted by Ohio and finally secured was a strip about five miles wide at the western

end and eight miles wide at the eastern end, and was about sixty-six miles long, lying along and adjoining the present Counties of Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe.

An armed controversy known as the "Toledo war" took place in the fall of 1835, over the question of ownership. As heretofore stated, the Territory of Michigan had exercised control over the tract from the time of the admission of Ohio as a state with an indefinite northern boundary, in 1802; or, more strictly, ever since the organization of Michigan as a territory in 1805. Early in 1835, however, Governor Lucas, of Ohio, issued a proclamation assuming control. At about the same time the Ohio legislature created the County of Lucas, which included the City of Toledo, and provided for holding a session of the Court of Common Pleas at that place on September 7th. In anticipation of action of this kind the legislative council of the Territory of Michigan had passed an act making it a criminal offense punishable by five years' imprisonment and a fine of one thousand dollars, for any other than Michigan or the United States to exercise, or attempt to exercise, any official authority in the disputed territory. In order to enforce this law, on February 19, 1835, Governor Mason of Michigan wrote to Brigadier-General J. W. Brown of the Michigan militia, directing him to prevent any of the officers of Ohio from exercising authority in the disputed territory. Following this there were various attempts on the part of officers of both Ohio and Michigan to exercise jurisdiction, but neither side achieved its purpose.

Finally, on September 6, 1835, Governor Mason and General Brown of Michigan, at the head of between 800 and 1,200 men, entered Toledo to prevent the holding of a session of court announced for September 7th, and as provided for by the Ohio legislature. The judges, however, by agreement, came together immediately after midnight and held their session of court. The proceedings, written on loose sheets of paper were hastily deposited in the clerk's hat, and the court then literally took to the woods and thus escaped from their pursuers. The holding of that session of court gave Ohio a judicial and bloodless victory, and on September 10th, Governor Mason and his troops evacuated the city and left the enemy's country. And thus ended the "Toledo war."

The act of congress admitting the state into the Union fixed the boundaries definitely as follows: "Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary line of the State of Indiana, where a direct line drawn from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of Maumee Bay shall intersect the same, said point being the northwest corner of the State of Ohio; thence east with the said boundary line of the State of Ohio till it intersects the boundary line between the United States and Canada, in Lake Erie; thence with said boundary line between the United States and Canada through the Detroit River, Lake Huron and Lake Superior; thence in a direct line through Lake Superior to the mouth of Montreal River; thence through the middle of the main channel of the said River Montreal to the head waters thereof; thence in a direct line to the center of the channel between Middle and South Islands in the Lake of the Desert; thence in a direct line to the southern shore of Lake Brule; thence along said southern shore and down the River Brule to the main channel of the Menominee River; thence down the center of the main channel of the same to the center of the most usual ship channel of the Green Bay of Lake Michigan; thence through the center of the most usual ship channel of the said bay to the middle of Lake Michigan; thence through the middle of Lake Michigan to the northern boundary of the State of Indiana; thence due east with the boundary line of the said State of Indiana to the north-

east corner thereof, and thence south with the eastern boundary line of Indiana to the place of beginning."

When Michigan was organized as a territory in 1805, its southern boundary was a line drawn from the extreme southern point of Lake Michigan, due east to Lake Erie. When the State of Indiana was organized in 1816, a slice was taken from the southern part of the Territory of Michigan. Later, when Michigan was admitted as a state, the controversy with Ohio over the boundary line between that state and Michigan resulted in Michigan again losing territory along the line, as heretofore narrated considerably in detail. When admitted into the Union in 1837, Michigan contained a population of about 175,000. The area of the state is 56,451 square miles.

### Watershed and Proposed Canals.

I quote from an early publication relative to the watershed and the natural drainage of the lower peninsula, and also of proposed canals across the peninsula, one of which, if built, would have been of especial interest to Gratiot County: The middle portion of the lower peninsula is characterized by a depression extending across the state, forming the basin of the Saginaw River which flows northeastward into the bay of the same name, and that of the Grand River which empties into Lake Michigan after a course of over 200 miles. The Saginaw Valley is the lowest portion of the state. The site of Saginaw is only eight feet above the level of Lake Huron; that of Midland is twenty feet. The water-parting is here near the central line of the peninsula. The highest elevation in this median depression which coincides with the courses of the Saginaw and Bad Rivers on the east, and the Maple and Grand Rivers on the west, is only 72 feet above the lake. North of this transverse depression is the system of the Muskegon which issues from the large Houghton and Higgins Lakes, situated in a great, lofty plateau in the center of this northern lobe of the peninsula, and in its long, southwesterly course drains an extensive region. In Crawford and Otsego Counties rise the Manistee, flowing westward into Lake Michigan, the Au Sable flowing eastward into Lake Huron, and the Thunder Bay, Cheboygan, Boyne, Boardman and other smaller rivers which radiate to the north, east and west to join the lakes where they arch around the head of the peninsula.

And again I quote: In the earliest years of the state, during the flush times of 1837, the State Board of Internal Improvements not only projected various railroads, but also several canals as well. Among the most pretentious of these was the "Clinton and Kalamazoo," which was to commence at Mt. Clemens at the east, cross the state and terminate at the mouth of the Kalamazoo River. Detailed estimates for its construction were made and considerable money expended, but the canal never went into operation.

### Bad River and Maple River Canal.

Another canal known as the "Saginaw or Northern canal," to be fourteen miles long, was planned to connect the waters of the Saginaw and Grand Rivers, but no part of it was completed. This latter canal if carried to completion would have traversed the southeast portion of Gratiot County, connecting the Bad River which empties into the Saginaw, with the Maple which empties into the Grand.

In a history of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties published in 1880, this matter of a canal to cross Gratiot County was treated of considerably at length, as follows:

"In the first half of the present century, before the days of railroad communication, the people of Michigan, like those of other states, were disposed to place an extravagantly high estimate on the importance and value of their rivers for purposes of navigation, and to favor bold and often visionary projects for the improvement of the streams, in the expectation (which was seldom, if ever, realized) of securing great advantages from the utilization of these waterways. Such projects were conceived and their prosecution commenced with regard to the principal rivers of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties—the Shiawassee, Grand and Maple, and the improvement of the latter two was embraced in the internal improvement system which was adopted by the state at the regular session of its legislature in 1837. Section seven of the Act passed at that session provided, 'That the sum of $15,000 be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any moneys which shall come into the treasury to the credit of the said improvement fund, to be applied to the construction of a canal to unite the waters of the Saginaw with the navigable waters of the Grand or Maple Rivers, if said board of commissioners shall decide that it is practicable to construct a canal on said route.'

"Under the authority conferred by this act the Board of Internal Improvements caused a survey to be made by Tracey McCracken, Chief Engineer of the Saginaw and Maple Rivers Canal, and this survey resulted in the location and adoption of a route running from the forks of the Bad River (a navigable tributary of the Saginaw), westward to the Maple River at the 'Big Bend' in Gratiot County. The report of the survey was regarded as exceedingly favorable, showing the existence of a remarkable valley or depression extending westward from the waters of the Saginaw to those of the Maple; and that these waters, flowing in opposite directions, were only three miles distant from each other at one point, and that between them the highest elevation necessary to be crossed was only seventy-two feet above Lake Michigan.

"It was along this valley and across this low summit that the engineer located the route of the canal, which with certain slack-water improvements to be made to the east and west of it, on the Bad, the Maple and the Grand Rivers, was to open a line of uninterrupted navigation between Lake Michigan and Saginaw Bay, and to bring prosperity to all the country contiguous to it.

"Contracts were let for the grubbing and clearing of the route, and for the excavations upon a five-mile section on the most difficult portion of it, the contract for excavating being taken by Norman Little of Saginaw. Another part of the work was taken by Alpheus Williams. Work was commenced in 1838, and was continued with more or less vigor until July of the following year, when it was suspended. The immediate cause of the suspension was the inability of the state to pay the monthly estimates of the contractor according to the terms of the contract. Most of the work required upon one section of the canal, together with the greater part of the line under contract was completed, and the report said that there was upon the line several thousand feet of plank and timber intended for the locks and dams.

"The suspension of the work by the contractors in July, 1839, proved to be the final abandonment of the construction of the canal as a state work. The timbers mentioned, intended for the construction of locks and dams, remained to rot on the ground, and the remnants of some of them have been visible in recent years in the Township of Chapin, Saginaw County, having been left to decay in the place where they were framed more than 40 years ago.

"The sums expended on the Saginaw and Maple Rivers canal, and which were of course a total loss to the state, were as follows: In the year 1838, $6,271.12; in the year 1839, $15,985.69; a total of $22,256.81.

"Ten years after the abandonment of this canal project by the state, the Legislature of Michigan, by act approved March 30, 1849, incorporated a company composed of G. D. Williams, Jas. Frazier and D. J. Johnson of Saginaw City, Adam C. Roof of Ionia County, Rix Robinson of Kent County, D. H. Fitzhugh, John F Mackie and Chas. Yates of New York City, as the 'Saginaw and Grand River Canal Company,' with authority 'to enter upon the canal commenced by the state, as their property, at the forks of Bad River, and upon lands on either side, and through which the said canal may pass, to the bend of Maple River, a tributary of Grand River, and so far on that river as may be thought proper; to construct a tow-path and concentrate the water for canal use, and to dig, construct or excavate the earth; to erect or set up any dams, locks, waste-weirs, sluices, feeders or any other device whatsoever to render the same navigable with boats, barges or other craft.'

"The company was also empowered to make such improvements on the Bad, Maple and Grand Rivers as might be necessary to carry out the objects for which it was incorporated. The capital stock of the company was placed at $200,000, and its charter was to continue for a term of 60 years. The revival of the project re-awakened hopes that the Maple River was at last to become part of a navigable water-way between the two great lakes; but no work was ever done by the company, and finally the enterprise was definitely abandoned, never to be again revived."

In an address delivered at Maple Rapids in December, 1897, Senator Elisha Mudge referred to the subject under consideration as follows: "In the distant past ages there was a deep and broad depression extending from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan, of which Saginaw Bay formed a part. Drift deposits indicate its depth as 500 feet. In the drift age this valley was filled in from the north, still leaving along its southern border a well-marked depression known topographically as the Saginaw Valley. This is the lowest and shortest depression across the state, the water-shed being only 76 feet above the lake level, while the water-shed north and south of this depression ranges from 500 to 700 feet. The advantages of this depression for a trans-state canal were early understood, and under the internal improvement policy of Governor Mason the construction of such a canal was commenced. The waterway at Grand Rapids which affords such immense water power, was a part of this proposed canal. Near St. Charles may now be seen the remnants of the work done on the eastern portion."

Detroit remained the capital of Michigan until May 16, 1847, when, by act of the legislature the capital was removed to Lansing, that region being at that time a wilderness. It is said that at the time the capital was located there, the territory composing the present City of Lansing contained but one house. The place was first called "Michigan," but at the first session of the legislature held in the place, the name "Lansing" was permanently adopted. The first capitol building—erected in 1847—cost $22,500, and was used until January, 1879, when the present building, the corner stone of which was laid October 2, 1873, was first occupied. This building cost $1,427,743. It is 345 feet long, 192 feet wide and 267 feet high.

## GOVERNORS OF MICHIGAN.

### Under French Dominion—

Samuel Champlain, 1622 to 1635.
M. de Montmagny, 1636 to 1647.
M. de Aillebout, 1648 to 1650.
M. de Lauson, 1651 to 1656.
M. de Aillebout, 1657 to 1658.
M. de Argenson, 1658 to 1660.
Baron de Avangour, 1661 to 1663.
M. de Mesey, 1663 to 1665.
M. de Courcelles, 1665 to 1672.
Count de Frontenac, 1689 to 1698.
M. de la Barre, 1682 to 1685.
M. de Nonville, 1685 to 1689.
Count de Frontenac, 1689 to 1698.
M. de Callieres, 1699 to 1703.
M. de Vandreuil, 1703 to 1725.
M. de Beauharnois, 1726 to 1747.
M. de Galissonier, 1747 to 1749.
M. de la Jonquiere, 1749 to 1752.
M. du Quesne, 1752 to 1755.
M. de Vandreuil de Cavagnal, 1755 to 1763.

### Under British Dominion—

James Murray, 1763 to 1767.
Guy Carleton, 1768 to 1777.
Frederick Haldimand, 1777 to 1785.
Henry Hamilton, 1785 to 1786.
Lord Dorchester, 1786 to 1796.

### Under U. S. Dominion as part of Northwest Territory—

Arthur St. Clair, 1796 to 1800.

### As part of Indiana Territory—

Wm. Henry Harrison, 1800 to 1805.

### As Michigan Territory—

Wm. Hull, 1805 to 1813.
Lewis Cass, 1813 to 1831.
Geo. B. Porter, 1831 to 1834.
Stevens T. Mason, 1834 to 1837.

### As a State of the Union—

Stevens T. Mason, 1837 to 1840.
Wm. Woodbridge, 1840 to 1841.
J. Wright Gordon, 1841 to 1842.
John S. Barry, 1843 to 1845.
Alpheus Felch, 1846 to 1847.
Wm. L. Greenly, 1847.
Epaphroditus Ransom, 1848 to 1849.
John S. Barry, 1850 to 1851.
Robert McClelland, 1852 to 1853.
Andrew Parsons, 1853 to 1854.
Kinsley S. Bingham, 1855 to 1858.
Moses Wisner, 1859 to 1860.
Austin Blair, 1861 to 1864.
Henry H. Crapo, 1865 to 1868.
Henry P. Baldwin, 1869 to 1872.
John J. Bagley, 1873 to 1876.
Chas. M. Croswell, 1877 to 1880.
David H. Jerome, 1881 to 1882.
Josiah W. Begole, 1883 to 1884.
Russell A. Alger, 1885 to 1886.
Cyrus G. Luce, 1887 to 1890.
Edwin B. Winans, 1891 to 1892.
John T. Rich, 1893 to 1896.
Hazen S. Pingree, 1897 to 1900.
Aaron T. Bliss, 1901 to 1904.
Fred M. Warner, 1905 to 1910.
Chase S. Osborne, 1911 to 1912.
Woodbridge N. Ferris, 1913 ——

## PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Geo. Washington, 1789-1797; two terms.
John Adams, 1797-1801; one term.
Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809; two terms.
James Madison, 1809-1817; two terms.
James Monroe, 1817-1825; two terms.
John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829; one term.
Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837; two terms.
Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841; one term.
Wm. Henry Harrison, 1841; one month.
John Tyler, 1841-1845; one term, less one month.
James K. Polk, 1845-1849; one term.
Zachary Taylor, 1849-1850; one year, four months.
Millard Filmore, 1850-1853; two years, eight months.
Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857; one term.
James Buchanan, 1857-1861; one term.
Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865; one term, one month.
Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869; one term, less one month.
Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877; two terms.
Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881; one term.
James A. Garfield, 1881; six and one-half months.
Chester A. Arthur, 1881-1885; three years, five and one-half months.
Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889; one term.
Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893; one term.
Grover Cleveland, 1893-1897; one term.
Wm. McKinley, 1897-1901; one term, six months.
Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909; two terms, less six months.
Wm. H. Taft, 1909-1913; one term.
Woodrow Wilson, 1913 ——

# GRATIOT COUNTY

## Considered as a Whole; Also much in Detail.

In the settlement of a new country it is noticeable that the first ventures are made along the navigable waters—the ocean, the lakes and the larger rivers. This is easy of explanation. The waters furnish comparatively free and unobstructed navigation to the projected settlement or home, and as free and unobstructed egress to the outside world. Referring to the early settlements in our own state it is seen that they were made along the shores of the great lakes, their bays and connecting straits, and the larger rivers flowing into them. The settling of Detroit, Port Huron, Saginaw, Bay City on the east, and of many towns on the west at an early day, furnishes ample proof of the proposition, when considered in connection with the many years that elapsed before the central portions of the state were occupied.

Gratiot County is located very close to the geographical center of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Just a mere glance at the map of the state shows that to be a fact; and the same glance shows that the county is far removed from the navigable waters of the state. So, the settlement of the county was delayed until much of the more accessible portions of the state were occupied, and had been brought under subjection to the will and the efforts of those seeking new homes.

Other forces that helped to delay the settlement of the central portion of the state were the terribly misleading reports as to the horrible conditions existing in the interior of the state. It has been charged that there was concerted action on the part of the early Indian traders, to give the country a bad name, thereby discouraging settlement, and thus prolonged their lucrative business among the aborigines.

### Bad Impressions of the Country.

Bearing upon this question—the bad impression relative to conditions in central Michigan—I quote from the History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties, issued in 1880: "It is well to refer to a few facts that help to make it tolerably clear why the lower peninsula was for so many years believed to be a land unfit for white men's occupancy, and how it came to be so regarded. The earliest, as it was also the most extreme, among the unfavorable notices of the lands forming the lower peninsula, is found in the writings of the French Baron La Houtan, who passed up through the Detroit River, and the Lake and River St. Clair, in 1686, and who, judging of the whole country from the glimpses of the swampy lands bordering the lakes and rivers, chronicled his opinion that the entire region was truly 'the fag-end of the world.' So contemptuous an expression from such a distinguished man and extensive trader could not fail to have its effect on the minds of the people of that day, and it was, perhaps, the beginning of the opinion which afterward became well-nigh universal, and which continued for more than a century and a quarter, that Michigan was but another name for a country of morasses, irreclaimable swamps and barren sand-knolls.

"In the year 1812 an act was passed by congress requiring that two millions acres of land in each of the (then) territories, should be sur-

veyed and set apart as military tracts, out of which each soldier serving in the armies of the United States, in the war then in progress with England, should be entitled to receive one hundred and sixty acres of land fit for cultivation. Under this act surveys were made; but, while engaged in the work, the surveyors seem to have formed an idea of the country similar to that expressed by La Houtan, and to have imparted their opinion to the surveyor-general, as may be inferred from the following extract from his report, made November 13, 1815, and having reference to the Michigan survey:

"'The country on the boundary line from the mouth of the Au Glaize River, the point where the principal meridian of Michigan starts, running thence north, and, being continued, is identical with the east boundary line of Gratiot County, and running thence for fifty miles, is, with some few exceptions, low, wet land, with a very thick growth of underbrush, intermixed with very bad marshes, but generally very heavily timbered with beech, cottonwood, oak, etc.; thence continuing north the number and extent of the swamps increase, with the addition of numbers of lakes from twenty chains to two and three miles across. Many of these lakes have extensive marshes adjoining their margins, sometimes covered with a species of pine called tamarack, and other places covered with a coarse, high grass, and uniformly covered from six inches to three feet, (and more at times) with water. The margins of these lakes are not the only places where swamps are found, for they are interspersed throughout the whole country and filled with water, as above stated, and varying in extent.

"'The intermediate space between the swamps and lakes—which is probably near one-half of the country—is, with very few exceptions, a poor, barren, sandy land, on which scarcely any vegetation grows except very small, scrubby oaks. In many places that part which may be called dry land is composed of little, short sand-hills, forming a kind of deep basins, the bottoms of many of which are composed of marsh similar to the above described. The streams are generally narrow and very deep compared with their width, the shores and bottoms of which are, with few exceptions, swampy beyond description, and it is with the utmost difficulty that a place can be found over which horses can be conveyed in safety.

"'A circumstance peculiar to that country is exhibited in many of the marshes by their being thinly covered with a sward of grass, by walking on which evinces the existence of water or a very thin mud immediately under their covering, which sinks from six to eighteen inches under the pressure of the foot at every step, and at the same time rises before and behind the person passing over it. The margins of many of the lakes and streams are in similar situation, and in many places are literally afloat. On approaching the eastern part of the military land, toward the private claims on the straits and lake, the country does not contain so many swamps and lakes, but the extreme sterility and barrenness of the soil continue the same. Taking the country altogether, so far as it has been explored, and to all appearances, together with information received concerning the balance, it is so bad that there would not be more than one acre out of a hundred, if there would be one out of a thousand, that would in any case admit of cultivation.'"

Well! What can be said if such a description of central Michigan? It was not of a kind to encourage early settlement, to say the least. Any dense forest or wilderness country presents formidable discouragements to those contemplating settlement, particularly when worldly wealth is lacking. But such an outlook as that presented above would necessarily be absolutely prohibitive.

### Nearer the Real Facts.

But, getting down to facts as they really existed, and to a consideration of the first settlement of Gratiot County, it is not necessary to exaggerate the drawbacks in order to show that there was much to contend with, and much to discourage the pioneer, no matter how ambitious, energetic and persevering his nature and disposition might be.

It is difficult for a person who has never seen much of the woods, to fully appreciate what this county looked like before its territory was invaded by the first pioneers. In order to see it as it was, the imagination must create a vast forest with not a tree missing, twenty-four miles square, without a break in the nature of a cleared spot, a human habitation or a road. This much for the twenty-four miles square, to say nothing of the great forest stretches practically on all sides of it. Part of this forest land was high and moderately rolling, with heavy timber towering high. Other parts were lower and comparatively level, and covered with a dense growth of timber, and with an undergrowth that was almost impenetrable even to the wild animals. Other parts—a small percentage, however—was just plain swamp that no man could traverse except when it was frozen hard in winter, and which no man would want to traverse if he could.

In a flight of fancy, if one could imagine an aviator coming along over Gratiot County at that time, a thousand or two thousand feet high, and looking for a place to alight!

Or imagine yourself set down in the jungle about where the court house now stands, with a ten thousand dollar automobile, and told that the machine would be yours if you could get it outside of the county by its own motive power inside of a month. It would have taken a miracle to get you out in three months.

If these flashes of near-nonsense can aid you in grasping and appreciating what the country was like sixty years ago, they will have served their purpose, and will be forgiven.



MAPLE RIVER BARRIER—NO HOPE BEYOND.

The isolation of the county was aided and intensified by the fact of the Maple river meandering and soaking along the southern border. A stream that was so slow and sluggish, in the main, that it was said a heavy dew would back up its waters, covering and rendering impassable and unnavigable and comparatively worthless, hundreds of acres of the low lands along its course. It took inducements to get people to settle a tract of country back of such a barrier.

### The County Was Named.

Gratiot County, like other parts of Michigan, was the home of the Chippewa Indians and of wild animals, in an early day. The county was created by an act of the territorial legislature in 1831, and was named after General Charles Gratiot, an officer in the army of General William Henry Harrison, in the war of 1812.

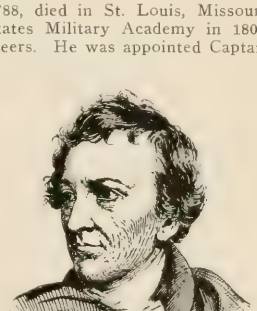
The act of the territorial legislature of 1831, approved March 2nd of that year, which defined the location and boundaries of the tract of territory to be named "Gratiot", also fixed the bounds, dimensions and boundary lines of many other counties in central Michigan. The particular section dealing with Gratiot County reads as follows:

"That the country included within the following limits, to-wit: West of the meridian, east of the line between ranges four and five west, south of the line between townships twelve and thirteen, and north of the line between townships eight and nine north of the base line, containing sixteen townships, be and the same is set off into a separate county by the name of Gratiot."

At the time of the creation and naming of the county, General Chas. Gratiot was an inspector at West Point.

Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography gives Chas. Gratiot's record as follows:

"Charles Gratiot, soldier, born in Missouri in 1788, died in St. Louis, Missouri, May 18, 1855. He was graduated at the United States Military Academy in 1806, and entered the Army as Second Lieutenant of Engineers. He was appointed Captain in 1808, and served with distinction in the war with Great Britain as Chief Engineer of Harrison's Army in 1813-14, and was brevetted Colonel. He was engaged in the defence of Fort Meigs in 1813 and in the attack on Fort Mackinac in 1814. In 1815 he was appointed Major of Engineers, and superintended the fortifications on the Delaware River, and subsequently those in Hampton Roads, Virginia. He became Lieutenant-Colonel in 1819, and Colonel and principal engineer in charge of the Engineer Bureau of Washington, D. C., in 1828. He was brevetted Brigadier-General May 24, 1828, and appointed to be Inspector of West Point, which office he held until December, 1838, when he was dismissed by the President for having failed to pay into the treasury certain balances of money placed in his hands for public purposes. After holding a clerkship in the land office in Washington from 1840 till 1855, he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he died in destitute circumstances. Fort Gratiot, on the St. Clair River, Michigan, and the villages of Gratiot, in Michigan and Wisconsin, were named in his honor."



GEN. CHARLES GRATIOT.

Such is the brief history of the man after whom our county was named. In the main he seems to have been an energetic and patriotic citizen who fought for his country and held many honorable positions in his country's service. A little delinquency seems to have been charged up in the history of his career, but it is easy to believe that it was a small affair, and that perhaps personal needs in his old age overcame his honest and honorable principles and impulses. The closing paragraph, that he "died in destitute circumstances" would fairly indicate that he had not laid up wealth at his country's expense.

It is worthy of being mentioned, also, that his death, "in destitute circumstances," occurred about the time, or just previous to the time, that the pioneers in his namesake county were suffering, or were about to suffer, in large measure, the inconveniences of "destitute circumstances."

The County of Gratiot is square in form, being twenty-four miles each way, more or less. As surveyed, created and organized, it contained sixteen townships, six by six miles square. In 1881 the legislature created a seventeenth township from parts of four of the original townships. This new township — Ithaca — occupies a position in the exact center of the county. It is treated of in detail in its appropriate place, and does not, as a township, enter into the calculations or remarks bearing upon the size or shape of the county, or into the county's history previous to 1881.

Reference to a map of Michigan shows that Gratiot County occupies a position almost exactly in the center of the lower peninsula of the state. Perhaps there is no particular merit in that fact, but it helps to locate it definitely, and anyone bearing in mind the peculiar shape of the lower peninsula—like an old mitten, with the thumb extended and clearly defined—can readily see it with his minds eye without further direction. Instead of there being merit or advantage in its central location, with reference to the state at large, there probably is no doubt, as heretofore mentioned, that its location delayed its settlement by many years.

The county is still more definitely located by "bounding." It is bounded on the north by Isabella and Midland Counties, east by Saginaw County, south by Clinton County, and west by Montcalm County. Its area in acres is 364,633. Were the sections all full the number of acres would be 368,640; a difference of 4,007 acres. The cause of the shortage, as is more fully explained elsewhere, is on account of the inevitable exigencies incident to the application of the surveyors art in the laying out of north and south lines, etc., etc.; all of which will be clear to some, but will be clear to all when read in connection with a more free and full explanation found elsewhere in this volume, in the section treating of surveys, meridian lines, base lines, correction lines, etc.

The surface of the county runs all the way from moderately high and undulating, to moderately low and level, and on down to marsh and swamp. The soil is of all grades from the heaviest and richest down through the grades to muck or to clean sand. The higher and rolling lands were the first settled, generally speaking, for the evident reason that they were more readily accessible in all seasons of the year; the lower and more level tracts, of course, being too wet during a great share of the year, for profitable or even for possible occupancy; and the swamps were simply impossible in every sense of the word, for man or beast.

It must not be forgotten that these remarks refer only to conditions as they were before and at the time when the pioneers began to pitch

their tents within Gratiot's borders. All is greatly changed now. Time and persevering effort have slowly but surely got in their work; and the Gratiot of today bears but a slight resemblance to the Gratiot of, say, 1854, or even of the Gratiot of twelve years later, when I first set foot upon her soil; the last-mentioned date forty-seven years back in the dim and misty past. The pioneers and their successors have little by little changed the uninviting conditions, until, to use an expression heard every day and on every hand, with variations, "the county ranks with the very best in the state."

I said the changes have come "slowly" and "little by little." To those observers who have been on the ground and watched the progress of improvements from day to day and from month to month, the work has seemed slow and the time long. Viewed, however, as a lump sum of changes and improvements, comparing the county as it was sixty or fifty, or even forty years ago with what it is today, setting the two views side by side, as it were—a proceeding easy of accomplishment only to the old settler—then is when the stupenduous changes wrought are brought clearly to view, and can be fully comprehended and appreciated.

When taken possession of by civilization more than half a century ago, Gratiot County's forests were made up of a great variety of timber, as may naturally be supposed. The bulk of the timber on the undulating lands consisted of beech, hard maple, soft maple, white, black and red oak, some hickory, some cherry, some black-walnut, some scattering pine and some small patches of pine. On the flat lands abounded and flourished the elm of different kinds, ash of all kinds, soft maple, birch, oak. In the swamps, some of those already mentioned, and in addition tamarack and cedar; also every variety and style of undergrowth known to man—brush, shrubs, cat-tails, flags, and all grades of all the different kinds of aggravating, clinging, trailing, tearing, ripping vines and grasses mentioned in history or tradition, and then more kinds. In the west part of the county were some sections of the finest and most perfect pines to be found anywhere. The sandy, but now comparatively fertile hills of Sumner and Seville Townships were the home of the famous pine forests of early Gratiot. Some of the flat and sandy lands of Hamilton and Elba Townships on the east side of the county were densely covered with pine forests that brought wealth to some of the early exploiters.

Gratiot County has no large bodies of water within its borders, nor contiguous to it. And it has but few small lakes; hardly one worthy of mention. In running water it is much better off. Its most pretentious stream is Pine River, in the north and west part of the county. It traverses Seville, Sumner, Arcada, Pine River and Bethany Townships, covering a course of about thirty miles in length, reckoned by the sections it crosses, and probably twice that distance following the actual convolutions of the river bed. It furnishes a constant supply of water for the Cities of St. Louis and Alma, and the Villages of Sumner, Elm Hall and Riverdale.

Maple River is the next stream in importance, taking a course along the southern part of the county, through Elba, Washington and Fulton Townships. It occupies space about twenty miles in length, and by the actual channel probably thirty miles.

Pine Creek, the next stream in point of importance, flows southward through Newark and Fulton, and empties into the Maple.



HOW PINE CREEK LOOKED.

In the early days and along for many years there were other small streams and water courses, but they may now be more plausibly termed big ditches, and outlets for the vast system of drainage that has been established in the county during the years that have brought the county up to its present advanced state as a reasonably well-drained county. In the wet terms of fall and spring, and in case of heavy or long-continued rains at any time, these water courses assume the size and character of good sized creeks or even rivers. In the dry season, however, their waters disappear, or are reduced to insignificant proportions. Among the water courses of this class may be mentioned Bush Creek in Bethany; Bear Creek in Emerson, Lafayette and Wheeler; Bad River in North Star, Hamilton and Lafayette, and others of less importance, tributary to Maple and Pine Rivers.

## As to Who was First.

It probably never will be known who was the first white man to set his foot on Gratiot County soil. It is not essential; only as a matter of curiosity it would be very interesting to know, and fully as interesting to know his descendants of the present time if there are any. The first visitors to central Michigan, as is pretty well known, were Indian traders; men seeking for valuable furs among the Indians. Their identity is unknown, and their numbers and the date of their coming are only matters of speculation and guesswork.

The first visitor to Gratiot who left a record that may be considered fairly authentic was William A. McOmber. The following events in the career of Mr. McOmber are culled from his biographical sketch in the "Portrait and Biographical Album of Gratiot County", published in 1884 by Chapman Brothers, of Chicago. The sketch ought to be, and doubtless is correct, as Mr. McOmber was a resident of St. Louis at the time, and the facts were doubtless gleaned from him personally:

"Wm. A. McOmber, of the firm of M. V. Smith & Co., real estate, loan and insurance agents, St. Louis, was born in Saratoga, N. Y., July 15, 1812. He is a son of Pardon and Eunice McOmber, and is the youngest of six children born to his parents. His father was born July 6, 1777, and was a native of the Empire State. He died December 25, 1860 in Gaines, Orleans County.

"Mr. McOmber was educated with considerable care and attended the academy at Gaines until he was sixteen years old. In 1829 he went to Lockport, N. Y., where he conducted a stage route about three years. He came to Michigan in its territorial days, reaching here October 10, 1832. He came at once to Gratiot County and found the county covered with the primeval forest, and populated by Indians. He remained but a short time and returned to his native state, passing the succeeding several years in or near Lockport.

"In 1840 he came to Adrian, Michigan, and there he began the fur trade with the Indians, in the interests of the American Fur Company, which he carried on extensively for some years, gradually extending his field, and operating from various points. He established trading posts at Adrian, Jackson and DeWitt. In 1851 he rented the old Lansing House, in Lansing, conducting it two years, and then became clerk in the office of Auditor General John Swegles. There he remained about two years, and then, in 1854, he went to St. Johns, reaching there during the time the village plat was being surveyed. He was still in the employ of General Swegles, who was one of the founders of the village and had a store there. He remained with Mr. Swegles about a year, after which he conducted a hotel—the Gardner House—for a time. The history of Clinton County, issued in 1880, mentions the fact of the hotel being turned over to Mr. McOmber, and adds this relative to the hotel: 'It was not much of a tavern, according to reports, but it doubtless served its purpose. John Hicks says he took dinner there in 1856, and remembers that rain was falling inside as well as outside, and that the guests at dinner had to move from place to place to avoid the rain-drops as they came freely and copiously into the dining room.' Afterward Mr. McOmber was engaged in the Indian trade several years in St. Johns, in company with David Sturgis. He afterward went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania. In 1868 he returned to St. Johns, and in 1870 he came to St. Louis, this county, and engaged in the real estate business."

He served one year—1874—as township clerk of Pine River. In 1875 he was a leader in the formation of the Michigan Central Union Fair Association, and was its first secretary. The association purchased seventy-five acres of land for fair purposes between Alma and St. Louis, fenced it, put up buildings and constructed a mile track. Several very successful fairs were held on the grounds; then a few more not so successful, after which the association and its fairs "woodbined." Mr. McOmber was genial and agreeable in his nature and manner; impulsive, hopeful and extremely optimistic regarding any project in which he was interested. The great success of the first Union fair fairly raised him to the seventh heaven in transports of joy, to use an expression more truthful and appropriate than sensible. In his exuberance he prophesied seriously, to this writer, that within two years he would have the state fair held on those very grounds. This fact is mentioned merely to illustrate his unbounded optimism.

Mr. McOmber married a lady named Ann E. Gardner, near St. Johns. Their daughter, Lena E. was married to Thomas P. Potts. Their son, Charles H., was a traveling salesman. None of his family ever lived with him in Gratiot County. He died September, 1891, in the Gratiot County Home, where he had been only a week, aged 79. The story of "Mac's" life, if written out in all its details, would read like a wild romance.

### The First Permanent Settler.

By a great preponderance of evidence it is clearly shown that Arnold Payne was the first white man to locate in Gratiot County with the view of making it his permanent home. He settled with his family in the winter of 1846, on section 31, town 9 north, 3 west. The township was afterward named Fulton. At that time no township in Gratiot County had a name, and, as there were no white people within its borders, there was no need of local laws, rules or regulations, governing any part of the county. Whether or not the fact of Arnold Payne's settling in the county had anything to do with it, records and traditions fail to say, but certain it is that at the session of the state legislature commencing January, 1847, only a few weeks after the arrival of Mr. Payne in the county, an act was passed, approved March 16, 1847, providing "that all the territory designated by the United States survey as townships 9 and 10 north, range 2 west," (Washington and North Star) be, and the same is hereby attached to the Township of Greenbush, in the County of Clinton." In like manner the act attached township 9 north, range 3 west, (Fulton) to the Township of Essex, Clinton County; also townships 9 and 10 north, range 4 west, (North Shade and New Haven) to the Township of Lebanon, Clinton County.

A year later—March, 1848—an act was passed attaching townships 9 and 10 north, range 1 west, (Elba and Hamilton) to Duplain Township, Clinton County; and the same act reached out and took in township 10 north, range 3 west, (Newark) and attached it to Essex township, Clinton County.

Quoting again from the history heretofore mentioned: On the 12th of October, 1853, the board of supervisors of Clinton County, in the exercise of powers conferred on such boards by the state constitution of 1850, set off the two townships that had been attached to Lebanon, and erected the southernmost of the two into the Township of North Shade, attaching the other one (New Haven) to it. After the organization of North Shade, its supervisor, Henry Lane, met regularly with the supervisors of Clinton County, and acted with them as a member of the board. Some of the other Gratiot townships were set off and organized by the Clinton board of supervisors in 1855, but these supervisors never met with the Clinton board, for the reason that the organization of Gratiot County was ordered by the legislature in an act approved February 3, 1855, the first election of county officers to occur in the following November, and they to take their offices in January, 1856.

But to return to the first permanent settler, Arnold Payne. As stated, he settled on section 31, town 9 north, 3 west, a township not yet named, but afterward called Fulton. The following short sketch of Arnold Payne and his family is taken from the "Portrait and Biographical Album," published in 1884: "Arnold Payne was a native of Rhode Island. His wife, Loana (Parker) Payne, was born in the State of New York. They settled, after marriage, in the Empire State, and in 1832 came to Washtenaw, Michigan. After a residence there of about four years, they removed to Livingston County and thence to Ingham County. In the winter of 1846, Arnold Payne, with his wife and thirteen children, came to Gratiot County and took up a large tract of land on section 31, Fulton. He set about clearing his land, and built a log house. On this place he lived until his death, November 24, 1879. His first wife died February 25, 1850. In 1853 he was again married, to Mrs. Mary (Bussell) Dickerman, who died August 31, 1865. Mr. Payne owned, at the time of his death, 120 acres in Fulton Township—the old homestead.

"The family of thirteen children, eight of whom survive, are as follows: Abigail, James L., Day and Dwight, (twins) Eliza, David H., Albert B. and Thomas R. The deceased are, Alma, Lucy, Mary, Perry and Arnold."

Arnold Payne's house was for several years the hospitable stopping place for all those intent on settling, or even passing that way on prospecting trips.

It seems to be a conceded and settled fact that the next permanent settlers were three brothers, named Fulton—Robert, James R., and N. B. They located in Fulton in 1847, and the township was named in their honor. Nelson Johnson came at about the same time as the Fultons.

In 1847 settlement was made in North Shade Township by Wm. Avery, and John Sturgis followed soon after, and Geo. E. Walker, Roman Fyler and others were not far behind. In 1853 and '54 quite a number passed on north and settled on Pine River, at or near where the Cities of St. Louis and Alma are now situated, and from that time on settlers increased rapidly in numbers.

### The Bethany German-Lutheran Mission.

It may not be deemed inappropriate to give in this connection a short history of the Bethany German-Lutheran Mission established two miles down Pine River from St. Louis, inasmuch as it was an early and important institution in the county, the northern objective point of the old Indian trail running from Maple Rapids. It was locally known as the "Indian Mission", or perhaps more commonly as "Indiantown." The "Bethany Mission" was really its legitimate name. When town 12 north, range 2 west was organized, the name "Bethany" was ready for it, and an appropriate name it was.

For a connected account of the founding of Bethany Mission, and interesting information as to its operations and of its final ending, I am indebted to an article on the subject prepared by Mrs. John W. Doane, of Mt. Pleasant, and which was printed in a St. Louis paper in 1900. Mrs Doane is an old resident of Pine River Township, a daughter of the late Julius Mey, who was one of Pine River's earliest settlers, having purchased the farm on which he spent the remainder of his life, in November, 1853. A portion of the article is given verbatim, while the substance, only, of other portions is given:

About two miles down the river from St. Louis, in a small cemetery with a few lonely graves and a small monument, are all that is left in remembrance of Bethany Mission, which, fifty-two years ago—1848—was founded and supported by the Mission Society in Germany; and for which they offered as many fervent prayers and spent as much money as for any of their missions in the East Indies.

The history of all missions is a sad one, and especially sad is the history of those who endured all the trials and privations, who left nothing undone that could be done, but never accomplished that for which they labored.

Between the years 1840 and 1850 the Rev. W. Loehe, of Bavaria, Germany, worked with great zeal for the Lutheran Church in North America, educating and preparing young men for the ministry and sending them across the Atlantic for the building up of the Lutheran Church in the western country. During this time he sent four large colonies of Lutheran people to this country, with instructions to settle in Saginaw and

adjoining counties in Michigan. These people came from Franconia, Germany, and the four colonies were named Frankenmuth, Frankenhelf, Frankentrost and Frankenlust. Each of these colonies was accompanied by a minister who was to be their spiritual guide and advisor.

Rev. Craemer, of the Frankenmuth colony, was especially instructed to open a mission among the Chippewa Indians. He accordingly opened a school for the Indians, instructing the children and at the same time preaching to the adults. And he soon found that he had more to do than it was possible for him to accomplish. So he sent an urgent call for an assistant, to the Mission Society which then had its headquarters at Dresden. The request was granted and Rev. Bairlein was ordained and sent in 1847. He assisted in the work at Frankenmuth and visited Indian tribes in the adjoining counties; and his work was not in vain, for soon there came a "Macedonian cry" from a lonely place on Pine River, 65 miles from Frankenmuth.

The missionaries soon found that it was necessary to found a new mission, and in 1848 the first mission was established in Gratiot County. The first log house was erected under the missionary's direction on a splendid location on the west side of Pine River, at a place called by the Indians Shing-wa-kaus-king, (a place of small pine trees). To this new mission station was given the name Bethany. Soon after the building of the first log house, a second was attached to the first one, to serve as a temporary school house. When this was finished a log building with a steeple was erected for divine services.

This field of labor was placed under the care of Missionary Bairlein who worked hard and with untiring zeal for the conversion of the Indians.

In 1851, Missionary Bairlein needed assistance in his work, so he sent an urgent request to the parent society in Germany for one of their pupils. The society acquiesced, and sent Rev. E. G. H. Meissler. What a change for a student to leave a home in a beautiful city, with all its advantages, for life in such a wilderness!

The principal work of Rev. Meissler was to study the Indian language, preach the gospel and teach the Indian children. The object of the missionaries was to teach the children both in the English and the Chippewa languages. But to teach the Chippewa language without proper books was next to impossible; and books there were none, in that exceedingly difficult language.

This great want of a book for the Indian children caused Rev. Bairlein, with the assistance of the interpreter, to write a book filling this great want. The book was printed at Detroit in 1852, the title being "Spelling and Reading in the Chippewa Language." The reading consists of histories selected from the Old and New Testaments, some hymns translated from the German, the Ten Commandments, Martin Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers.

In 1853, the parent society, having become satisfied that the Bethany Mission was firmly established and could be properly cared for by Rev. Meissler, recalled the pioneer missionary, Bairlein, from his work in order to send him to the mission field in the East Indies. And from this time on, the Bethany Mission was under the special care of Missionary Meissler. He had an assistant, Rev. Roeder, who remained with him a year and then accepted a call to a German Lutheran congregation. From that time on Missionary Meissler was left alone.

When the missionaries first came here they found the Indians living in huts made of bark, with an opening in the center for the smoke to escape from. The fire-place was a space between two logs in the center of the hut. The floor was covered with cedar or pine boughs, and their bed was a blanket. Blankets had been furnished to them by the government. The government had also furnished them with cross-cut saws, which, after being used for years without filing, were in such a condition that it would take two of them half a day to saw off a moderate sized log.

The Indians buried their dead by digging a grave from a foot and a half to two feet deep, wrapping the body in a blanket and then placing it and the belongings of the dead in the shallow grave and covering it.

When the mission was founded, a tract of twelve hundred acres of land was bought, and each family was given a home consisting of as much land as it could work. The Indians only cleared a small part of their land, and when they worked they would always have a "bee"; for an Indian cannot work alone. They were furnished with food and clothing whenever they were in want. They soon learned this, consequently they did not work much. It was a great expense for the Mission Society to keep the Mission furnished with supplies.

Their nearest town was Saginaw, but from Saginaw to Bethany there were no roads. The supplies had to be brought up Pine River or on horseback over lonely Indian trails, zigzaging through thickly timbered forests. The distance by the river is seventy miles, and with a canoe it took about two days to reach Saginaw, and from a week to ten days to return up the river to Bethany.

Many sad stories might be told about the adventures up and down the river; of the boats upsetting with their precious cargoes when almost in sight of the Mission; men being thrown into the river when out of the reach of a dwelling, and being compelled to lie out all night with nothing to eat and their clothes frozen stiff; horses and sleighs breaking through the ice, resulting in the loss of the goods and sometimes the loss of the horses. The journey on horseback was equally perilous, often losing the trail and having wolves and bears for companions. The missionaries' trials were legion and cannot half of them be mentioned.

The superstition of the Indians was no small thing to contend with. Missionary Bairlein had commenced the custom of serving coffee and cake to all the Indians whenever an Indian pappoose was christened, but as time went on it was impossible to always do so. The first child that was christened without serving coffee, happened to die, and no one could ever make the Indians believe that there was any other reason except the lack of coffee and cake at the christening.

In 1857 Mrs. Meissler was taken ill, but her sickness would not have been considered dangerous if they could have had a competent physician. When her case became serious they at once sent to Bay City for a doctor. It took a man on horseback three days to reach the physician, and it took him two days to reach the patient at the Mission, only to find that she had died about an hour before his arrival. The doctor soon had to return, and Mr. Meissler was left to bear his grief alone. A rude casket was made, and the loved one was laid in the lonely cemetery, beneath the moaning pine. In the cemetery is also buried Sarah Mirk-i-we, a mother among the Chippewas, who died April 12, 1859, at the age of 110 years.

In 1854 lumbermen began to visit our county, called by the forests of pine; white people commenced settling in the county; land was cleared; stores and mills were erected—a change that was welcomed most heartily in a wilderness where one had been isolated from the civilized world, buried in gloomy solitude with the Indians.

Among the rest came the saloon. The Indians would give anything and everything for the "firewater"—money, furs, ponies, all that they had. The missionary said, "God only knows what a blow this was to our Mission." The missionary would visit the Indians in their homes and try to persuade them to live Christian lives. A few would listen to the kind advice of Missionary Meissler, but many would rather give even their souls for the strong drink. When the Indians quit coming to church the children quit coming to school.

Soon after the whites began settling in the County, the government made a treaty with the Indians of Michigan, by which the Indians were given a large tract of land, comprising six townships in the County of Isabella. Within the boundaries of that reservation the Indians could each select a piece of land; heads of families 80 acres each, and single persons of either sex, 40 acres each. Many of the Indians of Bethany Mission left their home and their church and went to the reservation.

The eventful question as to whether the old mission at Bethany should be discontinued and a new mission opened at the reservation, was decided in the affirmative, and the change was made. The twelve hundred acres of land owned by the Mission was returned to the government, the cemetery only being reserved. The cemetery is still owned by the synod, and perhaps always will be. Besides the two graves mentioned, each of which has a marble slab, there are about twenty-five other graves, and a marble slab thus inscribed: "As the records of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission Church of the synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states were destroyed by the great Chicago conflagration of 1871, the names of most of the children here buried could not be ascertained. Suffice it that the word of God says that 'the Lord knoweth them that are His'—2nd Timothy, 2-10; and in Luke—'Rejoice, because your names are written in Heaven.'"

The removal of the mission took place in 1859, and Missionary Meissler had to once more go through the hardships of settling in the woods and encountering many unforseen hardships. The law prohibited any white person, without exception, from settling on the reservation, and this compelled Mr. Meissler to locate his abode about six miles from the church and school. The Indians followed off after many different ideas, but were faithful to none. These and many other difficulties caused the mission to fall back instead of advancing.

But the synod, having spent thousands of dollars for the mission, would leave nothing untried. Rev. I. P. Beyer and Prof. C. A. F. Selle were sent to visit the mission. Notice was given to all church members to be present at divine service and hear the visiting guests; but only a few were present. These promised to be more faithful, but, as in the near future no signs of improvement were manifested, the Evangelican Lutheran Mission, among the Chippewas, was discontinued in the year 1869.

Missionary Meissler's parting words were, "I leave the mission field, that field of labor and anxiety, with a broken heart and many tears, and with the fervent prayer to the God of mercy, for the true repentance on the part of our poor Indians."

So here we have the history of the oft-quoted Bethany Mission, as given by Mrs. Doane. Her facilities for knowing its history were peculiarly good, as her family were members of the German Lutheran Church, and were early on the ground; facts which guarantee the reliability of her statements. The story records the rise, progress and the decline of an institution important in its day; important in varying degrees in the minds of people in those later days, but seemingly of much importance to those whose time and money were devoted to its establishment and maintenance. At this distance of time, the visible, and even legendary benefits to the country, to the whites or to the Indians themselves seem hardly worth the efforts and the expense put into the enterprise.

The interpreter mentioned in the narrative was James Gruett, a half-breed—French and Indian. He and his wife, who also was a half-breed, were on the ground in an early day, and stayed through to the last. They and their family remained residents of "Indiantown", as the Mission was often called, for many years; landmarks and connecting links reaching down (or up) from aboriginal times in Gratiot to the white man's civilization of modern times. One son, William Gruett, is still very much alive, a resident of St. Louis.

In the early days when there were no mail trains, no railroads, no wagon roads and mighty few trails through the forests, and only a postoffice at St. Louis, Billy Gruett, then a lad in his teens, carried the mail between St. Louis and Maple Rapids, on pony-back over the Old Indian Trail, making the round trip once a week if circumstances were favorable. S. S. Hastings, one of the first settlers in St. Louis, in a short article published in 1876, says that the postoffice at St. Louis, established in 1855, "was a great convenience, furnishing mail facilities for all of Isabella County as well as the north half of Gratiot." And Billy Gruett carried the whole of it once a week in a bag, on an Indian pony. It seems unnecessary to call attention to the increase in the business and the improvements in the service since that time.



BILLY GRUETT.

### Settlers Multiplied.

The year 1853 brought several prospectors to the county, and a few settlers. The year 1854 witnessed the beginning of the rush to the county, the result of the enactment of a law by congress reducing the price of certain government lands in Michigan to fifty cents an acre to actual settlers. The act was known as the "Graduation Act." By this act the price of government land in Michigan was "graduated" when sold to actual settlers, according to the length of time said land had been in market, so that all unsold tracts in Gratiot County were offered at fifty cents per acre. Each purchaser had the privilege of locating a half-section—320 acres—by making oath that he bought it for actual settlement, and that he was twenty-one years of age, or that he was the head of a family.

I mention some who came into different parts of the county during these years, up to 1855; not all, but some of those who became of more or less prominence, some of whom left their mark as leaders and men of action: In North Star Township, H. T. Barnaby, Peter Hoffman, John Franklin, John W. Chaffin, Bela Evitts, Lafayette Sweatland, Alex McDaid.

Into Arcada Township and Alma came Francis Nelson, Ralph Ely, Jacob Rush, Edward Lake (afterward locating in Bethany), Reuben Finch, Lafayette Church.

Into Pine River Township, and what is now St. Louis, may be mentioned Joseph Clapp, Sylvanus Groom, Geo. L. Spicer, Dr. Abram M. Crawford, Sidney S. Hastings, Hiram Burgess, Elias W. Smith, Lewis M. Clark, Abram Woodin.

In Fulton Township, to those already mentioned were added Ben. Cowles, Leman Johnson (afterward settling in Newark and many years its supervisor), Jas. Otto, Wm. Norton, Marcus Service, Simeon Gray, Daniel and Peter Helms.

In North Shade, besides those heretofore named were Geo. E. Walker, Wm. Brice, Erastus Perry, Consider Sturgis, Alex. Briggs, Joseph Comstock, Orin D. Hough, Chas. Proctor, John Crispell.

In New Haven were Henry P. Clark, J. A. Crispell, Joseph N. Bennett, Richard Houck, Peter Pendell, Alex. Chapman, Edwin C. Harrington, Moses H. White, Joseph Wiles, J. W. Snyder.

To Elba came Hason Sinclair, Jas. Wooley, Sherman Call, Daniel Call, John O. Wool, Ralph Sutfin, Richard G. Finch, Edward Letts.

Added to Washington's list of early settlers were, Cyrus Cory, Wm. W. Comstock, Jas. M. Foote, Joseph B. Smith, Orson Stoddard, Wm. Carothers, Alonzo Squire, Cornelius Campbell, Robert Carothers.

The Hamilton settlers were, in part, John R. Cheesman, Elijah Curtis, Wm. Barton, Samuel Barton, Daniel H. Curtis, Jas. B. Curtis, John S. Templeton.

Lafayette had been invaded by a few, among whom were Samuel T. Roe, Wm. D. H. Hamill, Er W. Mead, Theodore H. Devereaux, Nathan Thomas, Wm. M. Crandell.

Emerson had received as settlers, Wm. Imisson, Isaiah Allen, M. Pettit, O. A. Everden, Erastus Hunt, John Knight, Isaac Preston, Isaac N. Coleman, E. C. Farrington, Reuben Coffin, A. B. Bailey and several others.

Into Seville had come John B. Mallory, Carlile Weeks, Joseph Abbott, Henry and Jas. L. Shults, Cornelius Rockwell, Adam Oberlin, A. N. Rockwell, Henry Boyer.

Newark had Jacob L. Beechler, E. W. Kellogg, Jas. Wood, Geo. L. Waggoner, Orville M. Wood, Wm. Kinsel, Thaddeus S. Green, Fred Stronse, Benson Taylor, Jas. Ridenour, Fred S. Kelly.

In Sumner might be found Homer L. Townsend, Barlow Worthing, Lucius J. Van Lenven, Joseph Rockafellow, Henry A. Walker, Daniel, Michael, Nathaniel, Jacob and Wm. Strayer, Baron Blanchard, John Mecomber.

John Jeffery, Frank Miller, L. C. Knapp, Simon Nott, and one or two others had pitched their tents at Gratiot Center, (now Ithaca).

Bethany and Wheeler were unknown quantities so far as white inhabitants were concerned, except the missionaries at Bethany Mission.

Those mentioned are by no means all who might be deemed worthy of such consideration. A complete list, even if possible, would be impractical in this connection.

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### They Bled the Pioneers.

It seems from good evidence that all did not get the benefits of the graduation act who were entitled to it. There seems to have been grafters in those early times, and some of them got themselves attached to the land offices, availing themselves of their inside knowledge and information to beat and bleed the landlookers in various and sundry ways, and cheat them out of their rights. Sharks there were in those days, and doubtless the species is not extinct even to this day.

Francis Nelson, father of Wilbur Nelson, the well-known Ithacan, and of the late Theodore and Wm. Nelson, was one of the first settlers in Arcada Township, as many readers doubtless know. He had the distinction of being elected judge of probate in 1856, and was re-elected in 1860 and 1864, thus serving twelve years in that important office. In an article written and published in 1883 he tells in an interesting way of some of his early experiences, and I here quote that part which relates to his experiences with the land office, and incidentally some other passages of his experience that seem worthy of preservation in this volume, and which help materially in portraying some of the important facts of pioneer history. In referring to some of the practices of the land office officials, he says:

"Perhaps I cannot better illustrate the point than to show how they dealt with me. I had a small farm in Lenawee County upon which I owed a sum which I found it difficult, if not impossible, to pay; and thinking to improve my circumstances, I sold out, paid my debts, and with the balance which I could call my own, I determined to locate government lands and make me a new home. With this object in view, I set out for Gratiot County in May, 1854. On my way toward the north regions I learned that government lands had been taken out of the market for the purpose of giving the railroad companies an opportunity to locate their grants; and so I turned back and waited until the August following, when government lands were again in the market. Then, for the second time, and with high hopes, I set out for the Gratiot woods. First going to the Ionia land office, I obtained plats of the townships now known as North Star and Arcada. Furnished with these, and a good supply of edibles, in company with Jacob Rush, an old neighbor, I struck out for Arnold Payne's. Mr. Payne lived at the extreme southern limit of Gratiot County and about two miles north of Maple Rapids, and in those days kept a sort of hotel for landlookers and immigrants.

"From Payne's we took a northerly direction through the Township of Fulton, and entered North Star at the south line of C. Levering's farm. From thence we went east to John Franklin's, where there was a little settlement composed of John Franklin, H. T. Barnaby, Peter Hoffman and others. We engaged Mr. Franklin to show us land in the neighborhood of Bad River, or rather a branch of that stream, running through the Township of North Star.

"We were not pleased with this region. It seemed too flat, and, as we then thought, too far back in the woods; and, almost abandoning our purpose of finding a home in Gratiot County, we returned to Maple Rapids.



TOO FAR BACK IN THE WOODS.

"However, we finally determined to look further before making a decision, and taking what was called the Pine River Trail we passed over the spot where Ithaca now stands and came on to Avery's, one mile north of Gratiot Center, (now Ithaca). Mr. Avery's bark shanty was the first human habitation we had seen since leaving Payne's. Mr. Avery not only lived in this rude habitation himself—he and his—but here he entertained travelers and kept boarders. No hotel in Gratiot County is more widely renowned at the present time than was Avery's bark shanty in those primitive days. Here we found Ed. Lake and his wife among the boarders, while Mr. Lake was engaged in putting up a house on his land in that vicinity. We learned also of Simon Nott who had made a little opening just off the trail, and who was living in a rude hut not far from the place where Wilbur Nelson's house now stands, in the north part of Ithaca.

"We remained over night at the Avery House; but they had to put the stove out doors to make room for our beds. Rising early next morning we came to Lucius Knapp's, where we took breakfast. Here was the first opening on that splendid farm recently owned by Hon. Wm. S. Turck, [now and for some years past owned by Hon. B. F. McNall.] Here we left the Pine River Trail, (which made a wide circuit to the east in order to avoid a big swamp,) and following the town line north to the point now known as Church's mill, we went one mile directly west to the corner, since named for Jacob Rush—Rush's Corners. It was then and there that Mr. Rush first saw his noble farm. I selected land adjoining, on section eleven.

"Returning to the land office in Ionia, we endeavored to purchase these descriptions under the graduation act. In this we failed. They in-

formed us that they had received no orders as yet to sell lands for less than ten shillings—$1.25—per acre. Then we asked to have the tracts we had selected reserved for us until we could get the benefit of the graduation; but they declined to do anything for us except to sell us lands at the old rates.

"If they adhered to the letter of their instructions in our case—and I think they did—they notoriously violated both letter and spirit in their own interest and that of their friends, as the sequel will show.

"We bought only a part of the tracts we wanted, hoping to get on to it, and then purchase adjoining lands under the graduation act. So I moved my family into Gratiot County in October, 1854, hurried up a shanty, and as soon as I could leave them under shelter, went again to the Ionia land office, hoping now to get the benefit of the graduation act, for the balance of the land I needed. I was again doomed to disappointment. They told me at the land office that all the land on section eleven, where I was located had been disposed of in the following manner: That tract immediately adjoining my own was marked 'pre-empted'; the very thing I had asked them to do for me, and which they had refused to do. I knew that there was no settler on the land, and as they had previously told me that it could not be pre-empted without actual settlement, I demanded the land. They said if I bought the land I would have to pay one dollar and a quarter per acre, and take it upon my own responsibility, as they did not know whether it was occupied or not. So I took the responsibility, and paid one hundred dollars for eighty acres of land, when I then believed and still believe that I was entitled to one hundred and sixty acres for eighty dollars.

"The remainder of the section where I had located my farm was disposed of in a manner to justify suspicion. One tract was marked 'pre-empted', and an official in the land office had got his own modest autograph upon a valuable quarter section. He doubtless had the benefit of our landlooking to aid him to a wise choice. Another quarter section on section fourteen, had been purchased under the graduation act for fifty cents per acre, by a dry goods clerk in Lansing, who never settled on his tract, and never intended to; but when we grubbed around it and made roads and other improvements for his benefit, he sold his land for five and six dollars an acre.

"Before I leave this land office iniquity let me mention one or two other circumstances which show the cupidity, if not the dishonesty, of those government sharks to whose tender mercies the pioneer and actual settler was often consigned. There was forty acres adjoining my tract on the east for which I applied at the graduation price. They told me I could have it by filing an oath with my application. I asked them if they could not swear applicants. They replied that it was not their business, but that they would do it for three dollars. I, of course, believed that the only way to do was to let them do as they pleased. So they filled out the very short blank and I paid them.

"A young man who was with me at the time wanted to get a quarter section, but as he had none looked up, I volunteered to help him. I asked to see their field notes, thinking that from my knowledge of the country, I could find some vacant description which it would be safe for the young man to take. But they refused to show their book, but, instead, offered to sell a description for three dollars. And so the description was bought, and three dollars additional was paid to those disinterested custodians of the public domain for an application on oath.

"I have been thus particular in relating my own experiences to show how law-abiding those officials were when they could make anything by breaking the law; and to show also how pleasant and obliging they could be—for a consideration. Had I thought it the right way to do business, I have no doubt they would have taken a fee and permitted me to pre-empt a tract when I first applied, just as they did for others. As it was, I paid two hundred dollars for a quarter section, when I was entitled to a half section for one hundred and sixty dollars."

Thus I have given some of the first pioneer experiences of one of the earliest pioneers of the county. Given in his own words they bring to the mind and comprehension of the reader some of the difficulties attending the settlement of a new county, more forcibly than could be done by a much more extended and elaborate general dissertation on the subject. As to the culpability of the officials of the state land office at Ionia it is, of course, possible that the circumstances taken altogether may have given Mr. Nelson an exaggerated idea of their unworthy and aggravating methods; but even if such was the case it is easy to see how aggravating and discouraging the case was, when the difficulties of communication and travel are considered. And with circumstances the most favorable it is safe to assume that prospects for the future few years could not have been any too bright and alluring. If the pioneer could live long enough, persistence and hard work, and hope, might bring him "out of the wilderness."

Recollections of what somebody has told of the experiences of the early settlers are good as far as they go, and may often be the only reliance in the construction of historical records; tradition may have to be depended on to quite an extent; even the imagination may have to be called into action to a certain degree. All these combined in due proportions may approximate the facts fairly well and give an account of things that will pass muster, and "beat nothing all to death." But the actual experiences of the actors and participants coming first-handed, are what carry weight and conviction, and create the most graphic and convincing impressions upon the mind of the reader. So, if these reflections and conclusions are correct, the reader will appreciate and approve of such other personal tales as I am able to lay before them, in this volume.

Without doubt there may be some things in these narratives that some readers may look upon as chaff or surplusage. It is difficult to please all in every particular, but it is believed that every paragraph will contain some grains of information for some of the readers. There may be some repetitions, but they probably will not be so numerous as to become monotonous. Contradictions? Possibly, but not many, and none serious. Just enough of them to keep some of the readers more interested, in the hope of discovering something worth finding fault with.

It is well to keep constantly in mind the fact that the time treated of in these reminiscences, was that period, so hard for the present generation to fully grasp, when Gratiot County was one vast expanse of solitude, excepting that as time advanced the monotony was relieved by an occasional oasis in the expanse, where the advance guard had begun the battle which was to transform the wilderness into a "vast expanse" of fertile fields, and with all the accompanying improvements, necessities, conveniences and luxuries required for the use, comfort and delectation of a population of 30,000 people.

### Many Were Impecunious.

Another article from the pen of Judge Francis Nelson, treats to some extent, of the causes that brought about a period of destitution and want, to the people of the county; it also touches upon other points of interest.

He goes on to say: "The idea of getting cheap lands under the graduation act created something of a frenzy in the minds of many in the southern part of the state, who had no land and not much to buy with. Many bought without any real expectation of settling at all, or at least for some time in the future. There was no trouble to get land if you had the requisite fee, or the fee demanded by the land office officials, the officials being far more anxious, apparently, to secure their fees than to comply with the requirements of the law. The oath they administered did not restrict buyers to any particular time of settling, but seemed to leave the matter optional. So when, during the winter of 1854-5 the order was issued from the land office and distributed by circulars, giving notice to those who had bought land at graduation prices, that they must move on to their lands within a limited period of time, or lose their lands and the purchase money also, a great panic was produced, especially among those who had nothing left after purchasing their land. Many of them picked up and started for the woods without counting the cost. Some of them had spent their last shilling before they reached the land they were to occupy. They had to be lodged and fed wherever night overtook them, whether they could pay or not, and we all had to keep hotel whether or not we could collect the bills.

"Many of those coming into the woods in such destitute circumstances expected to support themselves and families by working for others. They were disappointed as a matter of course, for there were scarcely any who were able to employ labor. The destitution of so many brought something like a famine to all, for all had to share in the general scarcity and distress."

To show the difficulty in the matter of procuring the necessities, Mr. Nelson relates this: "In the month of January, 1855, I went out to Maple Rapids to try and secure some corn for my cattle. My ox team had been so long on 'browse' only, that I was afraid to drive them on this trip, so I relied upon getting a team outside to haul in my supplies. I had no difficulty in finding a team, but traveled a whole day over what were called "the plains' of Clinton County, without finding any corn. At last I heard of enough for a small load and sent a team for it. Having engaged a man to come on with this load of corn, for the sake of immediate necessities, I shouldered what I could carry in a bag, and in the early morning started for home on foot. I had not proceeded far when it began to snow, which it continued to do all day, and I am sure I never saw more snow fall in a single day. It was up to my knees when I stopped for the night, four miles from home. My supply of corn I divided with my neighbor, Jacob Rush, who had shared with us in our trials in getting into the woods, but who now lay upon his back with a badly broken leg."

### County Seat Question Opened.

The next installment of Mr. Nelson's articles on pioneer days quotes the act of the legislature providing for the organization of the county, and gives some facts and some views relative thereto, and some comments on the great county seat question as it interested and affected the people of that day. The legislative act mentioned, also an exhaustive consideration

of the county seat question, are given in another part of this work, so further reference to those matters may well be omitted. Two or three miscellaneous paragraphs:

"The people in those new settlements were generally poor, and not the class that would be likely to aspire to political leadership either in township or county. It is true that a few men had had a little experience, and a very few freely expressed themselves as fully equal to any position; and nearly all were willing to stand in any gap to which duty called them.

"When we came to our first township meeting, all the laws of Michigan that we could find in the north half of the county were in the hands of Francis Way, of Pine River Township. He had been appointed Notary Public the previous winter and had a copy of the revised statutes of 1846. After the election much difficulty was experienced in getting sworn in properly on account of the scarcity of officers empowered to administer oaths, and a lack of knowledge of the required form."

Supervisor Francis Nelson, of Arcada, and Geo. Spicer, of Pine River, reported to the Saginaw County board of supervisors, the north half of Gratiot being for certain purposes attached to Saginaw County.

Mr. Nelson tells of a transaction that doubtless had much to do with starting the local strife that prevailed for some years between the settlements at Alma and St. Louis. Mr. Ely had made a boat, or double-log canoe, twenty feet long and about six feet wide with which he brought provisions up the river from Saginaw. It was an important institution, and as its uses appealed directly to the people's stomachs it would naturally be a rash proceeding to interfere with its workings. Clapp and Crawford were building a dam at St. Louis and were making no provisions for the passage of the boat, either on request or demand. So when the boat came up loaded, and the St. Louis workmen refused or failed to help them over the obstruction, a company of men came down under the leadership of Mr. Ely and made an opening in their old dam, and proceeded triumphantly homeward with their cargo.

The journey to Saginaw to a special meeting of the board of supervisors was made on foot. At that meeting Mr. Ely presented a petition of citizens asking to have Clapp's dam removed, or that he should be compelled to put in a suitable chute. "I drew up the resolution," says Mr. Nelson, "making the order not to interfere with the dam but to compel them to put in a chute, giving dimensions as best I could from information at hand. This was passed without a dissenting vote. An order to that effect was duly served upon Clapp and Company, and it was treated with ridicule."

Neither history nor tradition tells of any further clashes of a physical or material nature, so it is presumed that St. Louis people changed their tactics, raised their dam, and that Alma's transportation and navigation rights were duly recognized ever after.

### As Seen by Horace T. Barnaby.

In the search for data bearing upon events of the early years of the county, and in the pursuit of clews likely to throw light upon the current and important facts connected with the history of that far-away time, I have fallen in with some papers written by Horace T. Barnaby, a settler in North Star Township in 1854; a man who afterward held many prominent positions in his township, was clerk of the county, and representative in the state legislature. His writings date along in the '70s, only about 20 years after Gratiot County appeared on the map as a place occupied by civilized man.

As Mr. Barnaby took an active part in the stirring events of those times, and considering also the fact that he was a preacher, with all of his other qualifications for telling a straight and truthful story, it is believed that no more trustworthy data exists from which to extract and concoct a history covering the period of which he writes.

Dodging, as well as I can those portions that duplicate matters already committed to these pages, I herewith give the record of some of his recollections; sometimes in his own language, sometimes not, as seems best for the objects aimed at—accuracy and completeness in all essential or desirable details. But to produce a story, of reasonable continuity, there may be some unavoidable duplications.

Speaking of the fact that migration to Gratiot County was put off until a comparatively late day, and giving some reasons to account for it Mr. Barnaby says that its inaccessibility was a prominent reason; lands in other locations being much easier to get at. As late as 1843, land could be bought in Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties for two dollars per acre, on ten years' time and at seven per cent. interest. Men could not afford to push back miles from civilization, neighbors and necessaries of life unless pressed to it. The effect of a sight of the sluggish Maple with its accessories of willows, alders, bogs, fallen trees and broad acres of dead water; the effect of this dubious outlook was to send him back to seek some more promising location, with the belief more firmly fixed than ever, that Michigan, or the central portion at least was a swamp fit only for the propagation of frogs and mosquitoes.

Along about 1850, or a little before, the German-Lutheran Church estblished the Bethany Mission, below the present location of St. Louis. It was commonly called "Indiantown; and its population, besides the Indians, was made up of French and Indian half-breeds. From Indiantown the only, or main outlet was by way of a trail to the southward ending at Maple Rapids; a trail instituted by the Indians and used by them in their travels to the white settlements to barter their furs and hides for the white man's commodities. The trail was known as the "old Pine River trail." Starting at Maple Rapids the trail ran angling in a northeasterly direction through Fulton and Newark, crossing section 36 of Arcada, and crossing the present Ithaca and St. Louis road three-fourths of a mile north of Ithaca. Another trail led from Maple Rapids to St. Charles on the Saginaw River.

"Before any permanent settlements were made (in 1846) someone, probably a joker employed in the United States Survey Corps, published as a fact that the United States authorities had established the county seat of Gratiot County on section four of town 10 north, range 2 west, (North Star); whereupon Henry M. Henderson purchased the whole of that section and part of section five. But of course the story proved to be a fake; and all of that territory remains a wilderness to this day," says Mr. Barnaby, in 1875.

Referring to Arnold Payne, Mr. Barnaby says: "Arnold Payne, the first settler in the county, was located on section 31, of Fulton. In early history the only road out ran by his place. His ample log house, cheerful old fire-place with blazing logs piled high, and with well-filled table, was a favorite and desirable resting place for all, whether going in or coming out of what was emphatically 'the woods'."

Early in 1854 Ralph Ely moved from Ionia County and settled on Pine River, starting a settlement, erecting a saw mill, etc., and taking steps to found a village. The place was called Elyton. With some help he opened a road from his settlement direct to Maple Rapids, running through the western part of Arcada, Newark and Fulton. The road was designated and known as the "New Pine River trail."

From the old Pine River trail, a branch was constructed to section 11 of Fulton by Levi Smith, and later it was extended on north to the center of section one of the same township by Alonzo Loomis. In May of the same year—1854—Mr. Barnaby and Peter Hoffman continued this road to section 28, North Star, where they had located land and built a cabin. On the 10th of May they moved their families to the new home.

Mr. Barnaby tells something of building the cabin and moving in: "Mr. Hoffman and I had arrived at the house of Levi Smith, section 11, Fulton, with three ox teams—one of them our own, two hired—on the first day of May, and on the next day, after unloading the hired wagons and starting them back, we left our wagon, loaded, and our families—my own being wife and three children, Mr. Hoffman's wife and four children—and proceeded to our prospective home, where we cleared away brush and logs on a spot large enough for one house. Cutting the logs and splitting out 'shakes' for the roof were the first things done, and then came the raising. Seven men were found within a radius of ten miles, by whose aid the raising was accomplished. The building was 16 by 32 feet in size, with a log partition across the middle, making rooms 16 by 16; a room for each family. While Mr. Hoffman chopped out openings for doors, and 'finished' the dwellings, I went for the families and household goods.

"I made a success of the first load, but when within about two miles of home with the second load, including women and children, the oxen played out and could go no further. Sending the women and children on, the oxen were turned loose to refresh themselves on the few leeks they could find. When it began to grow dark another trial was made, but it was a failure." The oxen were "all in," so they were again unyoked and the men proceeded to the cabin. A big fire of logs was built in front of the cabin, beds were arranged inside, and supper was spread on a dry goods box which served as a table; after which all "retired."

This is a specimen of the start made by many, though many others had infinitely greater difficulties to overcome, and with far less means with which to help themselves. And still, many of those who passed through the most discouraging experiences, were ready to declare, later in life, that those days were among the happiest of their lives. Which suggests the conclusion that the hope exceeded the realization; which, by the way, is often the case.

Mr. Barnaby tells of the way they used to repair the roads: "When anyone found a place in the road that he was afraid to undertake to drive through, he would take his ax, with which he was always provided, and cut a passage around the bad place. Thus the width of the road was made to vary from two or three rods to a quarter of a mile, and the traveler could select his route; or he could make still another addition to the width of the difficulty, by the use of his ax."

Mr. Barnaby gives an interesting version of the Ely-Clapp episode at St. Louis over the dam obstruction. Although the incident has already been mentioned in quotations from Francis Nelson's writings, Mr. Barnaby's account comes from another angle, and has points of interest of its own: "During the summer of 1855 Mr. Ely undertook to, and succeeded in navigating Pine River from Alma, by way of the Tittabawassee River, to Saginaw, with a flat boat. In the meantime Mr. Clapp was constructing a dam across Pine River at the present Village of St. Louis, having in company with Dr. A. M. Crawford, conceived the idea of laying out a village at the latter place, to bear the name of Pine River; which plan was subsequently carried out. Mr. Ely, possibly seeing in this a prospective rival, and finding that the aforesaid mill dam materially obstructed the free navigation of the

river—did not seem disposed to quietly submit to the obstruction. Accordingly one day, in the fall, he proceeded with a company of his workmen, armed with picks, axes, crowbars, etc., and sent the mill pond on a journey to Saginaw Bay. And there was no more dam except possibly what might have been heard in the not over-fastidious expletives of the indignant Clapp. Thus for the time being an end was put to the first material enterprise of the projected Village of Pine River."

There is still another version of the obstruction matter, and this is told by S. S. Hastings, who, as a neighbor of Clapp and a sympathizer, gives the matter a ventilating from another point of view. Mr. Hastings gives it the following vigorous send-off: "Mr. Ely headed an organized mob of forty men, not armed with picks and crowbars, but with guns and pistols, and under the joint leadership of the notorious 'Black Hawk' Holiday, who had two revolvers in his belt. It is true that it was done not so much for the purpose of navigating the river as for the purpose of crushing the prospective village, for Mr. Crawford offered to furnish men and take Mr. Ely's boat over the dam. But Mr. Ely told him he had come for the purpose of tearing out the dam, and he was going to do it."

The three different stories regarding the mix-up over the question of the dam and the navigation of Pine River is the best I can do. It is presumed that human nature was much the same then as now. All parties looked at things from their own respective standpoints. Doutbless an impartial verdict would put some blame on each and all of the interested parties. Each town survived, and though each had its ups and downs, each grew and flourished, keeping up with, and really going ahead of what was warranted by the progress of improvements in the surrounding country.

Mr. Barnaby speaks in high terms of the neighborly and accommodating spirit shown by early settlers with scarcely an exception. "Families living seven or eight miles apart were considered as living in the same neighborhood; frequently men went 15 miles to help neighbors raise their log buildings. If one was sick or met with accident, or was lost in the woods, men and women hastened to their aid from many miles around."

During the summer and fall of 1854, settlers came in thick and fast, the especial reason therefor being the passage of the act, already several times mentioned—the graduation act that reduced the price of government lands. "By winter," says Mr. Barnaby, "every township but one, in the county, had settlers.." Doubtless Wheeler Township was the exception referred to.

"John Jeffery having purchased a tract of land at the geographical center of the county, caused the survey of a prospective village, which, by common consent was called 'Gratiot Center.' It was amusing to pass through the woods and see the stakes sticking up among the logs and brush, marked 'St. Louis street,' or 'Washington street,' or some other high-sounding name; while the respective proprietors of the embryo cities watched each other with eagle eyes, and talked glibly about the superior advantages possessed by their favorite, for the location of the county seat."

Speaking of the rush of settlers immediately following the announcement that all lands bought must be occupied promptly, Mr. Barnaby says that hundreds of men came on with apparently no thought only to secure their purchases by immediate occupancy. "Scores of families without money enough to last them a week, and totally unprepared for the rigors and hardships of pioneer life, hurried to the woods to save their purchases; many of them at remote distances from any place where provisions of any kind could be obtained. Could they have been allowed time to make proper preparations, and the county settled more gradually, the surrounding country could have yielded supplies, and much suffering would have been avoided;

and the odium that has attached to the reputation of this county, abroad, as unjust as it is offensive to all the hardy pioneers, would have been unknown."

Thus writes Mr. Barnaby; but so far as the odium and the offensiveness are concerned, I think they were mainly in his mind, for in conversations with scores of those who went through the starvation period, I have invariably found that while they didn't care for any more of it, they seemed to hugely enjoy talking about it, and have gone into the details with much gusto, taking especial pains to rehearse all the details that would most fully and forcibly portray the dire straits to which they were reduced, and the means employed to meet the demands of appetite and the other requirements of human nature.

Furthermore it seems far-fetched to blame individual conditions or individual men or officials for the suffering of the starvation period or for the starvation period itself. The condition of destitution came as the result of a combination of circumstances and events, not uncommon in themselves nor necessarily disastrous, but coming as they did, in their application to conditions prevailing in Gratiot County, their combined influence and action produced results unfortunate and disastrous. The unfortunate conditions, none of which were criminal, nor specially hurtful when standing alone, a combination of which brought about the period of destitution in Gratiot, I enumerate thus: First, the unfortunate poverty which impelled so many, fairly for self-preservation, to seek homes in the woods, scores of miles from civilization and supplies. Second, the fortunate reduction of the price of government lands. Third, the natural and plausible enforcement of the condition that compelled actual occupation of the land bought at the reduced price. Fourth, the drouth that dried up the prospects of several seasons. Fifth, the floods of other seasons, that drowned out the prospects. Sixth, the late spring frosts and the early frosts of fall. Here was an aggregation of unfavorable conditions hard to go up against.

Another factor or incidental condition that made destitution general and unavoidable, was the fact that practically all were poor alike, and had been served alike by the conditions enumerated, particularly by the last three. Consequently none, or comparatively few, had a surplus with which to supply the shortage among their neighbors.

So, as no individual, or body of individuals were culpable or responsible, and as no condition taken singly was at fault, I see no reason why the starvation period, as it is called, in Gratiot should be considered a disgrace, or in any way a blot on the fair name of the county or its pioneers; and certainly no odium attaches to the later generations who only know the history of the times in question as it is handed down to them, and who could not change it if they would.

Mr. Barnaby's interesting reminscences continue: "At this time—fall of 1854—North Shade was the only organized township in the county. At the session of the legislature in January, 1855, the inhabitants of six townships made application, and procured an organization directly from the legislature, viz.: Fulton, North Star, Arcada, Pine River, New Haven and Emerson.

"The winter of 1854-5 was a severe one, especially to those who came late expecting to winter their cattle on browse. Dr. Elias Sower brought 14 head of cattle to winter on browse. Their hides were readily exchanged for flour before spring.

"The first considerable fall of snow came about November 1, and though there was quite a thaw in January, the snow did not disappear till far into the month of April. A large number of deer and other game was killed

during the fall and winter, venison forming no small part of the daily ration. Venison—dried, smoked, jerked, stewed, boiled or fried—could be found on the table in the humblest cabins."

### Organizing Act and First Election.

The act of the legislature providing for the organization of the county was approved February 3, 1855. The act provided for the election, on the first Tuesday of November, 1855, of the first set of county officers. As the time approached for the election, a county convention was called to take place at the residence of Lucius C. Knapp, one and one-half miles north of Ithaca, the farm known later as the W. S. Truck place, and now owned and occupied by B. Frank McNall. Each inhabited township, whether organized or not, was entitled to two delegates, and the townships were pretty well represented, all or nearly all having delegates present. Mr. Barnaby had a strenuous time in finding his way to the place of meeting. "It was no small job to find the place appointed for the convention, as I can testify from actual experience," says Mr. Barnaby, "there being no road to the place except from Maple Rapids in one direction and Pine River in the other. I remember distinctly passing along the 'main street' in Ithaca, over logs and through the brush looking for the place to turn north, the unaccountable disagreement of section lines making the search uncertain. At length, after a weary journey I reached the cabin of Mr. Knapp, the memory of which is so closely connected with the early history of the county and county politics.

"The convention was called by no political party and the nominees were confined to no particular faith. There were plenty of men willing to accept any place to which they were called, even at that early day. After a somewhat warmly contested convention the following nominations were made: Sheriff—Isaac Jones, of Fulton; Clerk—Orville M. Wood, of Hamilton; Treasurer—Abram M. Crawford, of Pine River; Register of Deeds—Henry Lane, of North Shade; Prosecuting Attorney—Benjamin Crawford, of North Star; Judge of Probate—John R. Cheesman, of Hamilton; Circuit Court Commissioner—Stephen E. Longyear; Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, of Pine River; Coroners—Levi Smith and Horace T. Barnaby."

The controversy over the location of the county seat had already begun, and it cropped out visibly in the selection of the candidates at this convention. Those favorable to Ralph Ely's settlement seem to have got the worst of it, judging by subsequent events. Dissatisfaction with the ticket culminated in the formation of another ticket, composed, in part, of some of the other, but with a few new names. In place of Isaac Jones for sheriff the name of Geo. E. Walker of North Shade was substituted. For treasurer Abram M. Crawford was dropped and Ralph Ely took his place. For prosecuting attorney the name of Marcus Service of Fulton appeared. In place of Stephen E. Longyear the name of Henry Lane was substituted, for commissioner.

There being no printing office within the county, it was arranged at the regular convention that the tickets should be written. But the "insurgents" responsible for the new ticket sent a man on foot away down to Ionia, and had their ticket printed. And this without doubt helped their cause, for their ticket was mainly successful. For Prosecuting Attorney, Frank Miller was declared elected. It does not appear that he was on either ticket as originally constructed, but as he, though an entirely new man in the county, had credentials showing that he had been admitted to the bar, and as neither of the other candidates were practicing attorneys, it seems probable that

these facts being known, Mr. Miller was taken up by mutual consent, or by mutual concert of action, and elected.

Mr. Barnaby tells of the troubles of the canvassers in reaching a conclusion as to who were elected. It was charged that some of those entrusted with the job of writing tickets betrayed their trust to the extent of mixing in an occasional name on the other ticket; thus clearly showing that the spirit of political activity had an early start in Gratiot. At the meeting of the canvassers some claimed that only one election inspector from each township was eligible to sit, according to the act authorizing the election. Others claiming, and trying to make themselves believe that all of the inspectors of all the townships should take part. So when the canvassers met, some townships had one representative on hand, some had two and some had three. After much controversy it was finally agreed that all who were present might take part.

Francis Nelson of Arcada was made chairman and Elijah Porter of Pine River, secretary. Returns from some townships were found to be, or at least were declared to be, irregular or otherwise deficient, and were thrown out, Arcada and Fulton being so served. Throwing out Arcada, threw out Chairman Nelson, so Hiram Burgess of Pine River was then made chairman, and the business proceeded. By throwing out three townships it was found that the regular ticket was all elected. And the board so declared, instructing the secretary to issue to each a certificate in accordance with that decision; and then the canvassers adjourned sine die. The disappointed and rejected ones did not take kindly to this usage, so they got their heads together and induced Secretary Porter to meet with them with the returns, and, counting all the returns, reached a conclusion that elected some of the other candidates, and the certificates were issued accordingly. This result seems to have been more in accordance with justice, and there is nothing in the records nor in tradition to show that the result, though reached in a peculiar and irregular manner, was even seriously questioned.

So the first county officers, elected November 6, 1855, were as follows: Judge of Probate—John R. Cheesman; Sheriff—Geo. E. Walker; Clerk—Orville M. Wood; Treasurer—Ralph Ely; Register of Deeds—Henry Lane; Prosecuting Attorney—Franklin Miller; Circuit Court Commissioner—Henry Lane; Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings; Coroners—Lewis B. Loomis, Levi Smith. "And thus," says Barnaby, "ended the first election and the first canvass for Gratiot County officers; and thus, amid the writhings and contortions of wire-pullers and political aspirants a county was born. During the summer and fall of 1855 the population of the county increased largely. The woodman's ax was heard on all sides. Many large improvements were made, roads were opened into the interior of the county, school houses were erected, and Gratiot took her place among the living, thriving municipalities of the state."

Mr. Barnaby continues: "The first board of supervisors met at the house of Ralph Ely, Alma, January 7, 1856, the purpose being to take action on the bonds of the new county officers, fix their salaries, etc. Elijah Porter of Pine River was clerk, O. M. Wood, county clerk elect, not yet having had his bonds approved by the circuit judge, as the law provided. Contingent expenses were provided for by authorizing the issuing of orders on the treasurer, though he had no funds. So the orders had to be discounted from 10 to 25 per cent. What was left of the salary, after discounting was not enough to make an official proud. Still, considering the small population, probably it was all that the circumstances would justify. The salaries as fixed by the board were as follows: Treasurer—$225; Clerk—$250; Prosecuting Attorney—$300.

"The rapid settlement of the county at this time—rapid considering the distance from supplies, and the obstacles in the way of travel—paved the way for the inevitable hardships that were sure to follow. Not only was this county isolated from adequate sources of the necessaries of life, but all the country to the north of it had to look to the south for the bulk of its supplies. And for many miles to the south of this county the country was new, scarcely producing enough for home consumption. So the question of procuring family necessities soon became a serious one. Many of the settlers—and it may truthfully be said, the most of them—were poor; many with large families to provide for, and depending upon their daily labor for their daily support; and a majority of them unused to pioneer life. It is no marvel that some got discouraged and got out after a few months' trial; and it is no wonder that hardships and suffering became common conditions. Those who had a little money were in bad enough plight, for their money would not buy what did not exist in the county. And to those without money the conditions were to the last degree discouraging.

**The Noble Women.**

"Too much cannot be said in praise of the heroic women of those times. Many of them might have been seen, clad in the coarsest habiliments, and scant at that, frequently barefooted, side by side with their husbands, picking and piling brush, and even wielding the handspike, and in rolling up log heaps. And generally they were more cheerful, courageous and hopeful than the men themselves. Truly refreshing and dear is the memory of the wives and mothers of the days of hardships that tried men's souls. Go to, now, ye who clamor and pant for the latest styles and fashions!

"The nearest mill to which the people could go to get their small grists of corn ground was at Matherton, Ionia County; a journey of 30 or 40 miles for a large portion of the inhabitants, and what roads there were were almost impassable for teams. Hence, those who had been so fortunate as to raise a little corn were compelled to convert it into meal by some ingenuity of their own. This some accomplished by the use of a coffee mill; others rigged up large tin graters—a tin pan punched full of holes, from the inside, with a nail and hammer, leaving the bottom of the pan 'as rough as a grater', and quite suitable for the operation. An ear of corn rasped back and forth over the pan-bottom did good and quite rapid work, soon reducing the kernels to a mixture of hominy and meal, and with a fair proportion of cob. Others used a jack-plane, shaving the corn from the cob and thus reducing it to usable shape.

"Many foresaw the coming difficulties and predicted close times. Others, more hopeful, seemed to have no fears for the future and were inclined to look upon the others as croakers who were bound to borrow trouble. The sequel, however, proved the correctness of the unfavorable predictions; and when the pinch came the croakers and the optimists all shared in the hardships.

"In the fall of 1856, bears became so plentiful that by October one could hardly pass along the road without meeting more or less of them. There was an abundance of acorns, and that fact is presumed to have been the cause of their being so numerous, the more northern woods being short on acorns. Large numbers were killed. Oaks were scratched by the nails of the bears, and the tops were trimmed of their small branches. The bear would climb the trees, break off branches and drop them, then get down and gather the acorns. Hunters were often directed to the bears by hearing the breaking of the limbs.

### The Smoky Fall.

"The fall of 1856 was noted throughout the state as 'the smoky fall.' Probably no part of the state suffered more from this, than did this county. Dense smoke from the forest fires shut out the sun and almost everything else for many days at a time. Wild animals were bewildered and came out into the roads and fields in great numbers. Gloom settled down on the inhabitants. Work was suspended in great measure, people keeping indoors to escape the smoke as much as possible. The largest objects could not be seen more than a few feet away. Cattle would not go away to feed, and some of them died. The woods were nearly all burned over, hardly an acre of upland or lowland that did not get blackened. In many instances the fires continued to burn long after winter had set in, and the hunter often found opportunity to warm his hands by some burning log or stump. Nothing more wonderful could well be imagined than the change wrought when a light shower came and the wind dispersed the smoke, revealing to view the neighbors' dwellings and other familiar objects. However long our lives may be spared, and however great the changes we may pass through, we can never forget the smoky fall of 1856."

Further facts relative to the destitute times in Gratiot, and the measures adopted for relief, may be found in another department of this volume, under an appropriate heading.

### Politics Butts In.

Up to the fall of 1856, Gratiot County hadn't had a chance to take part in national elections or national politics, but the Republican party had been in existence two years. So it was deemed to be time to do something politically. A county convention was called to organize the party in the county, and proceed to the business of the campaign on political issues. The convention was held in October. Each organized township was entitled to three delegates. There were 14 organized townships, Bethany being a part of Pine River, and Wheeler a part of Lafayette. When the convention assembled, an attempt was made to put aside the question of politics and to nominate candidates without regard to political faith. Part of the delegations from Fulton and Washington were avowed Democrats, and some of the Republican delegates from those townships joined with the Democrats in an effort to ignore politics so far as county officers were concerned. But their efforts were fruitless, and the nominations were strictly Republican. Mr. Barnaby continues:

"Pine River appeared with six delegates, claiming seats for all, on the ground that the township contained double territory. After some debate and some wrangling, the six were allowed to sit as delegates. The Pine River delegates exhibited considerable arrogance, and created considerable ill-feeling. Each time that township was called the delegates came forward with a 'Hurrah for Pine River! As goes Pine River, so goes the battle.' This repeated expression did not have a soothing effect on the nerves of those who doubted Pine River's right to so many votes. Orville M. Wood probably would have been re-nominated for clerk, only from the fact that when asked what was his politics, he replied, 'None of your business.' So he was left off.

"Later on, the Democrats got together and nominated a ticket, but it was defeated. The Republicans elected their county ticket by a vote of about 360 to about 160 for the Democrats. The Democrats elected surveyor by 10 majority, and their prosecuting attorney was given the election by the canvassers on account of the Republican candidate, Sylvanus Groom, being ineligible to the office.

"The winter of 1856-7 was a very pleasant one. Before the close of November the snow had fallen to a sufficient depth for good sleighing, which continued until well along in February. The county at this time gave nearly all its trade to the dealers of Maple Rapids. Some of those dealers drove a thriving business, nearly all of which came from the citizens of Gratiot County. But this trade was poorly appreciated at a later day when the money was all gone and Gratiot people were in need. One of those dealers told the writer (Barnaby) that the people ought to starve; that they were the laziest and most shiftless set of men he had ever known in any country. He has, however, lived to see some of those lazy, shiftless men, who paid him double-price for his wares, take their place among the wealthy and honored of the land.

"About the 20th of February, 1857, a thaw took off the most of the snow. Extensive preparations had been made for making maple sugar, and the spring proved the best that had been experienced up to that time. The season continued till late in April. This was considerable help to the people for a time, but as the sugar brought but a small price, and provisions were high, it took a large amount of sugar to buy a small amount of provisions. There was no regular market price for provisions of any kind. The dealers and whoever had anything to sell, did as the Children of Israel did when they had neither prophet, judge nor king—'Did what seemed good to himself.' I have seen flour sold for $10 a barrel while the highest quotations for wheat, where they had it, was one dollar per bushel."

Mr. Barnaby's broad hints as to the grasping proclivities of the dealers who had their customers at their mercy, in a great degree, only shows that in those days, as perhaps in the present, everyone was looking out for the main chance; sentiment and business apparently not mixing to any great extent.

### Truthful, But Pessimistic.

"Notwithstanding the extreme scarcity of provisions, and the prospect of hard times, the population continued to increase rapidly by immigration, filling up the county, and thus making supplies comparatively more scarce. In the meantime those who had been in the county long enough to make a start with their improvements, were making every effort to prepare for the impending crisis, by putting out as much crops of different kinds as possible. Attention to this business was almost universal, and as few idlers could be found as in any county of equal population. Even the women engaged in outdoor work, and every child large enough to do anything at all was pressed into service in preparing the ground for the crops. If anyone found it necessary to go to mill or market he was sure to be entrusted with errands by every neighbor for miles around; thus saving time, to be repaid by similar accommodations at some subsequent time. And if anyone should presume to go to mill or market without giving due notice to his neighbors, he would be elected an undesirable citizen by unanimous vote.

"The supervisors, at an extra session held in May, 1857, by resolution, instructed the superintendents of the poor to ascertain in some way, what, in their opinion, would be the best chance for procuring a location for a county poor farm, and report the result of their inquiry at the next session of the board. There were, at this time, several professors of law in the county, two of whom — Frank Miller and Moses Tompkins — were located at Ithaca. It would be impossible at this date to show the influence these men had with the officials of the county, especially with the board of supervisors. If anyone had any little scheme that he wished to

carry out, he only had to enlist them in his service and his success was sure. And if any officer presumed to refuse to fall in with their plans he was a marked man; and however consistent and equitable the measures he might propose, or the plans he might make, he was about sure to fail. Both of them men of excellent natural ability, they were able to be of great service to their friends and to do vast injury to their enemies. In short, they nearly managed the affairs of the county for a time, and it is not so much to be wondered at that some men of good judgment and unquestioned integrity submitted to be dictated to by them, sometimes, against their better judgment. Such was the state of things when an opportunity presented itself for somebody to dispose of real estate to the county for poor farm purposes. The outcome will be referred to a little later on.

"A postoffice had been established at each of the Villages of St. Louis, Alma and Ithaca, and a mail route from St. Johns, by way of Maple Rapids, Ithaca and Alma to St. Louis, over which the mail was carried each way once a week, if the roads did not get too bad, and everybody kept sober; otherwise it came less frequently. Soon after an office was established at Pompeii.

"Up to this time there was no bridge across Maple River above Maple Rapids, and the condition of the river was such as to render the making of a road and building of a bridge a serious undertaking. The mill dam at the Rapids raised the water and set it back nearly across the county, overflowing a large amount of land and giving the whole flats the appearance of an immense swamp. Before the construction of the dam a person, when the water was at its lowest stage, could cross the river at the Rapids, without difficulty, by stepping from stone to stone. But after the construction of the dam the water was hardly ever less than four or five feet deep, so that no place could be found, above this point, where a bridge of less than about half a mile in length could be made to answer the purpose.

"Some help was asked to build bridges across Pine River at different places, and also to prepare means of ingress and egress for the county across Maple River, short of the circuitous route by way of Maple Rapids. St. Johns had become a desirable market and trading place for the citizens of Gratiot on account of its larger stocks and greater variety of goods. Attention being directed to this, small appropriations were made from time to time, which, had they been directed to the building of only one bridge, would have been inadequate for the purpose, but when divided, as they were, between several points, they proved actually worthless. So, although a bridge was constructed which for a while was barely passable, it was soon swept away, and the people were again forced to resume their travel by way of Maple Rapids.

"The summer of 1857 was a season well adapted to the growth of crops; corn that was planted in season did well. Wheat, also, and oats were good crops. Only a small quantity, however, of any of those useful crops was raised, compared to the demand. No threshing machines, or even fanning mills, were to be had in many portions of the county. The threshing was consequently done by hand, and the grain was cleaned by winnowing. The operator watched his chance when there was a good breeze, and, lifting the grain above his head, would let it fall in a stream, the wind blowing the chaff away. By repeating the process the grain would be made tolerably clean. A good hand would in this way prepare four or five bushels for the mill in a day.

"At the October, 1857, session of the supervisors, the superintendents of the poor, as they were instructed to do, reported upon the opportunities to purchase a county poor farm, among which was the farm then owned

by John W. Howd, on section 18, North Star, for $2,245; the farm adjoining it, owned by A. Jeffery, for $1,800; another on section 17, Washington, owned by W. W. Comstock, for $2,000. Although this latter tract contained much less land than either of the others, was much more remote from the central portions of the county, and greatly inferior in quality, for some unaccountable reason the board selected it and made the purchase, greatly to the advantage of the seller at the price named—$12.50 per acre. Six of the fourteen members voted against the action.

"The supervisors had some trouble in disbursing the contributions made to the county, familiarly known as 'donations', and thought, probably very justly, that they should be remunerated somewhat. There being no other way to reach it they proceeded to vote to each member the sum of $45, excepting that the members from Pine River and Lafayette were given $50 each. These sums were given to the members, 'for the extension of their tax rolls.' Whether the action was just or not, the effect was very similar to the effect upon those who voted for the so-called 'salary grab' in congress; very few of the members were ever returned. The people didn't seem to like it.

"The chairman, Addison Hayden, of North Star, was a very good sort of an easy fellow who could not very well say no to anything asked of him, and being often requested, furnished the board with sundry things with which to refresh itself, such as maple sugar, sardines, oysters, etc., until it was a matter of doubt whether his per diem would be sufficient to foot the bill. So the board voted him an extra $10, which relieved the good-natured chairman of his embarrassment.

"The winter of 1857-8 set in early with very gloomy prospects before many of the inhabitants. Very few, at the commencement of winter, were able to procure necessary clothing for their families, and many had provisions to last only a short time, and no money for more. How those families managed to live is a surprise even to themselves. If you were to ask them, their answer would be, 'I don't know; we lived somehow.' Some were fortunate enough to kill some deer and other game, which helped somewhat. A very few got work in the lumber woods, and all studied economy and lived cheaply. Although the winter commenced early, it was by no means a severe one.

### Religion—Politics—Railroads.

"The winter was noted as a time of great religious awakening. The Rev. Mr. Fay, Baptist, Rev. Mr. Holbrook, Methodist, and Revs. Nash and Haskins, United Brethren, were all very successful in their ministry and large societies were formed of all these denominations, respectively. This awakening was pretty general throughout the western states and was called by opposers 'a religious mania.' Whatever it may have been called, interesting revivals attended nearly every effort made.

"This winter the question of the election of a circuit judge was pending for the tenth judicial circuit to which the county was attached. W. F. Woodworth came through the county accompanied by Rev. Mr. Hemingway, of Midland City, soliciting the votes of the people for the nomination. They doubtless made much better headway under the state of feeling that then prevailed, by the latter preaching to the people in various places. John W. Longyear, late judge of the United States Court, then practicing law in Lansing, was also a condidate for the judgship, agreeing, if nominated, to become a resident of the district in time for the election. Mr. Woodworth was nominated at the regular convention, but the friends of Mr. Longyear, claiming him as a member of the Democratic party, made

an effort for him at the election. In the attempt to get a little scandal afloat, Mr. Longyear was accused of intemperance, and Mr. Woodworth was accused of christianity. It is only justice to say that both of the charges were untrue.

"By this time some of the earliest settlers had made quite extensive clearings, but there were many of the later settlers that had, as yet, made no clearing; also some of the very earliest, who had large families, were compelled to work away from home most of the time, and consequently had but small patches cleared. They could not work for others all the time and also do a large amount of clearing for themselves. The immediate needs of their families had made it impossible for them to improve their own places, and so they were many times unjustly condemned as being lazy and shiftless by those who did not understand the situation. An incident occurred at one time when one of those uninformed critics got his rebuke. He was moving into the county in the spring, and, getting near the house of one of the settlers, got his wagon into a mud hole and could not get out. So he called at the house for help. The man who lived there, according to universal custom, started to render the desired assistance, but on the way to the wagon he was informed by the newcomer that he did not think the inhabitants of that region were possessed of much enterprise, to suffer such bad roads to exist. 'Look here,' said the pioneer, 'I cut my road six miles through the woods to get here, and two or three of us have done all the work to make the road what it is, and that without grumbling; and if you don't like our roads just make one to suit yourself.' Turning back to his work he left the censorious critic to get out of the mud as best he could.

"The Republican county convention was held at Ithaca, in the old court house some time in October. The nominations were, Homer L. Townsend, sheriff; Lafayette Church, treasurer; Elijah Peck, register; Emery Crosby, clerk; Israel B. Coates, prosecuting attorney. An opposition ticket was gotten up composed of representatives of both the Democratic and Republican parties, but the Republican ticket was elected entire.

"At this early day the question of a railroad began to be discussed by the people, and as the road then known as the 'Rams horn' (the Lake Shore branch that ends in Lansing) was being talked of, strong hopes were entertained that on its route from Lansing it would be laid through Gratiot, by way of St. Johns. What might have been the result if the influential men of St. Johns had favored it, would be hard to say. It is, however, a fact in the history of the past, that the business men of that village opposed the proposition of a railroad northward from their town, claiming that it would injure their trade. Said they, 'We now get the trade of not only the northern part of Clinton, but a good part of Gratiot County also, and if a railroad is built north, little villages will spring up along the line where the farmers can dispose of their produce and buy their goods and thus their trade will be entirely cut off from us.' In this they can but see already (1875) that they made a grand mistake, and if a road is not built from that point northward soon, the mistake will some time be more apparent than now, for already Gratiot has about as good markets within her own borders as is afforded in the Village of St. Johns.

"At the October, 1859 session of the supervisors, the county seat question was considerably discussed, and from the expresions of the members it was difficult to judge what the end would be. The supervisors from Sumner, Seville, Arcada, Pine River and Bethany, were thoroughly committed to Alma. Those of the seven townships of Newark, North Star,

Washington, Elba, Hamilton, Lafayette and Emerson, were as solid for Ithaca. The three from Fulton, North Shade and New Haven were non-committal. In view of the fact that those three townships were supposed, previously, to have been sure for Ithaca, the result was made doubtful, and Alma was correspondingly hopeful. To add to Alma's advantage, Mr. Ely, of Arcada, and Mr. Holiday, of Pine River, were the ablest managers and the most experienced members of the board, excepting, perhaps, Mr. Pettit, of Emerson, the chairman of the board. Mr. Barnaby, of North Star, a new member, had to take the lead for Ithaca.

"Mr. Ely put in a resolution actually pledging the board to locate the county seat at the place that would offer the greatest financial aid. That resolution was lost, however, and the matter went over to the January, 1860, session.

"Just previous to the meeting in January, 1860," writes Mr. Barnaby, "the supervisors from Fulton and North Shade went to Alma and spent a day or two enjoying the hospitalities of the place, which proceeding had a significant look; and Alma stock went up, while Ithaca stock took a downward tendency. Soon after the board convened, and a resolution was introduced to locate the county seat at Ithaca, or to continue it there, the opposition made strenuous efforts to have the matter laid on the table, postponed, etc. But as a session of Court was close at hand, and any delay would give the session to Alma where the Court had heretofore been held, the dilatory motions were voted down and the resolution confirming the county seat at Ithaca was adopted, by a vote of 9 to 5; the negative votes being by the supervisors of Arcada, Sumner, Pine River, Seville and Bethany.

"In pursuance of an act of the legislature passed at its last session, by which an appropriation was made for opening a road direct from St. Johns



THE LUMBER WOODS.

to St. Louis, jobs were let early in the season of 1860—one for the construction of a bridge across Maple River, and others to different parties for chopping and clearing the road on the center line of the county, north and south, the latter being taken mostly by Ralph Ely. He prosecuted the work with vigor, so that early in August the road was open from Maple River to Ithaca, a distance of over ten miles, nearly all of which, the previous spring, was covered with heavy timber. The bridge across the river was also completed, and other work south of the bridge was done, so that before winter the new state road became the usually traveled road to St. Johns, Lansing and other places south.

"The season of 1860 brought forth good crops, and the people began to emerge from their gloom. That fall they actually sold wheat, pork and other produce. Business was brisk during the winter following, and loads of produce from the farms of the county were seen passing daily from all parts to the lumber woods, which at that time was by far the best market for every kind of produce from a load of hay to a dressed chicken. It was truly encouraging, so soon after the extreme scarcity of everything in the provision line, to see the surplus of almost everything for man and beast.

### Rumors of War.

"The spring of 1861 brought rumors of war, and citizens, regardless of political faith, stood loyally by the government."

Speaking of the part the women took in conducting farming operations when the men went to war, Mr. Barnaby gives them these words of praise: "The women, with patriotic zeal, bade their husbands and sons godspeed, and bent to the tasks before them with astonishing cheerfulness, and in most instances with remarkable success, winning for themselves at home what their husbands and sons did on the battlefield—imperishable laurels. Ladies whose accomplishments fitted them for the drawing room, could have been seen driving their oxen or wielding the hoe at ordinary farm labor. Woe to the man who should say anything disrespectful of the soldiers or of the union cause, in the hearing of those patriotic women. Improvements were, in a great measure, suspended, but an abundance was raised for home consumption, and some to spare of almost everything."

### Wrangled Over the Election.

Mr. Barnaby discourses interestingly of election matters of 1862. He says that after consultation among the leaders of both parties it was decided to have a union convention and nominate a non-partisan ticket, so a union convention was called; but there were some Republicans who would listen to nothing but a straight party ticket; so they called a convention to take place a week after the union convention. The union convention nominated: Sheriff—Cornelius Holiday, rep., Pine River; Clerk—H. T. Barnaby, rep., North Star; Treasurer—Lyman T. Cassada, dem., Fulton; Prosecuting Attorney—Wm. E. Winton, rep., Ithaca; Register of Deeds—Wm. Long, dem., Washington; C. C. C.—Elisha McCall, dem., Fulton; Surveyor—Jas. B. Wheeler, rep., Wheeler. Dr. John R. Cheesman, dem., St. Louis, was the nominee for representative.

The straight Republican convention nominated: Sheriff—Fred D. Weller, St. Louis; Clerk—Wm. C. Beckwith, Ithaca; Treasurer—Elijah Peck, Ithaca; Prosecuting Attorney—Moses Tompkins, Jr., Ithaca; Register of Deeds—Henry P. Howd, Fulton; C. C. C.—Moses Tompkins, Jr., Ithaca; Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, St. Louis. Jas. Gargett, Alma, was nominated for representative.

The county canvassers decided that the entire republican ticket was elected. But the way they arrived at that conclusion is given thus by Mr. Barnaby, who was the county clerk, and consequently was secretary to the board of canvassers:

"Thirty votes that were cast for Moses Tompkins were counted as if cast for Moses Tompkins, Jr., which gave him a majority of 26. If they had been thrown out Winton would have had a majority of four. After a good deal of discussion the board passed a resolution declaring that the thirty votes were cast for Moses Tompkins, Jr., and consequently he was elected. In the meantime the secretary (Mr. Barnaby) had prepared a statement of the votes in full, as appeared on the returns from the several townships, as the law directs. Mr. Arnold, of Arcada, then offered a resolution, which passed, commanding the secretary to change the statement which he had made, so as to make it show that all those votes were given for Moses Tompkins, Jr. The secretary positively refused to do this, or allow it to be done; whereupon the board resolved to dismiss the secretary and employ one who would do their bidding; but, finding that they could not do this, they wrangled with the secretary two days, when they adjourned after declaring Moses Tompkins, Jr., elected. It is but just to say that five of the board stood firmly by the secretary throughout the contest."

Then Mr. Barnaby jots down his idea of the law and the equities in the case in this way: "There is not a doubt that the board did right in deciding the election in favor of Mr. Tompkins. But when they undertook to make the secretary certify as a fact what was contrary to the returns, they, without doubt, overreached their prerogative." All of which is as clear as mud, and may or may not be true. If it was right for the board to ignore the returns and the law, then their decision was probably right. However, their idea of right was exactly the reverse of that held by the canvassing board of 1858; only four short years earlier. At that election J. B. Smith, received fifteen votes for sheriff that were manifestly intended for Joseph B. Smith, who was running for sheriff. If they had been counted for Joseph B. Smith they would have elected him by six majority. Throwing them out, as they did, elected Homer L. Townsend by nine majority. But the canvassers threw them out, even though fourteen of the fifteen men who voted for J. B. Smith, came before the canvassers and in sworn statements said that when they voted for J. B. Smith they fully intended and meant their votes to count for Joseph B. Smith. Circumstances and conditions make things look so different to different people, at different times.

"And thus ended the fourth regular election in Gratiot County," says Mr. B.; "the most closely contested and the most exciting election ever held in the county." And it is well to qualify and limit his statement by adding, "up to 1875." There have been several live elections since that time, of which many readers of this will have a distinct recollection.

"At the session of the legislature in 1863, another appropriation was made for the state road between Ithaca and St. Johns, which was to be devoted to grading, making bridges and sluices, and otherwise improving the road. Also an appropriation for the road from Alma to Maple Rapids. Both appropriations met with approval from all parts of the county. The latter particularly, provided for a necessity which as yet had received but little or no attention. The grading of the road from the northern portion of the county was highly approved, as at that time St. Johns was the only railroad market for the whole county and also for Isabella County.

"In the meantime a village plat had been surveyed in the western part of Sumner Township, to which was given the name of Elm Hall; and still another four miles south of Elm Hall, and named promiscuously 'Stovertown', 'Belltown' and 'Estella'. They finally settled down to the latter name. Still later, however, the postoffice established there being called Sumner, the name of the village was changed to Sumner; a sensible change which did away with much confusion. The first white settlers near Elm Hall were Daniel Strayer and his family. The first settler at Sumner was Geo. S. Bell."

### Retrospective Musings.

"Commodious farm houses began to make their appearance on the farms in different parts of the county during the summer of 1863, while the old log cabin was in many instances allowed to remain. Who can look at one of those relics of pioneer life and not call to mind the toils and privations of early days? She whose willing hands and warm heart helped you to fight life's battles, plied the busy needle, or prepared the frugal meal around the fire in the huge fireplace, the crumbling remains of which are still visible, now sleeps the sleep of death; and others enjoy the fruits of her toil. Silently in imagination you gaze upon the wan features of your little one in that old house, as its spirit was taking leave of its frail tenement; and perhaps side by side mother and child sleep over there in the city of the dead. You can hardly lay hands rudely upon the decayed materials that compose the old log house. Every log and every chink have a history, and, could they speak, could relate a story to revive thoughts of the early days. But the old house must give place to improvement, and like many things that linger in memory, it must take its place among the things that were, and are not."

### That Cold New Year! Remember It?

"The winter of 1863-4 was an exceedingly cold one, especially after the first of January. No one who then lived in Northern Michigan will very soon forget the cold New Year's day of 1864. Many agreed that it was the coldest day they had ever seen. It was followed by many more very severe days during the months of January and February of that year. The winter, however, did not last long, and we had an early spring. About the tenth of June it came on cold and wound up with a frost that badly injured winter wheat, almost ruining many fields of oats, and was so hard on the meadows that in many cases the grass never headed out. The hay crop, consequently, was very light. Corn, though badly cut, came on and proved a very good crop.

"The representative convention for the district of which Gratiot was a part, met at St. Louis in October, 1864. Gratiot and Midland constituted the district. A Mr. Ellsworth, of Midland, received the nomination, getting twenty-three votes to seventeen for H. T. Barnaby, of Gratiot. Afterward Ellsworth declined to run, and the committee, consisting of S. S. Hastings and H. T. Barnaby, of Gratiot, and John Larkin, of Midland, got together to fill the vacancy. Hastings and Larkin were anxious to have Barnaby take the nomination, but he declined on the ground that as he was one of the committee a wrong construction might be put upon the matter. It was then left to Barnaby to name the man, and he named Luther Smith, of St. Louis. Smith was successful at the eleciton. Westbrook Devine, of Montcalm, was elected state senator, and John F. Driggs, of Saginaw, was elected congressman."

Mr. Barnaby goes on to tell of some of Represetative Smith's selfish and ungrateful acts while a member of the legislature; tales that need not be repeated here, but which I have no heart to question or deny, though Mr. Barnaby may have been unduly sensitive, if not prejudiced.

"The winter of 1864-5 was an unusually mild one. But very little snow fell until the latter part of the winter, and not a large amount then. All kinds of farm produce brought high prices. Wheat reached as high as $3.00 per bushel; pork, $14.00 per hundred; hay, at the farm, $25.00 per ton; wool, $1.00 a pound, and other things in proportion. These were the war prices so well remembered by the older citizens.

### The Campaign. End of the War.

"The campaign of 1864 was attended with a great deal of interest, not to say excitement. The Democrats were a good deal cast down when they heard of the fall of Atlanta; not meaning by that a lack of patriotism, but cast down on account of the effect it might have on their political prospects. And the Republicans were equally agitated when President Lincoln, in the midst of the campaign, called for '500,000 more'. They were anxious about the effect it might have on Republican prospects."

All of which shows that party spirit was very much alive in those days; and it also hints at the intolerance and the unreasonableness of the party spirit when carried to excess; in those days, and just as truly at the present time.

"The return of the soldiers to their homes, at the close of the war, and the resumption of business incident to the return of peace, gave a new impetus to the growth and improvement of the county. Everywhere the advance in improvements, by way of clearing and building were plainly noticeable. It had been prophesied by croakers that the soldiers would return to us with habits of indolence and vice; that they would be the ruination of the country. But the reverse was true. It was astonishing as well as gratifying to see how readily the implements of war were exchanged for the implements of husbandry. Farms that had been somewhat neglected for want of laborers, put on an appearance of thrift. New enterprises were set on foot. The sound of tools in the shops, and the opening of stores, also showed that the boys had lost none of their enterprise by bearing arms for their country.

"The pulpits whose occupants had been clothed in Uncle Sam's Blue, were again made to send forth the sound of the gospel's good will to all men.

"In the general resumption of improvements and general business the country only remembered the war as a thing of the past."

### Frank Miller Has His "Say."

Some extracts from a paper read at the pioneer meeting of 1879, by Frank Miller, will give some new features of interest relative to first days in Gratiot. They are from his personal experiences and observations:

"In the fall of 1855, the writer (Miller) who, after three years of close application to his studies in a law office in Elmira, N. Y., had been admitted to practice in all the courts of that state, left his home in the beautiful lake country of the Empire State, and came to Michigan. The trip was made from Buffalo to Detroit by steamboat, and thence to Lansing over the new plank road by stage. A delay of three days occurred before a seat could be secured in the stage, so great was the rush into the interior of the state of those taking advantage of the 'graduation act' which reduced the price

of certain government lands to fifty cents per acre. When I finally got a seat I was one of 25 passengers. I had heard of Gratiot County and was bound to be there when it was organized that fall. After tarrying a few bright sunshiny days at Lansing, I set out on foot through the almost unbroken wilderness by way of De Witt, Gardner's and Maple Rapids. Stopping over night at De Witt, at Gardners for dinner, and at Maple Rapids the next night, my first night in Gratiot County, after traveling the 'Old Indian Trail' toward Pine River till some time after dark, was at L. C. Knapp's, one and a half miles north of the center of the county, now Ithaca.

"There had been a sort of informal people's convention held there a few days previous and a ticket of candidates nominated to be voted for at the first county election soon to be held. At that time in the near vicinity of Knapp were settled John Knight, E. C. Farrington and Joe Stafford in Emerson, and a Mr. Searls, Ed. Lake and Simon Nott in Arcada.

"Resolved to 'take the bull by the horns' and either to 'spoil a horn or make a spoon', I had announced myself as an independent candidate for prosecuting attorney of the new county, from the time I came into it. From Knapp's I made my way over a very blind trail to Ely's on Pine River, and thence down the river to Joe Clapp's (now St. Louis). I reached there the night before election. The result showed that although a perfect stranger I had been elected by a handsome majority over Benjamin Crawford and Marcus Service. Neither of them had been admitted to practice law in courts of record. There were a little less than 300 votes cast at this election.

"At that time the site of the present Village of St. Louis contained five log houses, two of them not yet completed, a partially completed hewed log store, occupied by J. G. Wilden of Ohio within the next three months; and the raised frame of a water sawmill. A brush dam was partly constructed across Pine River, and quite a number of men were working on it. Alma, or Ely's, consisted of the log house and log store of Ralph Ely, and three or four log houses in the immediate neighborhood, one of which was occupied by a Mr. Todd, another by a Mr. Mosher, and a third, across the river by Lorton Holiday, familiarly known as 'Black Hawk' Holiday.

"Bethany Mission, or Indiantown, just below Clapp's, on Pine River, had quite a respectable hewed log missionary church, five or six log houses on the bank of the river, an Indian burying ground, a resident German Moravian missionary—Rev. E. G. H. Meissler, and Jas. Gruett, a half French and half Indian interpreter. Ithaca, Pompeii, Elm Hall and Estella had not then even been thought of, and Gratiot Center, now Ithaca, was a dense forest. That fall Thomas and Robert Reed took a contract of John Jeffery for chopping 10 acres on a specified portion of some land Jeffery had taken up there. * * *

"That winter was a long and cold one, and many old residents of the county will feelingly remember how we almost roasted on one side at the big fire-places filled with green wood, while we literally froze on the other side. In fact it was about as warm out of doors as in, as many of the newer houses were not even 'chinked' between the logs at all. And almost every night of that long, cold winter the prolonged howl of the big gray wolves could be heard.

"On the first Monday of January, 1856, the first county officers, elected the previous November, were required by law to qualify and enter upon the discharge of their official duties. A special session of the board of supervisors—the first ever held in the county—was called, and was held at the residence of Ralph Ely, at Alma, January 7, 1856, for the purpose of doing

its part, and what was required to set the wheels of government in motion. The seven supervisors were all present, and Gratiot County was duly born into the sisterhood of the organized counties of the state.

"Another special session of the board was called to meet on February 11, 1856. The session was held at Ithaca, in a partially enclosed small frame building erected by John Jeffery's agent, L. C. Knapp. It had neither fire nor floor. The site of the county seat was selected after considerable discussion, and obtaining the offers of John Jeffery, John J. Bush, Simon Nott and others, and block nine of the village plat of Ithaca was made the site.

"The first marriage known to the writer to have taken place in the county was that of Martin W. Cramer to Miss Dorinda Sias. The ceremony was performed by Sylvanus Groom, a justice of the peace in Pine River Township, in the spring of 1855. The first funeral known to the writer was that of a female child of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus Groom, in the spring of 1856. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Lafayette Church at Groom's house. The coffin was made from boards taken from a partition in Joseph Clapp's house, by Elias W. Smith. The first babies born in the county were mostly rocked in sap troughs, in the absence of cradles. It is doubtful if those who were not, and their descendants, are entitled to be classed among the first families of Gratiot.

"About the first of July a severe frost seriously injured the growing corn and potatoes, the seed of which had not previously been carried off by squirrels. No county in the state of its size and age discounted Gratiot this year and the next, in crops of leeks, mosquitoes, firewood and ague. A second frost in August completely destroyed what little corn there was left. This left a few potatoes and ruta bagas as about the only resource in the home supply of provisions for the settlers and their families, excepting the wild game which abounded in those days.

"Early that fall, fires broke out in the woods in all directions and for weeks we had plenty of pillars of smoke by day, and pillars of fire all through the night, only the smoke continued, dense and suffocating night and day. It was so dark for a number of days that lighted candles were required in the houses, and people could hardly see their hands before them out of doors at midday. The winter found the settlers but poorly provided for, but by dint of shingle making and clearing land for the few who could pay for it, the winter was worried through. But the spring of 1857 found actual starvation staring many families in the face." * * *

"Shingles were hand made, from the nearest pine trees suitable for the purpose, and were legal tender for all debts, dues and demands in the county, and made good, acceptable Gratiot County currency. Although there was not a single sheep in the county, each organized township offered bounties for wolf scalps, and the county gave an additional bounty. Neighbors were well acquainted for a distance of from five to ten miles, everybody with everybody else, and there were few or no social grades or restrictions. Almost every log house was a sort of a country hotel or tavern, where the weary traveler might be sure of being welcome, and of having a share of what they had to eat, if they had anything at all, money or no money. Tramp laws were unknown, and all were to some extent tramps, for traveling had to be done on foot. The log houses generally had good large fire-places, stick and mud chimneys, and puncheon or split-log floors. * * *



GOOD SHINGLE TIMBER HERE.

"In 1857 the starving times commenced, for reasons already given, and the cry of destitution went forth from many of the stout-hearted and strong-handed settlers in the wilderness counties of Gratiot and Isabella. It was caught up and responded to most promptly and generously by the citizens of Lansing, Jackson, Detroit, the Saginaws and elsewhere in the older settled portions of the state. There were but few good teams in the county, and not many of any kind, and they were nearly all ox teams. Quite a number of cattle died from being unable to sustain life on browse of basswood and maple twigs and buds. These things made it difficult to get the donation supplies into the county, or to distribute them after they were received.

"The legislature appointed commissioners to lay out, establish and open two or three state roads that year, one of which was that extending from St. Johns by way of Ithaca and St. Louis to Saginaw, which was duly laid out and the route established by John Jeffery, J. B. Smith, Lafayette Church Hiram Burgess and the writer before the next winter. The Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad was completed as far west as St. Johns this

year, and this was a great help in getting in supplies of all kinds. * * * Every succeeding year school districts were organized, log school houses built, public roads laid out, opened and 'corduroyed', churches were built and the area of cleared land on every man's land was more and more enlarged. John Jeffery, in pursuance of an agreement with the board of supervisors when the county seat was located on his land, put up a hewed log two-story building for county uses, which was occupied by the various county officers in the fall of 1856. A steam saw and grist mill put up at Ithaca by John Jeffery, Francis Nelson and Lafayette Church, and the same year a water grist mill put up at St. Louis by R. G. Hillyer and Lewis M. Clark, were great conveniences to the people, relieving much trouble in that direction.

"By this time—1857—the following postoffices had been established: Ithaca, Frank Miller, postmaster; St. Louis, A. M. Crawford; Alma, Ralph Ely; Pompeii, J. B. Smith; Spring Brook, Wm. Sutherland; Elm Hall, Baron Blanchard; Stella, A. T. Hayden; Lafayette, Eben M. Morse; Monticello, Henry P. Clark.

"The partial plat of Ithaca made early in 1856 and afterward completed, by S. S. Hastings, was recorded June 12, 1856. The plat of Upper Ithaca was made in April, 1856, and completed as to platting and filing for record May 17, 1856. The proprietors were Simon L. Nott, Hiram Burgess, S. S. Hastings, Frank Miller and Orville M. Wood. A further plat of West Ithaca was afterward, during the same summer, made of 40 acres by John J. Bush, but never recorded. The village plat of Pine River (now St. Louis) was made by Louis D. Preston, a surveyor from Lansing early in July, 1855, and recorded July 16, 1855, in Saginaw County, this county not yet having been organized. The proprietors were Joseph Clapp, Dr. A. M. Crawford, Jas. T. Vandeventer and Myron H. Tyrell. In 1856 the plat of Elyton, or Ely's Mills, was surveyed by S. S. Hastings for the proprietor, Ralph Ely. The village plat of Alma was surveyed in 1858, after which the whole settlement was called Alma. * * *

"A bitter contest had existed in relation to the location of the county seat from before the organization of the county, and the writer (Frank Miller), John Jeffery, Hiram Burgess, Francis Nelson and a number of others, in behalf of the interests of Ithaca, and Ralph Ely and others in behalf of Elyton (now Alma) attended during two entire sessions of the legislature, at Lansing, each striving to secure the coveted prize, by legislation, to secure the object sought. The journey in those days was necessarily made on foot; and six times has the writer and the late John Jeffery walked to and from Lansing on business connected with the county seat question.

"Among the youths who came to Ithaca as boys in the early days, Nathan Church and Wilbur Nelson are today (1879) two of the most active, prominent and influential business men of the village, with well-earned reputations that extend far beyond the boundaries of the state; and Jas. W. and Chas. H. Howd and William Nelson are first-class business men anywhere. Rev. Theodore Nelson ranks among the leading clergymen in the state, in usefulness and ability. * * *

"And so we might continue. Every old Gratiot County pioneer has his or her experiences, and they are lengthy, varied and valuable, at least to themselves, and it is only from a condensation and compilation of many such, that the true history of Gratiot County can ever be written. This paper has been prepared and is now read as an humble contribution to the pioneer history of Gratiot County, and as a tribute of respect alike to the

living and the dead pioneers of the county; a plain unvarnished statement of a few of the more prominent and important incidents, hardships and privations common to all, and borne alike by all; also of a few of the more important public events during the first two years after the organization of the county. The improvements of today, seen throughout the county in general, show how hard and how well the early settlers of this county toiled, 'who lifted up the ax upon the thick trees': who laid out and opened public roads, who organized school districts and built school houses and church edifices, and literally hewed for themselves homes out of the howling, primitive wilderness. If a workman is known by his chips, this county has the record of many good workmen; and a multitude of chips.

"Much history has been made in Gratiot County during the last quarter of a century. Few there are of the old settlers who have not 'left their footprints on the sands of time'; footprints that neither they nor their posterity need ever be ashamed of. Year after year adds to the number of those who have been called to come up higher to their reward—'where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest'. And as one by one they are laid from time to time away in the silent and the narrow house appointed for all the living, let all coming after them to enjoy the fruits of their labors in Gratiot County, say sincerely in their hearts, 'Peace to their ashes; honor to their memories'.

"The pioneers of this county can justly claim that they are entitled to as much consideration and respect as are the settlers of any other county in the state; and their names, one and all, are justly entitled to honorable mention and perpetual preservation in a full history of the county and of the Peninsular state."

Thus ends Frank Miller's tribute. And it is far from being bad. Rather, it is absolutely good. If Frank Miller had faults, they were in a great measure off-set by good natural ability. The writer once got mad at him and in his paper called him a nasty name. But Frank got in a suitable response, in another paper, so the matter was evened up fairly well. But as to the full county history Frank suggests, here it is!

### Francis Nelson Was Spicy.

Some reminiscences written by Francis Nelson in 1876, throw some new light on some of the early official transactions in the county, and as they also contain some spicy passages I feel forgiven in advance for "extracting" some of the best parts. So here they are:

"At the time of holding our first township meeting in Arcada, all the statute law we had in the north part of the county was a single copy of the old revised statutes of 1846. Nevertheless, most of us thought we understood law pretty well, and a general disposition prevailed to take any office given us—for the good of our country. In fact we worked up office timber so close that a humorous friend over in Emerson, as we were engaged in building a saw mill in Ithaca in the summer of 1857, made the remark that all the basswood in their town had been worked up into township officers.

"At our first township meeting in Arcada we got up a ticket and elected officers in great harmony, and then agreed that our clerk should go to the only man authorized to administer an oath in our part of the county, the notary public, Francis Way of Pine River, and be sworn into office, preparatory to administering the constitutional oath to the rest of us. We then took the oath, filed our bonds and considered ourselves township officers. But we lost our justices as we were not aware of the fact that only the county clerk could administer the oath to them.

"However, on the principle that misery loves company, we were gratified to learn that Pine River fell into the same error, or perhaps worse. They had a man in their township by the name of Sylvanus Groom. This man was a former Methodist minister, but was now a back-slider and professed infidel, or deist. He was elected justice of the peace, and after taking the constitutional oath as such, he with great pomp assisted the clerk in swearing in the other officers. Someone questioned his authority, as he had not yet filed his bonds, but he replied that it was of no consequence, the bond being merely security for any money coming into his hands. This seemed to satisfy everybody. He then went on with the swearing, but a bystander thought that the words, 'so help me God' ought to be inserted in the oath, at which Groom straightened up, placed his thumbs in the armholes of his vest and said: 'I am glad that Michigan has left our minds untrammeled in regard to our belief in God.' He then went on to state how many gods were believed in besides the Christian God, but as for him he did not believe in any. As there was no theologian among us we had to let it go at that.

"After Seville was organized and had its first township meeting we chanced to meet a man from there who was known as 'Lying Smith' to distinguish him from some of the rest of the Smith family. He said that after the balloting was over he arose and informed the voters that it was their duty to elect a notary public, which they could by a viva voce vote; which they proceeded to do, and he was elected unanimously. We do not vouch for this, but we do know that at our first Republican convention he came near being nominated for prosecuting attorney, by telling the delegates that he expected to be admitted to the bar in about a month.

"We will now give a little insight into the criminal practice in the courts of the early times. Francis Way, whom we mentioned above, settled at Ely's and built a log house which still stands on the place known as the Lorton Holiday place. He occupied the house as a dwelling and store, and was the first merchant in the northern part of the county. Sometime in the latter part of 1854 expectations were raised that the place partially platted and called 'Gratiot City', between Ely's and Clapp's (later St. Louis) would be the center of attraction. It was reported that this young city had been organized by an act of the legislature, and that it would be the duty of the county clerk and treasurer, to be elected the next fall, to locate a place in Pine River Township, to transact the county business. Warren Sherwood who owned this tract, proposed that if they would select his place, he would build all needed county buildings, and improve a water power there, which was thought to be as good as any on the river, and many of us thought Gratiot City would surely be the county seat.

"Induced by these brilliant prospects, our friend Francis Way rented his place to Holiday and bought a small lot of Dr. Gifford, who owned the farm now belonging to E. Goodrich (later owned by Bert Woodward) and joining Sherwood's place, and moved his store there. Now this Dr. Gifford was a very nervous and passionate man. His wife, whom he had long since abandoned, died in St. Louis a few weeks ago. After the Gratiot City bubble burst, and being disappointed in not getting the county seat located in his neighborhood, he wanted to get rid of Way. To gain this end he committed an assault upon Way's wife, for which he was arrested, and was fined by Justice Groom. This suit was the foundation for another one The doctor claimed that Way swore falsely in the previous suit, and had him arrested for perjury and brought before Justice Alanson Todd of Arcada. We believed Way to be a good man and innocent, and the doctor rather ugly and malicious. So we went to what we supposed to be an ex-

amination to see whether the prisoner should be held for trial; but we soon learned that they were actually trying the case. The doctor was managing the case for the people and Justice Groom for the defense. The evidence did not amount to much, yet the doctor strenuously insisted that it was sufficient to convict the prisoner, and proceeded to enlighten the court as to the penalty for the crime. The justice, after patiently listening to the arguments pro and con, said he hadn't the heart to send a man away from his family to state's prison; and so the prisoner was allowed to go about his business.

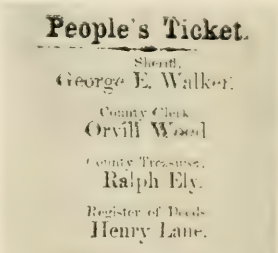
"Justices in those days exercised large jurisdiction, as they were the highest court in the county. In one case a justice drew up what he called a bill of separation, which answered every purpose of a divorce, with alimony to the wife."

Mr. Nelson tells how Dr. A. M. Crawford of St. Louis worked a bill through the legislature to organize the county of Gratiot, the bill providing that the sheriff, county clerk and county treasurer should designate a place in the township of Pine River for holding the circuit court of the county and the county offices, until the county seat could be established. So the important thing to do was to see that the right men were chosen to those positions—sheriff, clerk and treasurer. So the fight was on in earnest.

"As the time approached for holding the election," says Mr. Nelson, "a mass convention was held at L. C. Knapp's to nominate county officers. Ely and his friends attended, but soon saw that it was useless to take part." A Fulton man for sheriff, an Ithaca adherent for clerk and Dr. Crawford himself for treasurer had a bad look for Mr. Ely and his friends.

"Disappointed, Ely's friends concluded to get up an opposition ticket, and we entered into a plan of thoroughly canvassing the county, and then meet on an appointed day at Arnold Payne's, on the south county line. There we met, with the exception of Mr. Ely, who was prevented by other business, and agreed upon a ticket which substituted Francis Nelson for Isaac Jones for sheriff, and Ralph Ely for treasurer in place of A. M. Crawford, and some other changes of minor importance. Subsequently we (Nelson) gave up our place at the head of the ticket to Geo. E. Walker, in order to make sure of the votes of North Shade; but we nevertheless went to Ionia on foot, got our tickets printed, and returned for the election.

"A short time previous to the election Frank Miller and Stephen E. Longyear, two young lawyers, came into the woods. The former was elected prosecuting attorney and the latter circuit court commissioner, the regular nominees not being eligible."


People's Ticket.

Sheriff.
George E. Walker.

County Clerk
Orvill Wood

County Treasurer.
Ralph Ely.

Register of Deeds
Henry Lane.

Prosecuting Attorney.
[illegible] Service.

Judge of Probate.
John R. Cheeseman.

Circuit Court Commissioner.
Henry Lane.

Surveyor.
Sidney S. Hastings.

Coroners.
Levi Smith,
Lewis B. Loomis.

ELECTED NOV., 1855.

The illustration is from one of the original tickets which was resurrected from an old scrap-book belonging to Mrs. S. S. Hastings, now of Mt. Pleasant.

"When Dr. Crawford saw that he was fairly whipped, he gave up the struggle for the county seat in St. Louis, but with the same spirit that has ever actuated the inhabitants of St. Louis and Alma, he said that 'if we can't have it they shall not', and the fight for the county seat continued until the spring of 1856 when the board of supervisors permanently established it at Ithaca."

## IMPORTANT DOINGS OF THE SUPERVISORS.

### A Mass of Important History in Their Official Acts From First to Last.

The act of the state legislature providing for the organization of Gratiot County was approved February 3, 1855. The full text of the act is given in this volume at the beginning of the department entitled "National, State and County Officers"; the department which gives the election returns from the first election in 1855 to the last one in 1913. At the time of the passage of the act, North Shade was the only organized township in the county, and that township was connected, officially, with Clinton County. The organizing act provided for an election to be held on the first Tuesday of November, 1855, to elect a full set of county officers.

This act seems to have put new life into the people; or at least it gave them an idea. They must get busy if they were going to take part in the election. So the work of organizing the townships was begun, and by the time the first Tuesday of November rolled around the number of organized townships had increased from one to seven. It might not be exactly just to say that perhaps the suggestion of a county office in the dim and misty future had anything to do with the extra hustle. Perhaps it didn't, but it wouldn't be a very severe stretch of the possibilities to presume that such an exigency might have some such effect in the present day. The small population at that time made the average man's average chances of being struck by a county office infinitely greater than now. About one in six hundred now; about one in twenty-five then. So the hardships of pioneer life seem to have had one mitigating feature anyway. Still, when you come to consider the difference in salaries—so there you are about where you started in.

The seven-member board met in its first session at the residence of Ralph Ely, Alma, January 7, 1856, and was made up as follows: Francis Nelson, Arcada; Wm. L. Norton, Fulton; Henry Lane, North Shade; Joseph H. Bennett, New Haven; Benjamin Crawford, North Star; Hiram Burgess, Pine River; Melancton Pettit, Emerson.

Francis Nelson was chosen temporary chairman, after which—at the afternoon session—Henry Lane was made permanent chairman. Elijah Porter, of Pine River was secretary, according to the records, but just how or why the records do not say. He was secretary of the board of canvassers that canvassed the returns on county officers after the election of the previous November, and it is likely that he would have the canvassers' report to submit to the board of supervisors, and would, with plausibility, take or be assigned the position of clerk to the board until such time as the newly elected county clerk could rightfully act.

Business started in with the appointment of four standing committees, to-wit: Ways and Means; Roads and Bridges; Claims, and Organization of Townships.

A petition was presented from citizens of 10—3, asking to be organized into a township. Referred to a committee.

Francis Nelson presented a wolf certificate which was referred to the committee on claims. The board, of course, had not yet fixed a bounty for wolf scalps.

At an evening session, Ralph Ely, county treasurer-elect, presented his certificate of election and his official bond duly executed. On motion the bond was approved and ordered filed by the clerk.

Mr. Crawford moved that the clerk of the county take his seat as clerk of the board. Lost.

A committee consisting of Supervisors Pettit, Norton and Bennett was appointed to report on salaries of the county officers.

At the second days' session—January 8, 1856—the petition for the organization of 10—3 was granted and the township named Newark. In like manner the Townships of Washington and Hamilton were organized. At the afternoon session of this second day, the committee to whom the salary question was referred, reported the following schedule: County Treasurer, $250; County Clerk, $275; Prosecuting Attorney, $250. The report was somewhat modified by amendment, and the salaries were fixed as follows: Treasurer, $250; Clerk, $250; Prosecuting Attorney, $300.

Orville M. Wood, who had been elected county clerk, tried to get his seat as clerk of the board, but a resolution was adopted shutting him out, for the reason that he had not yet got his official bond approved by the circuit court as required by law.

At the afternoon session of the third day, on motion of Supervisor Burgess, Ralph Ely's account "for room, candles and paper", was allowed at $5.00.

### They Settled With Clinton County.

The prosecuting attorney was directed to attend a meeting of the board of supervisors to be held with the Clinton County board of supervisors at Dewitt, the county seat of Clinton County, on the third Monday of January, 1856, for the purpose of settling accounts between the two counties. Supervisors Lane, Bennett, Burgess and Crawford were designated a committee to attend the settlement in behalf of Gratiot County. Mr. Crawford was appointed a committee to post notices regarding such settlement "in the unorginized territory in the east half of the county."

Each supervisor had to present his own claim for his services at this first supervisors' meeting and for mileage. A dollar and a half was the per diem allowed, and six cents a mile traveling fees. The latter seems to have been for as many times as they wished to go home, for while the session lasted only three days, the miles traveled are given in as follows: Crawford, (North Star) 24 miles; Pettit, (Emerson) 26 miles; Norton, (Fulton) 40 miles; Nelson, (Arcada) 6 miles; Bennett, (New Haven) 26 miles; Burgess, (Pine River) 6 miles; Lane, (North Shade) 60 miles.

A good many miles for some of them, but, considering the traveling conditions in those days, they can hardly be blamed if they figured the distance as it seemed, rather than as it would figure out mathematically.

The committee appointed to meet with the Clinton County supervisors to adjust claims, met at the Clinton House, Dewitt, January 22, 1856. Orville M. Wood seems to have straightened out his official bond matter, for he was present and kept the minutes and made the record. Besides doing their business with the Clinton County supervisors, the committee seems to have done a lot of miscellaneous business the same as if they had been in their own county and a full board present. For instance, they

fixed upon the third Monday in February for a meeting with the Saginaw County board of supervisors at Saginaw to adjust matters between the two counties. An entry in the record dated January 25, shows that they were still in Dewitt and still doing miscellaneous business. "Mr. Crawford moved to allow the supervisors of North Shade and North Star for the year 1855, $10 each for extending the roll for the assessment of taxes for that year. Carried."

The four supervisors, the prosecuting attorney, (Frank Miller) and the clerk, (Orville M. Wood) presented their claims for services, and they were allowed nine days and mileage as follows: Henry Lane, nine days and 80 miles travel, $22,80,0; Benjamin Crawford, nine days and 100 miles, $24,00,0; Hiram Burgess, nine days and 120 miles, $27,00,0; Joseph H. Bennett, nine days and 84 miles, $23,04,0; Franklin Miller, atty., 10 days at $2. per day, $20,00,0; O. M. Wood, clerk, 10 days at $2. per day and 120 miles travel, $27,20,0. These items and figures are given just as they appear in the record. Orville's system of putting down figures and pointing them off was somewhat out of the ordinary.

The settlement with Clinton County seems to have shown a balance in favor of Gratiot. So who can blame the committee for going on and doing a little more business! Mr. Crawford moved "that the board of supervisors of Gratiot County draw upon the treasurer of Clinton County for the respective amounts audited and allowed by said board for services at this meeting, and vouchers given by them to said treasurer for the same. Carried. So, having the main chance in view and no doubt being sorely in need of the money, like sensible men that they were, and not merely disinterested angels, they took no unnecessary chances, but made sure of their own pay; and then Mr. Burgess moved "that the chairman of said board be and he is hereby authorized to receive the balance of moneys remaining in the treasury of Clinton County belonging to the County of Gratiot, and to pay the same over to the treasurer of Gratiot County, after paying the amounts audited and allowed to the members of this board." The motion carried.

### Began To Locate the County Seat.

Locating the county seat was a matter that naturally created a good deal of interest; perhaps "excitement" would express the condition more accurately. Though the number of people to be excited was limited, they made up in activity what they lacked in numbers. The pioneers of Alma, ably led by Ralph Ely, were very desirous of having it located there, while the Ithaca contingent were perfectly sure that the geographical center of the county was the proper place for the county buildings. The few residents of St. Louis and vicinity would not have been averse to having it come their way, but even at that early day they were not anxious to help their rival settlement on the Pine River by assisting it in its efforts to secure the county seat. On account of these interesting conditions it is deemed appropriate to give the action of the supervisors, with reference to the subject, considerably in detail.

The record goes on to say that a special meeting of the board of supervisors was held February 11, 1856, "at the house of John Jefferies, in pursuance of the statute in such case made and provided." Of course, it is readily understood that the John "Jefferies" mentioned was John Jeffery, the founder of "Gratiot Center," or Ithaca, as afterward named. Roll call showed all the supervisors present excepting Crawford, of North Star. Luther C. Smith came as his "deputy." The county clerk was having difficulty in getting the records and books from Elijah Porter, of Pine

River, who was clerk of the board before the county clerk had qualified himself to assume the position. Collateral evidence seems to show that Porter was holding out for his pay before he would turn over the books; and it may be that the county seat question had something to do with it. That question also involved the county treasurer, in a similar way, with the board.

About the first business of the board at its meeting February 11, at the house of Mr. Jeffery, was the adoption of the following resolution offered by Mr. Lane:

"Resolved, That the county clerk be and he is hereby authorized by the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, to call on Mr. Porter and demand all the books, papers, etc., belonging to said County of Gratiot, and bring the same before the board at the house of John Jeffery near the geographical center of said county, by 10 o'clock, a. m., of February 12, 1856. Carried."

The board of supervisors met next day—February 12; or, it "mett", as the clerk's records persistently show. Mr. Burgess, of Pine River, offered a resolution as follows:

"Resolved, That the office of Treasurer of Gratiot County be and it is declared vacant, in consequence of his neglecting to file his official oath and bonds with the county clerk, as required by law, and the sum in said Treasurer's bond not being fixed by the board of supervisors as required by law." This was adopted by the affirmative votes of Bennett, Burgess, Crawford and Pettit. Nelson and Norton voted against the resolution. Then it was voted unanimously "that Ralph Ely's record of county business be now presented before said board, and that the chairman call upon Mr. Ely for the record of his proceedings as county treasurer." The record seems to have been forthcoming promptly, for the clerk was directed to read the record, which was done.

Then a resolution was offered by Mr. Burgess, the wording and gist of which reveals the trouble between the board and Treasurer Ely. The resolution read:

"Resolved, That the acts of Ralph Ely, late county treasurer and Geo. E. Walker, county sheriff, in regard to designating suitable places for holding the circuit court and the various county offices, be disapproved by this board, in consequence of their not calling in the county clerk of said county, as provided by the session laws of 1855, in Act No. 16, Section 4, which makes it the duty of said officers to designate such places." The resolution was adopted by a vote of five to two—yeas, Bennett, Burgess, Crawford, Pettit, Norton; Nays, Nelson, Lane.

The adoption of that resolution was followed up at the evening session by another, presented by Supervisor Burgess. It follows:

"Resolved, That, whereas the county sheriff, county clerk and county treasurer have failed to designate suitable places in the Township of Pine River, for holding the circuit court and for doing the county business; and, whereas their acts have been disapproved by this board, it is further,

"Resolved, That the said board establish and designate the geographical center of this county, or as near thereto as practicable, the place for doing the county business for said county, and that the said county offices be erected as soon as may be done to the best interests of said county. And further, that this board, before it adjourns this meeting, provide a suitable place for doing the county business, and that they shall establish the county site, as near as practicable to the geographical center of said county."

The matter was then referred to the committee on ways and means, to report next day.

These proceedings are quite conclusive evidence that Mr. Ely, in the opinion of the board, at least, had been working too industriously in the interest of an effort to have the county seat established at Alma. Evidently he had been aided in his efforts by Sheriff Geo. E. Walker, whose home was in North Shade, at least by his sympathy, as is indicated by the fact that Supervisor Lane, of North Shade, voted in his favor each time. The vote of Norton, also, is explainable by the fact that his views would quite likely run in harmony with his neighbors, Lane and Walker.

On the same day, and following the adoption of the last mentioned resolution, Supervisor Pettit presented the following:

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors, of Gratiot County, that we do hereby appoint Abram M. Crawford our legal treasurer for said county, to fill vacancy, occasioned by Ralph Ely's neglecting to file his official oath and bond as required by the statutes of the State of Michigan; said appointment to hold good until the supervisors see fit to have one elected, or to revoke his appointment." This was adopted by a vote of four to three—yeas, Bennett, Burgess, Crawford, Pettit; nays, Nelson, Norton, Lane.

A. M. Crawford presented his official oath and bond as county treasurer and they were approved by a vote of six to one, Mr. Norton alone voting in the negative.

Dr. A. M. Crawford was a St. Louis settler, having located there the previous year—1855. That year he built the St. Louis Hotel, located on the south side of North Street. A postoffice was established the same year, Joseph Clapp, postmaster. Dr. Crawford was appointed postmaster in May, 1856, serving a few months. He afterward became a resident of Jackson, Mich., and died there, June, 1909, at the age of 80 years.

### Fastening Down the County Seat.

At this session of the board—February 12, 1856—the first county superintendents of the poor were appointed—Chester Townsend, Isaiah Allen and Geo. E. Gifford. Also at this session the first wolf bounty was paid, to Reuben Finch, of Arcada.

At the session of February 13, 1856, the committee of ways and means reported on the county seat matter referred to it, as follows:

"The committee on ways and means have taken into consideration a resolution of the board to designate a suitable site for doing the business of said County of Gratiot, and having had certain propositions submitted to them, present and recommend the following:

"Resolved, That we designate ten acres on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 36, in the Township of Arcada, and on the southeast corner of said section, except one acre in the southeast corner of said section. Provided, that Mr. Nott gives to the board of supervisors of said county a good and warranty deed of said land; and provided, further, that John Jeffery and others appropriate to the benefit of said county $500 or more to aid and assist in erecting suitable buildings for the use of the county, and the same to be secured to the County of Gratiot, on or before the first Monday of March, 1856. And be it further resolved that all resolutions made previous to this, and conflicting with this, be set aside." The report and resolution were adopted.

That would seem to have settled the matter, but it did not. If that resolution had stood, the court house and jail would have been located in Upper Ithaca; somewhere northwest of the present city building and waterworks of Ithaca. The matter rested till March, 1856, when the board held what they called a "regular" meeting. The board had adjourned to meet

again March 3rd, at the residence of John Knight in Emerson. The place has more recently been known as the Betty Smith farm, one mile north of Ithaca, now owned and occupied by D. D. Smith. At the meeting on the date mentioned the chairman was absent and Supervisor Francis Nelson was made chairman pro tem. Then, "Mr. Crawford moved to suspend the usual order of business in order to adjourn." This being kindly agreed to, the board adjourned to meet at the clerk's office in Ithaca in the afternoon. At the afternoon session the principal business transacted was thepassage of resolutions organizing the Townships of Seville, Sumner, Elba, and Lafayette, the latter having 12—1 attached, which, five years later, was organized independently and named Wheeler.

Mr. Crawford moved that "those desirous of making offers for the county site location, present the same by tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock to the committee on ways and means. Carried." So the county seat question was still open. Probably some of the conditions as to donations required by the resolution adopted at the session of February 13, had not been complied with.

At the next day's session a petition of Warren Sherwood, of Pine River Township for permission to dam Pine River, was granted, and also one by Joseph Clapp, of Pine River Village, asking to be allowed to maintain a dam already built, was granted.

At the afternoon session of March 3, 1856, all the seven members being present, "the committee on ways and means reported various propositions regarding the county site location, which were then referred to the committee of the whole, whereupon Mr. Bennett moved that the board resolve itself into a committee of the whole to examine the ground for a county site. Carried unanimously. The board thereupon proceeded to examine the piece of Mr. Jeffery's land;" after which Mr. Crawford presented the following:

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors of the County of Gratiot, that the said board establish the county site of said county, and the same is hereby established in the Village of Ithaca, and that lots No. 7-8-9 and 10, in black 8, as surveyed by Sidney S. Hastings, county surveyor of said county on the 28th day of February, 1856, shall be designated by said board, as places for all public buildings of said county; and that the chairman of said board be authorized to obtain good, sufficient warranty deeds of said lots of John Jeffery, the owner and proprietor of said village, and to make such other contracts with said Jeffery concerning his offers, as said chairman shall think proper and just."

"Mr. Bennett moved for the adoption of the resolution and the yeas and nays being called, vote as follows: Yeas—Bennett, Burgess, Crawford, Pettit, Nelson, Norton and Lane, being all the members-elect."

On Wednesday morning, March 4, 1856, the board convened with all the members present. The supervisors had not yet got the county seat matter settled solidly enough to suit them, so, "Mr. Norton moved to suspend the usual order of business for the purpose of deciding the county site matter. Carried.

"Mr. Bennett then moved that the board resolve itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of STICKING THE COUNTY STAKE. Carried.

"The board thereupon proceeded to procure a suitable stake, and, accompanied by the county surveyor and a large concourse of people, carried it to block 9" (it's block 9 this time) "in the Village of Ithaca, and there pro-

ceeded to drive it with an ax, each supervisor striking it several blows; after which the county seal was fastened on, *and the imposing and long-talked-of ceremony was wound up in a* HALO OF GLORY."

Thus, fancifully, the record closes the account of what was doubtless a very interesting occasion. Of course, the expression, "halo of glory" was used in a hyperbolical sense, and was intended to be so taken; but it goes beyond and fairly exaggerates hyperbole, and, consequently, taken literally and analyzed down fine it becomes foolishness. However, it really sounds good; and, fixed up in italics and capitals, it looks first-rate. So, like the county seat and the "county site" and the county court house it is going to stand.

It will be noticed that the resolution established the site on block 8, while the stake-driving act come off on block 9. The records do not tell why the change was made, but it is evident that the supervisors, on close inspection, concluded that block 9 was the better location. Blocks 8 and 9, as surveyed, were identical with the present court house square. The east half was block 8, the west half was block 9. An alley running north and south separated them. At a later date the alley was taken up, and, together with block 8—the east half of the present square—was acquired by the county, and, combined with block 9, the present beautiful court house square is the result.

The record proceeds: "The stake sticking operations thus concluded, and the supervisors having reconvened, Mr. Norton moved that the resolution of yesterday," (the resolution designating block 8) "be rescinded. The motion was carried, whereupon Mr. Bennett presented the following:

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, that said board establish the county site of said county, and the same is hereby established in the Village of Ithaca, and that block 9, as surveyed by Sidney S. Hastings, county surveyor of said county on the 28th day of February, A. D. 1856, shall be designated by said board as the place for court house, jail and necessary county offices of said county, and that the chairman of said board be authorized to obtain a good sufficient warranty deed of said block from John Jeffery, the owner and proprietor of said village, and make such other contracts with said Jeffery concerning his offers as said chairman shall think proper and just. On motion of Mr. Pettit the resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote."

It would seem as if this ought to have settled the whole question of the location of the county seat, but it did not settle it for certain. Those not satisfied with the selection still had hopes, and their hopes were not without some basis. The legislative act providing for the organization of the county contained one very peculiarly worded provision. The law provided for establishing a place to hold circuit court and the county offices temporarily, or, as the provision reads, 'until the board of supervisors shall establish the county seat. And it is hereby made the duty of the board of supervisors of said county, **on or after 1860,** to designate and establish the county seat of said county." Notice the wording "on or after 1860." Under that wording what was there to prevent the board of 1860 from assuming that whatever had been done previously was only temporary, and that now a **duty** devolved upon them to designate and establish the county seat? **Nothing** to prevent but the sweet will of the supervisors. Saying nothing about the limitless time allowed by the condition "on or after," which would have justified putting the matter off indefinitely, the inference could plausibly be drawn from the wording, that the board of 1860 had the **right** to fix matters **permanently.**

The possession of the county seat gives a great advantage to a locality in a new county, and no locality can be blamed for a desire, and an honest, strenuous effort, to obtain it. But to get it, the locality must have advantages of more or less importance and value. The north part of the county, in the early times under consideration, had the advantage in numbrs. Pine River, flowing through the north part of the county formed an attraction to the early settlers hard to overcome or offset. Its power possibilities invited as settlers, men of means ready and anxious to start enterprises that would call for the services of more settlers. With the advantage in numbers and the business interests that naturally concentrate in the river hamlets of a new country, the business leaders could hardly be expected to ignore or overlook the advantages to accrue from having the county seat located within their settlement. And they didn't overlook nor ignore it.

As has easily been seen by what has gone before, the Alma people were aggressively interested in having the county seat—or "county site" as it was termed—established there. As it could not be had by both of the sister settlements on the Pine, St. Louis people did not manifest the interest shown by the leaders in the other settlement. On general principles they were not averse to having the county seat in their vicinity—that is to say, within two or three miles, rather than eight miles away. But the spirit of rivalry that existed, and which in greater or less degree continued for many years, and traces of which may linger even yet, deterred them from engaging actively in the contest.

As to the matter of advantages, Ithaca had them, has always had, has now, and without a miracle or legislative intervention, will always have, the advantage of being located in the exact geographical center of the county. In a county like Gratiot, mainly agricultural, and with the population fairly evenly distributed over the county, this is an advantage that cannot be any more firmly established by argument or evidence, and which cannot be overcome by anything short of a miracle.

### County Seat Matter Followed to a Finish.

This county seat matter, which for about 50 years was of more interest than any other one thing that ever came before the people of the county, might as well be carried along to a finish right here, after which the regular order can be taken up again. So, glancing ahead along the history of the supervisors' doings, under date of January 6th, 1858, appears the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Whereas, The extraordinary occurrence of a circuit court for Gratiot County is anticipated; and, whereas, there is no proper and convenient rostrum for his Honor to be judge, therefore,

"Resolved, That in case of such judiciary for Gratiot County, the sum of $40 be and is hereby appropriated to make such improvements in the court as shall be necessary to maintain the dignity of Gratiot County by the reception of his Honor, the judge; and that Jas. Foote be appointed to make such improvements and draw orders therefor, and make a minute account for money expended, and services rendered."

Under date of October 20, 1858, "The committee on county buildings reported that in their opinion, under the present uncertainty as to where the courts and county offices of this county will be held in the future, it is inexpedient to appropriate anything at this session of the board of supervisors. The recommendation was adopted."

January 5, 1859. Supervisor Schadd, of Lafayette, presented the following:

"Whereas, As the board of supervisors of Gratiot County has caused to be erected a suitable building at Ithaca for the purpose of holding the circuit court, and for the county officers, agreeably to a former resolution of the board of supervisors locating the county seat at Ithaca; and

"Whereas, As the sheriff of this county has ordered the holding of the next term of the circuit court at Alma, therefore,

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, that the next term of the circuit court be held at the court house in the Village of Ithaca, and that the county business of this county shall be done where it has been done heretofore, at Ithaca, and that the county offices cannot be removed without a two-thirds vote of this body and a majority vote of the people.

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the judge of the tenth judicial circuit.

"Mr. Boyer, of Seville, called for the yeas and nays. Yeas, Finch, Barton, Schadd, Hayden, Smith, Coffin, Partelo, Cassada, Allen, Proctor, Clark, 11. Nays, Ely, Packard, Boyer."

January 5, 1859. A resolution was presented by Supervisor Ely, to appropriate $30 for stoves to warm rooms in Alma for the circuit court, "in view of the holding of the circuit court there. Yes, 2; nays, 11."

January 6, 1859. "Mr. Ely presented a resolution, that, whereas it is uncertain where the circuit court will be held in the county, Resolved that the stoves belonging to the county may be removed and used for the benefit of same, wherever the same may be held. Lost by a vote of 10 to 3; the three being Ely, Packard and Boyer."

January 6, 1859. "Resolution by Ely that the sheriff be instructed to procure the stove belonging to the county, and formerly used by the prosecuting attorney, and remove it to the place where the next term of the circuit court may be held. Adopted."

October 14, 1859. "Resolution by Mr. Ely. Resolved, That in view of the duties of the board in relation to the location of the county seat in January next (1860), that there be a committee of three appointed, to consist of Supervisors L. T. Cassada, of Fulton, Erastus Perry, of North Shade, and Cornelius Holiday, of Pine River, whose duty it shall be to receive propositions from all parties desirous of having the same located at any particular place or spot in the county, and investigate the propriety of the same, and report to this board at its next session, the result of their investigations. After J. B. Smith, of Washington, and M. Pettit, of Emerson, had been added to the proposed committee, the resolution was defeated by a vote of 10 to 5; the five being Ely, of Arcada; Holiday, of Pine River; Gee, of Sumner; Boyer, of Seville, and Weller, of Bethany."

October 15, 1859. "Mr. Ely offered the following:

"Whereas, It becomes the duty of the board of supervisors to take some measures in regard to the present difficulty in relation to the county site and of holding of the circuit courts, therefore

"Resolved, That there be a committee of five appointed, whose duty it shall be to investigate the propriety of moving the present sites and county offices; also the most favorable and commodious place for constructing the same, and the greatest inducements for building a court house and county offices for the future benefit of the county, and report the result of their investigations to this board at the next session. The resolution was laid on the table, against the votes of Supervisors Ely, Gee, Boyer, Holiday and Weller."

When the board adjourned to meet again in January, 1860, Mr. Ely moved to insert "Alma" as the place to adjourn to. Lost.

Comment on the resourcefulness, energy and persistence of Mr. Ely in behalf of his locality would be superfluous. The record—and what is here written represents but an insignificant fraction of the record of his activities for his locality, his county, state and country—clearly shows that he was a man of great business capacity, and well worthy of the high place accorded him among the prominent pioneers of the county. His failure in the hopeless cause of trying to do impossible things, was no reflection on his ability and usefulness.

When the board of supervisors convened for the January session, 1860, Mr. Barnaby, of North Star, immediately got busy and introduced resolutions calculated to settle the county seat matter for good, and in a manner that would leave nothing to settle "after 1860." The resolutions follow:

"Whereas, It has been for a long time, and still is, a mooted question whether the county seat of this said county of Gratiot has ever been established, and located by the board of supervisors of said County of Gratiot, according to law, and as the interests and prosperity of our citizens and of our county at large demand that the same should be definitely settled without delay, and the seat of justice firmly established; therefore

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, now in session, that we do hereby ratify and confirm the action of the board of supervisors of said County of Gratiot, locating and establishing the county seat of said County of Gratiot in the Village of Ithaca, in said county, on the 4th day of March, A. D. 1856, at a meeting of said board held at said Village of Ithaca, on that day, as appears from the records and journals of the proceedings of said board; and we do also fully confirm as far as in our power, all of the actions and proceedings done by and under said location, and by virtue thereof, both legal and equitable. And be it further

"Resolved, by said board, that the county seat of said County of Gratiot has been, is now and from this date shall be, at the Village of Ithaca in said county, until removed by due course of law; and that from and after this date all the officers required by the statute to hold their offices at the county seat of said county, shall hold their offices at the Village of Ithaca, aforesaid; and that all the terms of the circuit court of said county shall be held at the Village of Ithaca, aforesaid, except in the cases specially provided for by statute."

After trying in vain to lay the resolutions on the table, and failing in that, trying to adjourn, the resolutions were adopted by a vote of 10 to 5, the negative votes being cast by Ely, of Arcada; Gee, of Sumner; Holiday, of Pine River; Weller, of Bethany, and Boyer, of Seville.

So the matter was settled for a while. But it would not stay settled, though it remained in a quiescent or comatose state for more than five years. Then, at the October session of 1865, Supervisor Jas. Gargett, of Pine River created a little flurry of excitement, or at least of interest, by introducing resolutions calculated to bring the matter back to life. He and his constituents doubtless felt that under the wording of the act to organize the county, which provided for locating the county seat "in or after 1860," it would never be too late to locate it some more. Mr. Gargett's resolutions follow:

"Whereas, It is said to be a fact well known to the citizens of Ithaca, that the present board of supervisors are plotting treason against their pet idol—the county seat—to remove the same from its present unpleasant position and location, and locate the same on the banks of the beautiful Pine; and

"Whereas, judging from the scrutinizing looks toward, and the many pertinent questions asked of the said board of supervisors by the citizens of Ithaca, that unless something be done for them the malady will become epidemic; and,

"Whereas, It is not the desire or intention of this board to so remove the county seat without giving due notice thereof and giving the citizens of Ithaca the privilege of donating enough to erect respectable county buildings, and thereby sealing to themselves a permanent county seat at Ithaca: therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, that the committee on county buildings be authorized, and hereby instructed, to receive donations from the citizens of Ithaca for the purpose of erecting county buildings at the present county seat; or from the citizens of any other feasible location, for the erection of the same, and report to this board at the January session thereof. And be it further

"Resolved, That, should the citizens of Ithaca fail to do, and the citizens of any other locality give at least three acres of ground, in a suitable place, free of expense to the county, and give good security for pledges to the amount of $6,000, to erect county buildings thereon, that the board will entertain a motion for the removal of the county seat of Gratiot County to such proposed site."

Mr. Hetzman moved to lay the resolutions on the table. Lost.

Mr. Gargett moved that they be adopted. Carried.

So the committee on county buildings had the matter to deal with, and at the January session—1866—reported, "That they have received from citizens of Alma and vicinity a subscription for the purpose of erecting county buildings at Alma, to the amount of $6,000; also Horace B. Hulbert, of Alma, has pledged, and is ready to bind himself to the county to make a good and sufficient warranty deed of entire block 16, or any other block that the board may designate, not already disposed of by him." Signed by Supervisors Boyer, Walker and Barton, committee. The report was laid on the table, and seems never to have been taken up again.

Reading between the lines of Mr. Gargett's resolutions—lines so wide apart that no great effort of the imagination was necessary—one could readily see that their real object, and probably the only object that it was expected to accomplish, was to spur up the people of Ithaca to loosen their purse strings and do something to show that they appreciated their advantages, and were willing—even if it took a little coercion or a little scare to make them so—to take the initiative in the matter of furnishing more commodious, more suitable, in fact more respectable quarters for doing the county business. The Alma people, on the strength of a bare hope, were ready and willing to advance their interests with a liberal subscription. How much more plausible then might the Ithacans, with the prize actually in their possession, be expected to show their appreciation and their public spirit, and mayhap their selfish spirit also, by coming to the front with an offering that didn't have to be squeezed out of them at the point of an assessment and an official collector. Anyway, this is an outline of one way of looking at it, but if someone comes back with the suggestion that in all matters of the kind under consideration, the underlying motive is selfishness, it will have to be conceded that there is really not much show for an adverse view or argument.

Ithaca people may have been amused, but if they were frightened sufficiently to loosen their purse strings the record of it has been lost. That "geographical center" was their great hope and their final salvation.

Just one more incident having a bearing upon the county seat question, might as well be disposed of here, although it did not reach a stage that called for any action on the part of the supervisors. Referring to the action taken at the legislative session of 1891, for the dismemberment of the County of Midland, and attaching its territory to the Counties of Gratiot, Saginaw, Bay and Isabella. This episode was of comparatively recent date, and will be remembered by many. The scheme was said to have originated among the farmers of Southern Midland, the reason given being that the county was being "fleeced by a ring of political tricksters year after year;" that there was a great deal of worthless land in the county; the county was deeply in debt, and that with all these drawbacks the people could not stand it any longer. The Midland papers, however, laughed at the idea, figuratively speaking, and declared that some influential St. Louis people were at the bottom of it, the Midland Sun remarking that "it shows plainly that the deep interest taken by J. N. Foster, of the St. Louis Republican Leader, and other St. Louis people, is for the purpose of getting the county seat."

The proposition, as it was introduced into the legislature by Rowland Connor, of Saginaw, was to attach Jasper and Porter Townships to Gratiot; Mount Haley and Ingersoll to Saginaw and then split the remaining twelve townships through the middle, north and south, giving half to Isabella and half to Bay. Gratiot County, elongated by the addition of territory on the north would have its geographical center thrown out of whack, and would be presumed to need a county seat located somewhere along the angling road between St. Louis and Alma. The matter got so interesting that Ithaca people thought it worth while to take notice and get busy, so remonstrances were placed at the polling places, for signatures to be attached on election day, the result being a string of nearly 3,000 names of voters, protesting against Gratiot County acquiring any new territory on the north. The vigorous opposition to the measure had its effect and it was killed in the House. Hon. Hugh Chisholm was Gratiot's representative.

So the trouble was "stood off" once more.

There is not much more to say in regard to the important matter of locating the county seat. It was several years before the subject again arose to either amuse or frighten; and even at that, the danger was only the ghost of its former self; a ghost that was soon "laid"; and, with a great stone monument erected over its last resting place it is likely to "stay put." A stone monument 76 by 112 feet on the ground, and 150 feet in height, it ought to be proof against any chance of resurrection this side of the tooting of Gabriel's trumpet.

Returning now to the session of January, 1860. After the adoption of Mr. Barnaby's resolutions confirming the county seat location, Mr. Ely's practical and patriotic nature was clearly shown by the way he took his defeat in the county seat controversy. He slept on it over night, and the next day—January 4, 1860—he gave his colleagues on the board a surprise in the form of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a sum not to exceed $30 be appropriated to repair the court house and jury room, and furnish benches, chairs and table for the same, and that the work be let to the lowest bidder; and that the clerk be instructed to draw orders on the treasurer of the county for the same, on completion and acceptance of the work by the chairman of the board, and that the said job be put up for sale immediately by the chairman.

"Minutes of the work to be done on the court house are as follows: Window shutters, inside, plain batten and braced; windows to be glazed; court room to be 'pointed' up with clay and ashes mortar; six good, common chairs; plenty of seats for sessions of court and for jury room, to be made of good two-inch plank or slabs; plain table upon hardwood frame, three feet by ten feet, pine top; good, substantial locks for doors; outside door to be made to shut; one length taper stove pipe for large stove in court room, and suitable protection to stove pipe in jury room, by thimble. Said work to be done on or before the 16th of January, inst."

Adopted, and the job let to Wm. W. Comstock the same day, for $19. And it is a safe bet that the job was done on time, for Comstock, as well as Ely, "did things," and did them on the jump.

### Getting Back to the Regular Order.

Getting back again to the first board of supervisors—that of 1856. It was no small matter to get the machinery of the county and of the several townships into good running order. The matter of assessments had to be systematized, and the supervisors had but little to guide them. In the wilderness as it existed it was necessary to know what lands had been sold and what remained in the hands of the government, before a start could be made toward an assessment. At the afternoon session of February 13, 1856, to start the matter right, A. M. Crawford, county treasurer, was instructed "to procure a tract book and transcribe all descriptions of land now sold in said county, from the tract books at the land offices at Flint and Ionia, before the assessment is taken the coming spring, and that the said treasurer be paid a reasonable sum to be fixed by said board." For a man to make his way to Flint and Ionia, and there transcribe all sales of land in the county, and prepare separate lists for all the several supervisors before the assessment could be made, required a lot of hard and tedious work, as may readily be seen.

The assessment of that year covered about 60 per cent of the total area of the county. So there must have been about 150,000 acres of state and government land in the county at that time. Of course a large proportion of the lands sold was in the hands of speculators. Is there a foot of government land in the county at the present time?

The board of supervisors elected in April, 1856, held a June session. By reason of the organization of seven new townships the board consisted of fourteen supervisors. It took four ballots to elect Sylvanus Groom, of Pine River, chairman, his principal opponent being Francis Nelson, of Arcada.

Probably the most important duty of the board was the equalization of the assessments. Following is the result of their efforts:

The First Equalized Assessment.

| | Acres Assessed. | Real Estate | Per. Est. | Total as Equalized. | Average Per Acre. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 16,369 | $ 32,282 | $ 4,617 | $ 31,412 | $1.97 |
| Elba | 10,020 | 36,274 | 860 | 25,910 | 3.61 |
| Emerson | 11,640 | 20,985 | 1,532 | 25,352 | 1.70 |
| Fulton | 18,749 | 87,120 | 8,745 | 64,992 | 4.68 |
| Hamilton | 11,513 | 18,903 | 1,095 | 22,833 | 1.64 |
| Lafayette and Wheeler | 11,067 | 16,942 | 1,400 | 22,746 | 1.53 |
| Newark | 17,881 | 44,138 | 5,839 | 42,915 | 2.46 |
| New Haven | 16,742 | 42,471 | 1,675 | 31,810 | 2.53 |
| North Shade | 20,231 | 60,862 | 3,604 | 52,181 | 3.07 |
| North Star | 16,848 | 28,101 | 3,193 | 32,877 | 1.70 |
| Pine River and Bethany | 25,785 | 57,420 | 11,054 | 32,474 | 2.22 |
| Seville | 13,615 | 22,303 | 1,168 | 37,039 | 1.63 |
| Sumner | 19,148 | 36,755 | 1,881 | 34,961 | 1.91 |
| Washington | 15,321 | 32,005 | 2,184 | 26,689 | 2.08 |
| Totals | 224,929 | $536,561 | $48,847 | $495,191 | $2.33 |

A. M. Crawford was appointed to represent the county on the State Board of Equalization.

A resolution to appropriate $500 to aid in the construction of a bridge over Maple River, between the Townships of Fulton and Washington, was lost, 8 to 5. The board then voted $300 for the purpose, by a vote of 12 to 1. Also appointed Hiram Burgess, John Jeffery and J. B. Smith a committee to take charge of the money and any subscriptions that may be made for the same and for a road running north and south through the center of the county.

The members had a little fun as they went along. Mr. Lane presented an account of L. C. Knapp "for broken bedsteads and unnecessary confusion," which was referred to the committee on claims, reported on unfavorably and then laid on the table.

Then Mr. Lane presented a resolution calling on John Jeffery for the payment of 50 cents worth of maple sugar to the board as a penalty for not furnishing a box of raisins for the use of the supervisors. Adopted. But whether or not John produced the sugar, there is no record.

The supervisors were called together in a special session August 4, 1856. It had been discovered that they should have had a new county treasurer elected at the spring election, and the special session was called to remedy the matter. It was remedied by requiring the treasurer, A. M. Crawford, to renew his bonds.

Frank Miller, the prosecuting attorney, had a resolution introduced reading as follows:

"Resolved, That a special meeting of the board of supervisors was, in the existing state of affairs, absolutely necessary as regards regulating the affairs of the office of treasurer of Gratiot County, and other important matters, and could not properly have been dispensed with."

The scupervisors evidently hadn't much use for Frank, for they straightway proceeded to not only lay his resolution on the table, but killed it still deader by indefinitely postponing it. Then they set about

deducting five weeks wages from his salary for time he had spent outside of the county. Finally, however, they laid this matter on the table also; so it is presumed that Frank got his money.

October 13, 1856. Among the claims presented at this session was one by Chebena and one by Pemegogen for wolf bounties; showing that "Lo" was doing what he could toward civilizing the county. Another was presented by Jacob Strayer, of Sumner, another by Reuben Finch, of Arcada, and still another by Wm. Mattison, of Elba.

Mr. Jeffery was granted the privilege of cultivating the county block till such time as the county wanted to occupy it.

It was voted to raise seven mills on the dollar, "for contingent expenses already accrued, and for the year 1857." This would raise, it was stated by the committee, the sum of $3,488.61 for county tax, and the state tax was $168.09; a total of $3,656.70.

It was found that County Treasurer A. M. Crawford had removed from the county, so the board appointed Henry Lane in his place. Inasmuch as Mr. Lane was already register of deeds, and was supervisor of North Shade, it would look as it the board was putting it on to Henry pretty thick.

Elijah Porter, of Pine River, who was clerk of the board of canvassers in 1855, and acted as clerk pro tem of the board of supervisors in January, was allowed $34.33 for his services. So his troubles were relieved at last.

January 5, 1857. The wolves were being thinned out. Bounties were paid to Reuben Finch, Lemuel Williams and Wm. Mattison.

County officers' salaries were fixed at $300 for the clerk; $350 and fees for the treasurer, and $150 for the prosecuting attorney.

The county officers of the present day, as they sit in the $100,000 court house, with their legs under mahogany tables and with an iron-bound and iron-lined vault for each officer, and each vault big enough for a dancing hall, will feel sorry when they think of their predecessors of 1857 occupying a log structure, mudded up between the logs with clay and ashes for mortar, and sitting on "good, substantial, common chairs," or on "benches made of good two-inch plank or slabs"; and for lack of iron vaults the board "appropriated $15 for the purchase of a book case for the county officers." Not a book case apiece, mind you, but a $15 book case for the entire "court house gang."

On petition of citizens of Washington Township, appropriations of $100 each were made for bridges across the Maple River, between sections 25 and 26, and one near the center line of the township.

Two items, small but suggestive, will close consideration of this session: A resolution "to appropriate $20 as soon as there is that amount in the treasury, for the purpose of having the court house and county books insured," was adopted, and John Jeffery was appointed to attend to it, according to his best judgment. The other was a vote of thanks to Chairman Groom, and $5 for extra services.

A special session of the board of supervisors was called, to meet May 26, 1857, the object of the session being to take the necessary steps to relieve the distress so prevalent in the county on account of the lack of provisions and of the means to procure the necessaries of life. In another department of this volume this matter is given full consideration.

Some miscellaneous business was transacted, the most important of which are here touched upon:

Ten wolf claims were presented and allowed.

The board appropriated $100 for a bridge across Pine River in Sumner; $50 on center line bridge, Washington; $30 on bridge in eastern part of Washington.

The committee appointed to lay out the $300 appropriation for the bridge across the Maple on the center line of the county, was authorized to vary the location as they might deem necessary; which accounts for the bridge being placed to the eastward of the line.

"Mr. Foote moved to appropriate $5 for the purpose of making a desk for the county treasurer. Carried. Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Foote, a vote of thanks was tendered to the county treasurer for his kindness and foresight in retaining money sufficient for the supervisors at this session."

October 12, 1857. Wolf claims were presented—S. S. Hastings, five; O. M. Wood, one; Joseph Bennett, one.

A petition was presented from citizens of 12—2 asking to be cut loose from Pine River and organized independently. Referred to a committee which reported unfavorably, and report laid on the table. Afterward the petition was withdrawn.

October 16, 1857. A committee appointed to consider the question of appointing three commissioners on drainage in accordance with the provision of law, reported favorably, and recommended that Frank Miller, Addison Hayden and Anson R. Arnold be appointed as such drain commissioners. Adopted.

### They Bought a County Farm.

The Superintendents of the Poor, previously instructed, reported the result of their search for a suitable location for a County Poor Farm, mentioning six different locations which had been investigated. The report was received, and the board acted unanimously in favor of buying a farm, and a committee consisting of Supervisors Bennett, Everden and Worthing was appointed to look up and recommend a suitable place. The next day the committee recommended the purchase of 160 acres of Wm. W. Comstock, on sections 17 and 20, Washington, and the report and recommendation were adopted by a vote of 8 to 6, the farm to be paid for—$2,000—in orders running from one to ten years.

October 17, 1857. A committe previously appointed, reported, recommending that the supervisors should each have $45 for extending their assessment rolls, excepting the supervisors of Pine River and Lafayette, who should have $50 each, their townships being double. Adopted.

The chairman, Addison Hayden, was voted $10 extra for being chairman.

A motion to give each supervisor $5 extra was voted down.

Henry Smith, county clerk, was given $11 extra.

The clerk was instructed "to publish a report of said board as the law requires."

A resolution organizing 12—2 into an independent township to be called Bethany, was adopted at the session of January, 1858.

Calling Pine River a navigable stream and making a fuss about "obstructing its navigation" seems funny at the present time. But in that early day when there were no roads, the matter presented another aspect, and the dams being built worried those not directly interested, financially, in the dams. This is clearly shown by the action of the supervisors in adopting the following resolution presented by Mr. Boyer, of Seville:

"Whereas, Pine River is obstructed in its navigation by a dam at the Village of Pine River, whereby the county is deprived of its natural rights in the use of the river; therefore,

"Resolved, That the prosecuting attorney be instructed to take such measures as shall secure to said county the free and unobstructed navigation of said Pine River, at as early a day as possible. Carried."

If anything further was ever done about it, the records do not disclose what it was.

October session, October 11, 1858. Henry P. Clark, of New Haven, was elected chairman. After adopting rules to govern the proceedings and doing a little other business, the board adjourned till next day. Convening next day and starting business, a funny episode is recorded as follows: "The journal of the preceding day was read, and no corrections to be made, the house proceeded to business. But there had been a discovery made by a certain few. The clerk had employed J. A. Guthrie to do the business for him as clerk of the board, and all that was done by the board on that day was by them considered to be illegal; and in order to have all the business done legally, the house dispersed to meet at the clerk's office and organize anew." So they commenced all over again, electing Clark chairman, etc., and proceeded as if the previous day had never existed.

An echo or reminder of the trouble of January, 1856, when the acts of Sheriff Walker and Treasurer Ely in designating Pine River as the place for holding circuit court aroused the ire of the board, appeared when a claim for $10 was presented in favor of ex-Sheriff Walker, "for his services as sheriff of the county in designating the place for holding the circuit court in the county, in the Township of Pine River, in January, 1856." The claim was referred to the committee on claims, and was allowed next day.

Two wolf claims were allowed—one in favor of Wan-Be-Gumskum, the other in favor of Shan-Wan-Can-Mego. Judging from the names it seems a safe presumption that the parties were of Indian extraction.

Either the stringent times had begun to loosen or else the officials were getting reckless, for the sum of $15 was appropriated for a desk and table for the judge of probate.

The superintendents of the poor reported the expediture of $93.61 during the year, $59 of which was for work on the Poor Farm down in Washington, and $34.61 for relief of the destitute; there remaining $206.39 cents in the poor fund. The farm was worked on shares by a tenant. The report goes on to say, "The products thereof is about three tons of hay, the other crops being worthless and not worth harvesting, being cut by the early frost." They recommended improvements on the farm that would take up all of the money in the fund, and asked for an appropriation of $200 as a poor fund. The request was granted.

To encourage the making of roads, the board appropriated $1,000, to be equally divided among the 15 townships for improvements on roads and bridges.

The committee on county officers, reporting on the settlement with County Treasurer Lafayette Church, gave him a good word by adding that "his accounts and vouchers are kept in a correct and systematic manner and with every appearance of perfect honesty as an officer and as a man."

The board appointed J. B. Smith, Ralph Ely and John Jeffery superintendents of the poor. Smith and Ely declined. Geo. Luce, of St. Louis, and E. C. Cook, of North Star, were then appointed.

On motion of Supervisor Ely, Francis Nelson was appointed commissioner of drainage.

The first Gratiot County newspaper—the Gratiot News—had just been established at Ithaca, and the board commenced right away to utilize it for the dissemination of official information among the people; and perhaps incidentally to aid and encourage the paper in its struggles to get a foothold. Supervisor J. B. Smith introduced a resolution providing " that a statement of the expenditures of the county as appropriated and allowed by this board, to whom the same were allowed, and for what, as provided by the statute be published in the Gratiot News, and that Benj. E. Sawtelle be authorized to prepare said statement for publication." This was amended to read "County Clerk" instead of "B. E. Sawtelle," and was then adopted.

To the scores of old supervisors who, in after years were engaged in some of those desperate struggles over the publication of the proceedings in this or that newspaper, this bloodless disposition of the printing will almost look like a fairy tale. They may be quite sure, however, that it was only the lack of newspaper competition that prevented a contest and a lot of fervid oratory. And it was only a financial statement anyway, and did not include the full proceedings.

January 3, 1859. About the first business of the session was the consideration of wolf claims of four of our early fellow citizens, as follows: By Supervisor Partelo, claim of Aubelaw Waugnot; by Supervisor Packard, claims of Obloquet, Wayney and Squanicut. All allowed.

County officers' salaries were fixed, each officer to furnish his own fuel, lights and stationery.

By a resolution introduced by Supervisor Cassada the payment of wolf bounties was done away with.

Anything out of the ordinary excites interest right away, so this resolution by Supervisor Ely will excite curiosity; but there is nothing further in the records to explain the matter:

"Whereas, As it is evident that there are many fraudulent county orders of this county in circulation, therefore

"Resolved, That our prosecuting attorney be instructed to ferret out the authors and perpetrators of these frauds, and to take measures to bring them to justice." Adopted. As stated, there is nothing further to explain the matter. But next day, in settling with the treasurer and clerk, the record says that the committee found forged orders to the amount of $57.00.

The publishing of the proceedings interested the supervisors at this session. Supervisor Allen presented a resolution, "that the proceedings of this and last October's session be published in the Gratiot News, the clerk to prepare a statement to embrace all the important actions of the board, and orders to be drawn for the same not exceeding $75." This was laid on the table, and later it was lost by a tie vote; and then, "the clerk gave the casting vote in the negative," says the record. Which was a very kind act of the clerk to thus lend his aid to doubly kill the resolution. Clerks in these later days do not seem to be doing their whole duty in the matter of voting.

The next day a new resolution was adopted giving the Gratiot News the publication of the October proceedings, at $40. Then, after sleeping again over the matter the board, on the next day, rescinded its last action, and instructed the clerk "to prepare a full abstract of the proceedings of the two sessions and have the same published in the Gratiot News at legal rates of advertising."

March 10, 1859. The board met in special session—the object not stated—and organized by electing Supervisor Coffin, of Emerson, chairman, and then, by a vote of 6 to 4, adjourned sine die.

May 13, 1859. The supervisors met in special session to consider "starvation matters."

Supervisor Pettit, of Emerson, was made chairman.

Through a set of resolutions presented by Supervisor Ely and unanimously adopted, the board inaugurated plans for relieving the necessities of the people. The resolution will be found elsewhere in this volume, in the department devoted to the period of destitution in the county.

Joseph Vosburg was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of E. C. Cook, resigned.

The board then adjourned sine die.

October 10, 1859. Mr. Pettit resigned as chairman, and was re-elected by a vote nearly unanimous. After listening to some partial reports relative to the relief of the destitute through the special agency created by the board at the special session in May, 1859, the board received an interesting report from the regular superintendent of the poor, which closed as follows: "Also we further report that the county farm has been let to be worked upon shares to Horton Smith and Gilbert E. Hall, for which we are enabled to report that there has been planted of corn about four or five acres which has proved a failure by wet weather in the spring and frost in the fall; also, the meadows were very much injured by frost in the spring and drouth in the summer, which product was about two tons of hay, of which the county was to have had one-half, which by accident was consumed by fire soon after being secured in the barn."

Was there ever a harder tale of hard luck ever reported and put in print? Frost in the spring and frost in the fall; wet weather in the spring, drouth in the summer and then fire to consume the little that had escaped! That which struck the county officials and interests so hard must have been at least equally serious for the individual settler. The county could recoup by spreading a tax. The individual settler with a family couldn't recoup. He was even denied the privilege of stealing. There was nothing to steal that would help him out of his troubles.

The superintendents of the poor continued their report and made some suggestions concerning the farm: "And we would further recommend to your consideration the propriety of making an appropriation of $130 to be expended in logging and fencing 16 acres that have been chopped three years, and has been well burned over this present fall, which leaves it in good condition for clearing off; also $70 to be laid out in fencing the present improvement, making in all $200 for improving said farm the coming year."

Then the superintendents make another suggestion: "Or, if in the wisdom of your honorable body, to exchange the said farm for one more central and better adapted to the wants of the county for a county farm, which, with suitable accommodations for the reception and maintenance of paupers. Furthermore, we would recommend that the county treasurer be instructed to have the poor fund of said county set apart as a separate fund, to be at all times in readiness to be drawn for the relief of the poor." Signed by John Jeffery, Geo. Luce and Joseph Vosburg, superintendents of the poor.

It was voted to have the proceedings of this session and that of the previous May published in the News at $35.

Superintendents of the poor were appointed as follows: Jas. B. Allen, Pine River; Joseph Vosburg, Washington; John W. Howd, North Star. Mr. Allen failing to qualify, the board, at its next January session, appointed J. C. Hulbert.

### A New County Farm.

January 3, 1860. The board took steps to exchange its County Poor Farm in Washington Township for one more centrally located. The Washington farm was ten miles distant from the county seat; a very inconvenient distance. Negotiations were had with Wm. W. Comstock, and the terms of a possible trade were made known to the board, resulting in the passage of the following resolution offered by Mr. Barnaby, of North Star:

"Resolved, That in view of the present dissatisfaction in relation to the location of the present Poor Farm belonging to the county, and in view of a proposition made by W. W. Comstock to exchange it for the farm of 80 acres lying within one mile of Ithaca, and described as being the west ½ of the N. E. ¼ of section 12, township 10—3, therefore resolved," etc.; the necessary instructions were given to the chairman of the board to make the exchange. The 80 acres described is the west part of the present county farm.

The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 13 to 2; Smith, of Washington, and Hamill, of Lafayette, voting against the proposition.

On motion of Mr. Cassada, of Fulton, $150 was appropriated for the purchase of a team and farming implement for the Poor Farm.

October session, 1860. Melancton Pettit, of Emerson, was made chairman. It was ordered that all county officers should henceforth hold their office in the court house, and that no rent would be paid after this date—October 9.

The Superintendents of the Poor reported as to relief furnished, and the condition of the fund and then: "Also, we further report that the $150 appropriated for a team, farming utensils, etc., has been expended as follows: A yoke of oxen, $85; keeping same, $1.50; a cow, $35; a plow, $8; an ox yoke, $1.25; farming utensils, $15.98. Leaving a balance of $3.27 unexpended. Also we further report that the County Farm has been let to be worked on shares to Amos Johnson for which we are able to report as follows: There has been raised during the year grains estimated as follows: Wheat, 42 bushels; corn, 82 bushels; oats, 28 bushels; barley, 17 bushels; beans, 4 bushels, and of potatoes, 73 bushels. The Superintendents of the Poor are to receive two-thirds of the above named products for the benefit of the poor fund."

The committee on ways and means recommended raising the following sums: Salary of the prosecuting attorney, $300; clerk, $300; treasurer, $350; circuit court expenses, $750; poor fund, $500; road fund, $625; to pay old debts, $2,275. Adopted.

John W. Howd, W. W. Comstock, and John Jeffery, were appointed Superintendents of the Poor.

Cornelius Holiday, Erastus Perry, and H. T. Barnaby, were appointed Drain Commissioners.

January 7, 1861. J. C. Hulbert and Elijah Beard were appointed Superintendents of the Poor, Jeffery and Comstock, appointed the previous October, not having qualified.

Supervisor Fox, of Bethany, presented a petition from citizens of 12—1 asking to be detached from Lafayette and attached to Bethany. Laid on the table.

The board fixed salaries as follows: Treasurer, $400 and fees; clerk, $300; prosecuting attorney, $300; judge of probate, "5 per cent. of the population"; that is, $5 for every 100 people. As the census of 1860 gave 4,890 as the population, his salary must have been about $250.

A new county building to be placed upon the county site was provided for. Mr. Holiday presented a resolution to have a building erected, to be 16 by 32 feet and with 12-foot posts; to be built by Ralph Ely. The sum of $250 was appropriated to pay for the building, and H. T. Barnaby, John Jeffery and Fred D. Weller were appointed to look after matters, accept the building, etc.

The Gratiot News to publish the proceedings at legal rates.

June 10, 1861. Cornelius Holiday, of Pine Rive, was chosen chairman.

A petition was presented from Edson Packard and others asking that 12—1 be organized into a separate township to be called "Gratiot" Township. Laid on the table and afterward withdrawn.

The county building appears to have been completed, for R. Ely, Wm. E. Winton and L. C. Smith were appointed a committee to have the building painted with two coats of white paint. The building did duty for county purposes till 1871, when it was superseded by the $8,000 court house built by Wm. C. Beckwith in that year; the building that served so faithfully and well until it was itself superseded by the magnificent structure that now adorns the "county site," built in 1900-01.

October 14, 1861; C. Holiday, chairman.

A petition was presented signed by Jas. B. Wheeler and fifteen others, asking that 12—1 be organized into an independent township to be called Wheeler. The petition was granted.

### Poor Superintendents Dispensed With.

Here comes a peculiar resolution, offered by Mr. Cassada, and adopted on motion of Mr. Barstow:

"Resolved, That the office of Superintendent of the Poor, of Gratiot County, be dispensed with, and that each township in said county maintain and support the poor of said township at their own expense; and that the present Poor Farm be rented to some person to the best advantage, the proceeds thereof to be applied to the school fund of said county. Yes, 14; No, 1—Mr. Worthing."

Then comes a report of the Superintendents of the Poor, giving their financial transactions and adding: "We further report that the County Farm was let to be worked on shares, for which we are enabled to report as follows: Raised, (estimated) wheat, 70 bushels; oats, 10 bushels; barley, 4 bushels; potatoes, not any. We are to receive the whole of the above named produce for the benefit of the poor fund; and further, we have received $45 for damages from the tenant for not working the farm as he should according to contract." They further stated that they had discharged the tenant. It is not stated that they did anything further to the tenant. All they did to him was to take all of his crops away from him, fine him $45 in cash and then discharge him at the beginning of a hard winter. That's all! The record don't say positively that they did another thing to him; but the fact that the board, on the following day, bought $15 worth of handcuffs, suggests that they hadn't yet got through with him.

A resolution to publish the proceedings in the Gratiot News and the Northern Courier at 25 cents per folio for each, was voted down, and then the job was given to the News alone. The Northern Courier had recently been launched at Ithaca, as an independent paper by Israel B. Coats. On the death of Mr. Coats, it died also.

Supervisors Crawford, Cassada and Mack were appointed a committee to make an inventory of the property on the Poor Farm, and report forth-

with. What the committee found and reported, shows that they did their work thoroughly, nothing escaping them evidently. Here's their list:

"About 300 pounds of hay; two stacks wheat, estimated at 60 bushels; one stack oats, estimated at 30 bushels; eight or ten bushels buckwheat; one hay fork; a small quantity of corn; one cow, one bull, two oxen, two hoes, potatoes, not dug, 20 bushels, one pair ox bows, one staple and ring, two chains, one barn shovel, two wash tubs, one grindstone, twelve large table plates, six cups, seven saucers, five spoons, four knives and some broken forks, six basins, one meal sieve, two grain rakes, one scythe and snath, three bedsteads and cords, four bed comforters, about 27 yards calico, one old trunk containing a few old rags, one bar band iron six feet long, three pails, three candlesticks, one pillow, one plow clevis, one bag containing light bed clothes, two iron wedges, some blacksmith tools, six milk pans, one grain cradle and scythe, two well buckets, one plow, two straw bed ticks, one drag, one sled, one basket, one cookstove and a quantity of pipe. Two bushels ears of old corn were found on the place; and we further report on the authority of the tenants that there was, belonging to the county, one feather bed and two pillows, also a plow cutter and clasp that were taken away by one of the superintendents; and on the admission of another superintendent, there is in his possession one bed quilt; all of which is respectfully submitted."

Supervisor O. A. Everden was appointed to settle with the Superintendents of the Poor, and F. D. Weller was appointed to take charge of and dispose of the property on the Poor Farm.

### They Took It Back.

At the January—1862—session about the first business done was to rescind the action of the October session which dispensed with the Superintendents of the Poor.

A new set of Superintendents of the Poor was appointed, composed of Clement Naldrett, Wm. Long and Joseph Backus.

F. D. Weller reported that he had sold Poor Farm stuff to the amount of $128.23.

Drainage Commissioners were appointed as provided by an act of March 15, 1861, as follows: J. B. Smith, Geo. W. Jennings and Bernard Fox.

The Judge of Probate reported the first insane person examined and sent to the asylum from this county. A record of, say, eight years without an insane person was a good record, considering how much the people had to make them crazy.

A resolution was presented by Supervisor Cassada, reciting that, as Ralph Ely, county treasurer, had enlisted, "and is now, if alive, a commissioned officer in said service, and in the state of South Carolina, the office of treasurer is vacant," and providing for filling the vacancy. The resolution was lost by a vote of 10 to 5.

Officers' salaries—Treasurer, $350; clerk, $300; prosecuting attorney, $300.

October 13, 1862. Napoleon B. Fraker, of Washington, was elected chairman.

The Superintendents of the Poor reported and complained about being handicapped by having the personal property sold; and it would seem that they had good reason for growling.

The board provided for having the county building banked up, and the windows provided with shutters.

January 5, 1863. Gratiot County hired its prisoners kept by the Clinton County sheriff, at the rate of $4 each per week.

Salaries—Treasurer, $400; clerk, $350; prosecuting attorney, $300; judge of probate, 7 cents per head of the population.

It was ordered that the public square be opened immediately to the use of the public, and the sheriff was instructed to attend to it.

October 12, 1863. The Superintendents of the Poor recommended that the Poor Farm be surveyed so they might know where to put line fences; also that a barn be built. The board ordered the surveying done.

Heretofore the three Superintendents of the Poor had been appointed at the same time and all for a year. At this session a change was made by which they would be elected for three years, one to go out each year. Perhaps the law was changed at that time. A new set was appointed as follows: Emery Crosby for three years; Edward A. Chase for two years; Wm. E. Winton for one year.

January 4, 1864. Salaries took a jump; treasurer $550; clerk, $450; probate judge, statute rate.

The practice of giving the sehriff an advance fund was inaugurated at this session, Sheriff Weller being allowed an advance of $100.

October 10, 1864. Horace T. Barnaby, of North Star, was made chairman.

John W. Howd was appointed Superintendent of the Poor for the full term—three years; W. S. Everest to fill vacancy vice Emery Crosby, and J. A. Guthrie to fill temporary vacancy vice E. A. Chase.

The board seems to have got tired of the old log court house for sessions of the supervisors and for circuit court, so Comstock's Hall was leased at $50 a year, furnished, heated and lighted. F. D. Weller was appointed a committee to dispose of the furniture and other property of the county, in and about the court house.

January 2, 1865. Mr. Weller reported having sold the court house stuff for $21.50.

Salaries—Treasurer, $600 and fees; clerk, $500 and fees; prosecuting attorney, $350. Probate Judge $6 a hundred of population according to the census of 1864.

Drs. Cheesman, of St. Louis, and Guthrie, of Emerson, had in claims for treating soldiers' families, which were allowed by the board. One amounted to $49. The board showed a commendable liberality in dealing with the soldiers and their families.

Clinton County had in a claim for $121.77 for care of prisoners from Gratiot County. This was allowed after a hard struggle, some of the economical members being in favor of cutting off the odd dollars arbitrarily and by guess, and allowing the claim at $100.

October 9, 1865. Theron A. Johnson, of Arcada, was made chairman.

The Superintendents of the Poor reported raised and sold in 1864: 20 bushels ears of corn, $2.87; 11 bushels buckwheat, $8.25; 3 bushels oats at 90 cents a bushel, $2.70; ½ ton poor hay, $8.30. Crops for 1865, estimated: 100 bushels ears of corn; 10 bushels buckwheat; 3 tons hay; 20 bushels potatoes.

The superintendents closed their report with statements and recommendations which clearly show that they were having no easy time in performing the duties of their office: "And we would further recommend that some measures be taken to have permanent paupers removed to the County House where they can be taken care of much more cheaply than to employ individuals in the several townships to take care of them. We are supporting one at large expense and there are two or three others that are

permanent paupers; and as our county is rapidly filling up, such cases will multiply on the hands of the superintendents. And for the comfort of the paupers it will be necessary to have some repairs on the County House, and for this purpose we would recommend an appropriation of $200." Referred to a committee—Call, Boyer and Sower, to report as to repairs.

Bridgeville bridge began to call for repairs, so $500 was appropriated to replank one-half of the bridge, the other half to be repaired with the old plank taken up.

E. A. Chase was appointed Superintendent of the Poor for the full term.

The committee to consider and report on repairs for the County House, reported a substitute proposition, favoring the exchange of the north half of the farm for a 40 owned by John Jeffery, lying east of, and adjoining the south half of the farm, bringing the farm out to the State Road, and thus improving the situation. The exchange could be made by paying $250 boot money; "which exchange" the report goes on to say, "we, your committee, would recommend in preference to making repairs on the old buildings, and thus, whatever is done will be permanent, and access would be had to the State Road. And we would recommend that if the exchange is made, that the Honorable Board of Supervisors make an appropriation of $500 for building a new Poor House."

Later, at the same session, a resolution was introduced by Supervisor Call, of Elba, adopting the recommendation of the committee and appropriating $500 for the erection of a Poor Farm building on the State Road. Adopted by 9 to 6. The trade was made with Mr. Jeffery, and the fine location still occupied by the Farm buildings was thus secured.

January session, 1866. Salaries were fixed as follows: Treasurer, $600, without fees; clerk, $550, without fees; prosecuting attorney, $400; judge of probate, $400.

The board appropriated $1,000 to be expended for improvement of the highways in seven townships, and appointed commissioners to expend it as follows: Emerson, W. W. Comstock; Wheeler, Hiram Tubbs; Elba, John Nichols; Sumner, D. Stoughton; Seville, Isaac Welch; Fulton, Jas. W. Martin; New Haven, Isaac Jason.

At a special session of the board held February 20, 1866, $475 was voted for replanking the south half of the Bridgeville bridge, and Wm. T. Collister was appointed to superintend the work.

June session, 1866. Luther Smith, of Pine River, was elected chairman.

The record says that on June 12th, at 8. p. m., a special invitation was received by the board to attend a preliminary meeting of the Agricultural Society, whereupon adjournment was taken till next morning. The Agricultural Society, organized at that time, held its first fair the succeeding fall.

A summary of the amounts appropriated for the relief of soldiers' families during the war, shows an aggregate of $8,875 so appropriated.

The State Board of Equalization, at its session of June, 1866, fixed Gratiot at $1,634,745. Luther Smith represented Gratiot County at the session of the State Board of Equalization, and received $30 for his services.

At the session beginning October 8, 1866, Emery Crosby was appointed Superintendent of the Poor for the full term.

Wm. E. Winton, secretary of the Gratiot County Agricultural Society presented to the board a sworn statement setting forth the facts regarding the organization of said Agricultural Society, that it was "for the en-

couragement and advancement of agriculture, manufacturing and the mechanic arts in said county, and that there has been raised by said society over $100 for the promotion of the aforesaid object"; closing with a request that the board assess a tax for the benefit of said object. Signed by Francis Nelson, president and W. E. Winton, secretary.

In accordance with the request, the board ordered the levying of a tax of one-tenth of a mill on the dollar valuation as equalized. And it is stated that the sum so raised amounted to $92.35. As the valuation of the county, as equalized, was $1,634,745, it is difficult to see how they made it that amount. Unless the architect of this volume has got his "Daboll", his "Adams", his "Davies" and his "Thompson" sadly mixed in his head, the one-tenth of one mill was capable of raising $163.47 from that equalization. The answer to the puzzle can be handed in at any time.

At this session a claim for $4 was allowed to Chas. E. Bussey for services as a chainman in some surveying operations in the county. The following winter he taught the district school in St. Louis, was arrested and prosecuted on a charge of punishing a scholar too severely. The matter was settled during the progress of the trial, and the teacher finished out his term. Afterward he went West and in a few years became a noted educator in a western state.

The Superintendents of the Poor reported having erected a house on the County Farm at a cost of $1,500. The building was nearly ready for the reception of the poor, and that the total indebtedness was $1,591.45. The board made an appropriation calculated to wipe out the debt and leave $400 in the fund.

At the session commencing January 7, 1867, Emery Crosby resigned as Superintendent of the Poor and Giles T. Brown was appointed to the vacancy.

The question of a county jail began to agitate the minds of the county legislators. The expense of transporting prisoners to and from St. Johns and Saginaw, together with their "keep" while in charge of those outside jailors, was an important item, and the supervisors certainly had good grounds for wanting a change.

Supervisor Wheeler, of Lafayette, introduced a resolution calling for a vote at the coming spring election on the question of raising $2,000 for a county jail. This was laid on the table, but later the matter was taken up, and on motion of Supervisor Fraker, of Washington, it was voted to submit a proposition to the electors to raise $3,000 for the purpose, the amount to be raised by three equal annual assessments.

The judge of probate was authorized to get himself a new desk worth $50.00.

Salaries—Treasurer, $650 and fees; clerk, $550 and fees; prosecuting attorney, $400; judge of probate, $500.

A committee consisting of D. W. C. Chapin, Wm. E. Winton and Moses H. White, was appointed to look up the financial standings of all of the townships with the county; committeemen to have $3 per day for their services. The committee reported at the following October session, their findings, showing the county to be indebted to the townships sums aggregating $9,352.71.

A special meeting of the supervisors was held June 3, 1867. They first convened in the court house and then adjourned to Jeffery's Hall, from which place they adjourned to the clerk's office, and then, the sheriff having leased Comstock's Hall for a year, the board adjourned to that place, and got down to business.

Leman A. Johnson, of Newark, was elected chairman.

The Superintendents of the Poor asked for $1,200 for their purposes. The board voted them $1,600 instead.

The board fixed the time for the Superintendent of Common Schools to serve at 125 days at a compensation of $3.50 per day.

At the session of October, 1867, John W. Howd was appointed Superintendent of the Poor.

The proceedings were ordered printed in the "Gratiot Journal" at legal rates.

At the session commencing January 6, 1868, salaries were fixed at—Treasurer, $650; clerk, $550; prosecuting attorney, $400; probate judge, $500.

The board voted an extra $100 for Judge J. G. Sutherland, of the 10th district.

Supervisor Long, of Washington, presented a resolution calling on the Superintendents of the Poor to furnish the county offices with wood, from the labor of the paupers on the County Farm, and on motion of Supervisor Webster, of Fulton, the resolution was adopted.

The Superintendent of Common Schools was permitted to consume 25 days more at his work, in addition to the 125 days already provided for, at $3.50 per day.

Supervisor Barstow, of North Star, presented a resolution appropriating $1,000 from the general fund to be applied toward building a county jail. On motion of Supervisor Smith, of Pine River, to indefinitely postpone, there was a tie vote—8 to 8. Then the chairman, who had already voted "yes" on the question, again voted "yes" in order to break the tie, and so the matter was duly postponed. Some of those old-times could give valuable pointers on parliamentary procedure to present day chairmen.

A resolution by Mr. Long was adopted, submitting the question of raising $2,000 to the people at the coming spring election for the erection of a jail at the county seat, and providing further that the citizens of Ithaca donate $1,000 more in aid of the enterprise. It is not recorded that the people of Ithaca were so anxious for a jail in their midst that they cheerfully, or in any other way, donated $1,000, or any other sum, for its erection.

Supervisor Hawkins, of Sumner, felt so kindly toward Sheriff Bailey that he presented a resolution to pay him an extra $200; but there were not enough that shared his liberal views to carry it through.

The supervisors held a special session April 15, 1868, to decide on a uniform basis for assessments. This was done as nearly as possible, through the efforts of a committee composed of Supervisors Barstow, North Star; Johnson, Newark; Smith, Pine River; Long, Washington; Wheeler, Lafayette.

J. C. Giddings, of Bethany, was elected chairman.

At the session of the supervisors commencing October 12, 1868, a petition was received from 45 freeholders, of St. Louis, asking for an order of incorporation. A census of the inhabitants showed a population of 477 within the territory to be incorporated; the census having been taken by Chas. W. Giddings. A remonstrance, signed by 18 residents, was also presented. All was referred to a committee composed of Supervisors Chandler, of Arcada; Seaver, of Hamilton, and Swope, of Wheeler, which reported favorably, and on motion of Supervisor Seaver, the order was granted. Provision was made for an election to be held November 16, 1868, to choose first village officers. The first village incorporated in the county.

Drainage commissioners were appointed as follows: Ervin H. Ewell, St. Louis; Cornelius Campbell, Washington; Wm. W. Comstock, Ithaca.

The Poor Superintendent reported that the number of paupers "have ranged from two to thirteen. They have built 320 rods of fence, cleared nine acres of land, raised four acres of corn, one and a half acres of potatoes, 50 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of wheat for our share, six tons of hay. Have put in nine acres of wheat, raised a good garden, set out 100 apple trees which are doing well, and furnished 15 cords of wood for the county offices;" and asked for an appropriation of $2,000.

Wm. W. Comstock, the St. Charles and Stanton State Road Commissioner reported: "I have examined and located said road on air line direct from Stanton to St. Charles. Have surveyed six miles of said road, after which the surveyor was taken sick and died; and I have since deferred the matter for want of funds." A discouraging combination of circumstances.

E. A. Chase, of North Star, was appointed to succeed himself as Superintendent of the Poor.

Thos. Holcomb, Wm. S. Turck and W. W. Comstock, were appointed a committee to carry out the provisions of a resolution to expend $1,000 in the erection of a fire-proof building for county offices.

January 4, 1869. The chairman announced the death of Supervisor Andrew P. Smith, of North Shade. Supervisors Barstow, of North Star; Walker, of North Shade; Johnson, of Newark, and Smith, of Pine River, were appointed to draft resolutions on the death of Mr. Smith. Suitable resolutions were reported next day and adopted.

An appropriation of $200 was made for the erection of a barn on the County Farm.

The "Gazette," just started at St. Louis, was designated, with the Gratiot Journal, to publish the proceedings at half rates for each.

October 11, 1869. H. T. Barnaby, of North Star, was made chairman.

A petition from Ithaca citizens asked for incorporation of designated territory as a village. A census taken by Levi R. Hiffner showed a population of 319. Supervisors Walker, of North Shade; Morrison, of Elba, and Wheeler, of Lafayette, were appointed to consider the matter and report. The report was favorable and by resolution the village was incorporated, the first election to be held November 16, 1869.

Poor Superintendents were appointed: Giles T. Brown, Ithaca, three years; Elias W. Smith, St. Louis, two years; Wm. E. Winton ,Ithaca, one year.

E. C. Cook, president and E. C. Cummings, secretary, of the Agricultural Society, reported that the Society had raised $100 by subscription and asked for an appropriation of one-tenth of one mill on the property of the county, which was granted.

The Superintendent of Common Schools was allowed 230 days in that capacity at $3.50 per day, he to teach a normal school for teachers in each spring and fall.

Supervisor Wright, of Pine River, asked for an appropriation in aid of the Michigan State Advance, a monthly paper started at St. Louis, by A. D. and E. G. Rust, to boom Central Michigan and especially Gratiot County. The request was not granted.

Supervisor L. A. Johnson, of Newark, presented a resolution submitting to the people at the next spring's election, a proposition to issue bonds for $5,000 for the purpose of building a court house and a jail. Bonds to bear interest at the rate of 10 per cent., $1,000 to be paid each year, commencing with March 1, 1871, until all are paid. Carried by a vote of 10 to 4.

Supervisor Burlingame, of New Haven, offered a resolution thanking Chairman Barnaby for his course as chairman, and "ever praying that he may in this world enjoy much happiness, and in the world to come, life everlasting." Adopted unanimously. Mr. Barnaby returned the compliment, thanking the members. It is interesting to note that after a period of nearly 44 years Mr. Barnaby is still enjoying life, as also are four others of the same board—Chas. E. Webster, Joseph H. Seaver, Jas. K. Wright, and Barney Swope.

At the session of January, 1870 salaries were raised as follows: Treasurer, $700; clerk, $600; prosecuting attorney, $550; probate judge, $450.

### The Court House of 1870.

Supervisors Ely, of Arcada, Webster, of Fulton, and Brooke, of Emerson, were appointed to look after the details of the construction of the court house and jail, providing the vote at the spring election is favorable for bonding. They to determine size and shape of the buildings, internal construction, material, and where to be located.

The committee consisting of Supervisors Ely, Webster and Brooke, appointed to consider and report on details for the construction of the proposed new court house and jail reported, and as their recommendations were adopted, and were followed, in the main, in the actual construction of the buildings, the report is here given:



COURT HOUSE—1870 TO 1902.

"Said court house building to be located on the public square in the Village of Ithaca. The construction to be of wood. The dimensions to be 36 feet wide by 60 feet long, with 26-foot posts, and set upon a good and substantial foundation of stone about three feet above the surface of the ground. The court room to be on the second floor. Hall or entrance to be 10 feet wide, with stairs on each side leading to the court room. A hall in the center below, from six to eight feet wide, the rooms on one side for county officers and a fire-proof vault eight feet square; the rooms on the opposite side for county officers, jury room, etc."

The jail was to be built of oak or hemlock and to be 22 by 28 feet, and with 16-foot posts, with other details that need not be specified here. The report was adopted, unanimously.

A building committee was appointed as follows: Wm. E. Winton, and Wm. S. Turck, Ithaca; S. F. Anderson, Alma; Chas. B. Kress, St. Louis; Chas. E. Webster, Fulton.

Henry P. Howd was appointed Superintendent of the Poor vice G. T. Brown, resigned.

The supervisors assembled in special session May 2, 1870, for the purpose of canvassing the vote on the court house question. Ralph Ely was elected chairman.

The number of votes on the question of bonding for $5,000 for the purpose of building a court house and jail was 1,726—for the loan, 872; against the loan, 854. Carried by the small majority of 18.

Albert D. Rust, publisher of the Michigan State Advance, of St. Louis, was present, and advocated the appointment of an immigration agent to encourage immigration to Gratiot. The matter was referred to a committee composed of Supervisors Danley, of Fulton; Marshall, of North Star, and Hetzman, of Emerson, who reported unfavorably, and their report was adopted.

October, 1870. The court house building committee laid before the board the contract and bond of Wm. C. Beckwith for the erection of the court house. Approved and adopted.

A. W. Russell, of Ithaca, was appointed Superintendent of the Poor.

The board appropriated $1,000 more for the construction of the court house, conditioned on the people of Ithaca grading the grounds.

The Superintendents of the Poor reported that they had contracted with Zachariah Hoag to keep the County House; he to "keep, maintain, support and furnish in sickness and health all things necessary, and in case of death, to defray funeral expenses." Hoag to have the labor of the inmates.

Mr. Morse moved to pay an extra $10 to Chairman Ely for extra services as chairman, but Mr. Ely refused to receive it; and so the motion was withdrawn.

January, 1871. The dog tax, now an old and familiar topic for execration, first put in an appearance to torment the people, and to foster and facilitate their propensities for lying about 40 years ago. At the January session, 1871, Supervisor Kellogg put in a resolution which was adopted, asking the legislature to either make the dog tax law more effective or else repeal it.

The County House matters seem to have been the most prominent, if not the most popular, subject before the supervisors in the early days. At this session the superintendents reported that there were ten inmates at the House and everything was full. Consequently an addition to the building was called for. But the necessary appropriation was not made till the October session following.

N. B. Fraker, who had been the Bridgeville bridge commissioner for some time, resigned and Samuel H. Griffith was appointed.

Wm. Marlow, of Ithaca, was appointed Superintendent of the Poor in place of Henry P. Howd, resigned.

Salary schedule—Treasurer, $850; clerk, $750; prosecuting attorney, $550; judge of probate, $550.

June term, 1871. J. C. Giddings, of Bethany, was chosen chairman.

It was reported that W. D. Young, owner of the Maple Rapids mill property, would sell for $7,000, and then the dam could be moved by the board. Referred, and the committee later reported, recommending that the question of raising $5,000 be submitted to the voters; the people of Gratiot and Clinton Counties to raise by subscription the other $2,000, for the purchase of the mill property and dam. Report adopted.

C. E. Webster was appointed to attend the State Board of Equalization meeting at Lansing.

October session, 1871. Geo. W. Helt, of Alma, was appointed Superintendent of the Poor.

The Poor Superintendents reported thirteen in the County House. The average cost of maintaining each one was stated to be about $11 per month. This being the summer and fall noted for its many and great fires on account of the drouth, the superintendents reported that the number destitute had greatly increased; consequently they asked for increased appropriations.

### Newark and Arcada's Big Drain.

E. W. Kellogg, special commissioner on the State Swamp Land Ditch, in the townships of Newark and Arcada, reported: "By an act of the legislature approved April 15, 1871, an appropriation of nearly six sections of State Swamp Lands was made for the purpose of draining the 'Big Swamp' situated in the Townships of Arcada and Newark, and the undersigned was appointed a special commissioner to superintend its construction.

"In conformity with the requirements of the aforesaid act, I concluded a contract with Minor R. Frink, of Clinton County to construct a drain of the width and depth required by the terms of said act, the whole to be completed on or before the first day of January, 1873. The work is now being done; 400 rods being finished in the Township of Arcada, and 280 rods in the Township of Newark are finished. A force of 15 or 20 men are now working on the unfinished portion, and without doubt the entire drain will be completed within the time specified in the contract."

The contractor, Minor R. Frink, was authorized to make his selections of swamp lands in Gratiot County in payment.

The sum of $1,800 was voted to the Superintendents of the Poor for regular expenses and for an addition to the House.

The report of the court house building committee showed that there had been an expenditure of $7,567.25 on the building, and that there was a deficit of $567.25. The board appropriated the amount required to pay this balance.

One peculiarity of this session was the fact that the board occupied 14 days to do the business, at a cost to the county of $709.80. Miles traveled and paid for, ran all the way from 32 for North Star and Newark, to 72 for Seville, 84 for Sumner, 92 for North Shade, and an even 100 for Elba.

The proceedings were ordered published in the Gratiot Journal and the St. Louis Herald, at half rates each.

January 2, 1872. A petition from citizens of Alma for an order of incorporation as a village was received and referred to a committee—Supervisors Hall, of Arcada; Kellogg, of Newark, and Swope, of Wheeler. The census of the village was taken by Hiram Utley and showed a population of 425. The report of the committee was favorable to the proposition, and by resolution the incorporation was ordered, the first election to be held February 2, 1872.

The court house was reported to be nearly ready for occupancy. Wm. E. Winton was designated as a committee to have the bar suitably furnished.

The superintendents reported that they had contracted with D. F. Muscott, of Emerson, to conduct the County Farm for one year, with the privilege of two; he to clothe, board and furnish medical treatment to inmates to the number of 10 for $1,100 a year; $1.50 for each above 10, and $1.50 deducted for each one off from 10. He to have the help of the inmates and to have all he could raise on the farm. A. W. Russell, Wm. Marlow and Geo. W. Helt, constituted the board of superintendents.

Salaries—Treasurer, $850; clerk, $800; prosecuting attorney, $550; probate judge, $550; superintendent of schools, $600.

Daniel W. Altenburg was appointed Drain Commissioner in place of Philip Burlingame, removed.

October 14, 1872. The board of supervisors met in the new court house. H. T. Barnaby, of North Star, was made chairman.

A petition was presented signed by John Jeffery and 91 others, asking the board to appropriate enough money to reimburse Wm. C. Beckwith, for losses on the court house contract. Referred to a committee—Coleman, of Emerson; Wilcox, of Lafayette, and Brice, of North Shade. The committee reported that by the sworn statement of Mr. Beckwith it was shown that his loss on the contract was $744.84, and recommended that he be paid the amount. The recommendation was concurred in by a vote of 11 to 4.

The Poor Superintendents reported the average number of inmates at the Poor Farm for the year was seven, of whom four were idiotic; and asked for $1,600. The board gave them $1,800, the superintendents to build an addition to the house at a cost not to exceed $800.

Wm. Marlow was re-elected Superintendent of the Poor.

Wm. E. Winton reported the expenditure of $158.26 for furnishing bar space of the Court House. Approved.

Chairman Barnaby was instructed to enter into an agreement with the officials of the Detroit House of Corrections for receiving and keeping prisoners.

On motion of Supervisor Hall, of Arcada, the sheriff was instructed to keep the Court House closed, only when wanted for the legitimate business of the county. In other words, those Ithaca "tight-wads" were not to have free access to the county's building every time they wanted a nice place for a justice court trial, or a caucus, or a social. And it was all right and proper, too.

One tenth of one mill on the dollar was ordered in aid of the Gratiot County Agricultural Society.

January 6, 1873. A resolution by Supervisor Long, of Washington, and adopted by the board, ordered a survey made of Maple River from the Maple Rapids dam to Bridgeville, to ascertain whether or not the dam was the direct cause of the overflow, a fact denied by the owners of the dam. N. B. Fraker, of Washington, was appointed to carry out the provisions of the resolution. The Maple Rapids dam question was always a live question with the board; a subject, too, on which they were always pretty well agreed.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Long, and adopted, requested the treasurer, clerk, register of deeds and prosecuting attorney, to reside at Ithaca, and perform the duties of their offices themselves, as far as possible.

Up to this time Gratiot's prisoners had been kept in the St. Johns jail. At this session, however, a proposition came from Saginaw to keep our prisoners at 75 cents a day, each, and it was accepted. The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad was now in operation, and that fact helped the supervisors to the conclusion arrived at.

The Superintendents of the Poor were always in evidence. No meeting of the board of supervisors could be a success without them; and perhaps not always with them. Somewhere it is said, "The Poor (Superintendents) ye have always with you." This is not said or written in derison, but as a sort of an awkward, left-handed apology for saying so much about them in this department. Their tale this time was truly a tale of woe; and a loud call for an appropriation. They had not yet got that addition, and the money was about gone. They say: "There are now 14 poor persons in the Poor House, besides the keeper, his wife, son and hired help—18 people in all, which makes the house very much crowded and inconvenient, and if sickness should prevail the results would be fearful. If the poor should keep increasing, or even remain at the present number, the present appropriation would be little enough for the support of the house, and for temporary relief outside of the house, and insufficient for building a suitable

addition. We, therefore, ask for a further appropriation of $500 for building purposes.

"And, furthermore, there is not enough land for the use of the county poor for many years more, and we would, therefore, ask for an addition to the Poor Farm. John Jeffery owns 80 acres of wild land adjoining the Poor Farm on the south which he would sell for $25 per acre. He also owns 80 acres adjoining the Poor Farm on the north, 60 acres of which are improved and the rest well timbered, which he would sell for $50 per acre." Signed by A. W. Russell and Wm. Marlow.

The matter was referred to the committee.

At this session Donald Chisholm had in a claim for a wolf bounty.

An appropriation of $900 was made for repairs on the Bridgeville bridge.

October, 1873. The committee on county buildings reported that, "the new building on the County Farm 22 by 50 feet, two stories high, is wholly enclosed, made of good material and well done in good style;" and recommending that $2,400 be appropriated for the care of the poor and to finish the building. Adopted.

A. W. Russell was elected superintendent of the poor, receiving the entire vote—15.

For drain commissioner Daniel W. Altenburg received a similar compliment.

On motion of Mr. Wilcox, of Lafayette, the board voted to pay a bounty of $10 for every wolf killed in the county.

Roswell Danley, of Fulton, and Wm. Long, of Washington, commissioners for rebuilding the Bridgeville bridge, reported that the work was completed at a cost of $2,287.09, of which $1,966.12 was provided for, leaving $320.97 unpaid. The board voted an appropriation to cover the amount. Supervisor Edson Packard, of Pine River, protested against the bridge being considered a county charge any longer, but he was opposed by a vote of 10 to 6. His motion then, to have the many bridges across Pine River adopted by the board, met the same fate. People of modern times, not so familiar with the conditions as were the early settlers, will readily see the difference, when their attention is called to the fact that the Bridgeville bridge across Maple River was (and is) close to the southern border of the county, and on the main thoroughfare leading out of the county to the south; an outlet so to speak, that accommodated a large share of Gratiot county and the regions lying beyond, to the north. Besides, it was a long, expensive bridge to build and to keep in such condition as the importance of the thoroughfare demanded. For these reasons it was very plausibly and properly considered a county charge for many years.

E. W. Kellogg, commissioner to lay out and superintend the construction of the Newark and Arcada drain, reported that the work was completed and Mr. Frink, the contractor, was entitled to the contract price therefor. Adopted, and a resolution passed by the board confirmed the same.

The board made satisfactory arrangements with the authorities of the Village of Ithaca, for keeping prisoners in the village jail.

The committee on salaries recommended that the superintendent of schools, Giles T. Brown, be given a salary of $1,000; that he be required to devote 250 days each year to the work, including 10 weeks of teachers' preparatory school—five weeks in the spring and five in the fall. The recommendation was concurred in.

At the term commencing January 5, 1874, the board fixed salaries as follows: Treasurer, $900; clerk, $800; judge of probate, $700; prosecuting attorney, $600.

The Gratiot Journal and St. Louis Herald to have one legal rate for publishing the proceedings, to be divided in proportion to circulation.

At the term commencing October 12, 1874, J. C. Giddings, chairman, Silas C. Crossman, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor.

The committee on public buildings reported that Keeper Muscott and the County Farm were all right, except that there should be a stone wall under the house, and that the tin chimneys should be replaced with brick chimneys. The report was approved and $2,500 was voted for Poor Farm purposes.

The Maple Rapids dam still tormented the supervisors, and still caused the inundation of thirteen sections of land in Gratiot County; over 8,000 acres of land rendered worse than worthless, besides causing much sickness and a great amount of dreadful apprehensions. Supervisors Fraker and Webster were appointed a committee to see the proprietor of the dam and see what could be done.

January 4, 1875. G. T. Brown, superintendent of schools, asked the board to petition the legislature for a law compelling a uniformity of text books in Gratiot County. The board went further and made it apply to the entire state. In the early days one of the most aggravating conditions that confronted teachers and school officials was the multiplicity of text books in use. Pupils were allowed to use almost anything they happened to have around the house, for text books. It was an evil that can be readily understood and appreciated without elaborate argument.

Citizens of Washington, in trying to get an appropriation in aid of bridge building in that township, spurred up Supervisor Shults, of Seville, to an attempt to include a bridge over the Pine at "Riverside," Seville Township. That was the name by which the present Riverdale was known when founded, and which it retained for some time — until it was discovered that there was already in this state, a village and postoffice so named; in the northern part of Berrien County.

At the session commencing October 11, 1875, Supervisor E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, was chairman. Wm. Marlow was appointed superintendent of the poor. The superintendents reported twenty-three inmates during the year, and an average of sixteen. Number given relief outside was 110. The material was ready for that foundation, but it was not yet built. Nothing said about the tin chimney.

The attorneys of the county asked that steps be taken to secure the services of a stenographer for the circuit court. Judge Hart also recommended it. The committee on salaries recommended that in case a stenographer is employed he be given a salary of $300. Concurred in.

January 3, 1876. A reminder of the days of nearly twenty years long gone, came through a resolution by Supervisor Morse, of New Haven, instructing the treasurer to foreclose any mortgages given for relief furnished at that time. The movement to close up the matter was commendable enough, but a proviso instructing the treasurer to remit the obligation and discharge the mortgage when its foreclosure would cause serious distress, was the most commendable of all, and showed that the heart of the author of the resolution, and the hearts of the members adopting the resolution, were in their proper places.

On motion of Supervisor Turck, of Arcada, S. W. Goodale, of Saginaw, was engaged as stenographer for the circuit court for the year 1876, at a salary of $350.

At the June session, 1876, E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, was made chairman.

Supervisor Wm. S. Turck, of Arcada, was chosen to represent the county at the meeting of the State Board of Equalization.

The Bridgeville bridge was at the fore once more calling for action and an appropriation. It was decided to construct a new bridge, notwithstanding it had been practically rebuilt only three years previously. The new bridge to be built upon piles at a cost of about $4,000, the funds to be raised by bonding. E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, and G. W. Clark, of Fulton, to be commissioners to have charge of the work.

The proceedings of the board were being voted to the Ithaca Journal with great regularity each session, at a price, the board kindly instructing the clerk to also furnish copy to the publisher of the St. Louis Herald, provided he wanted it badly enough to print it for nothing.

At the session commencing October 14, 1876, A. W. Russell was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed him self, and D. W. Altenburg received the entire sixteen votes for drain commissioner.

Since the June session the bridge at Bridgeville had been rebuilt — R. M. Steel, of St. Johns, contractor — at a cost of $4,235.93.

### County Jail and Sheriff's Residence.

January 1, 1877. A jail and sheriff's residence were the next necessary improvements to appeal to the liberality of the people. Supervisor Abbott, of Hamilton, called upon the committee on public buildings to ascertain and report the amount necessary for the purpose. The committee concluded that $4,000 would be the proper amount for a building and ground upon which to locate it. A resolution was then adopted to submit to the people at the spring election of 1877, the question of appropriating $4,000 for a jail and sheriff's residence. It was shown that the expense of keeping Gratiot's prisoners in outside jails was from $1,200 to $1,700 per year, including transportation.

A petition from the attorneys of the county asking the board to vote to the circuit judge an extra $200, was turned down by a unanimous vote.

The salary schedule was—Treasurer, $900; clerk, $850; probate judge, $750; prosecuting attorney, $800.

The question of bonding to the amount of $4,000 for the purpose of building a jail and sheriff's residence, submitted to vote at the election of April, 1877, carried by a large majority—yes, 1,722; no, 713, a favorable majority of 1,009. But it was discovered, when too late, that the township clerks had failed to give the notice required by law, when a vote was to be taken on the question of bonding. So that elegant majority was likely to go for naught. But some one was struck by a happy thought when it was remembered that the legislature was in session. A bill was duly introduced and the vote was legalized by a special act of the legislature.

A little examination of the vote of the different townships on the question of issuing the bonds reveals the fact that sentiment varied widely and curiously throughout the county relative to the merits of the proposition. The vote in Bethany and Pine River was nearly unanimous against it—Bethany, for the loan, 3; against it, 221; Pine River, for the loan, 15; against it, 402. Wheeler and Seville were also against the loan, while twelve townships gave majorities favorable; the Townships of Lafayette, Elba, Hamilton, Newark and Washington, showing not a single vote against it.

After the vote had been legalized, the board, at a June session, by a unanimous vote, decided to go right ahead with the work. Supervisors Webster, Hill, Brice, Eagan and Everden were appointed a committee to select and recommend a building committee. They selected as such com-

mittee—S. W. Ambler and D. C. Johnson, Ithaca; Sidney Thompson, North Star; D. O. Cuff, St. Louis; Ira W. Montague, Fulton.

Henry W. Shaw, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor vice Silas C. Crossman, removed from the county.

October 8, 1877. Chairman, E. W. Kellogg, of Newark. Floyd E. Martin, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of Henry W. Shaw, deceased.

The jail building committee reported as to progress made, showing that about $5,000 would be required, in addition to the $4,000 already voted, to finish the building. The jail and sheriff's residence, under consideration, was the building still in use, in that capacity. The ground upon which it is located had been known as block 8, lying on the east of what was then called the court house square, and with a narrow street, or perhaps more properly, an alley, running between them. The committee, paid $1,000 for the block, and the Village of Ithaca loosened up enough to donate its rights to the alley and consent to having it taken up, and also threw in the village lock-up.

The contract for enclosing the jail had been let to L. C. Davidson & Co., of Grand Rapids, at $5,271, and that part of the work was done. The committee figured that it would take $5,000 to finish it for occupancy as a jail and sheriff's residence. After various motions and amendments had been disposed of, the outcome was that the board came to a determination to submit to the electors a proposition to bond for $6,000, at a special election to be held November 27, 1877. The proposition was so submitted, resulting in its defeat by a vote of 578 to 504; majority against seventy-four.

At the session beginning January 7, 1878, A. M. Haynes was engaged to act as circuit court stenographer at $10 per day of actual service.

The jail question was referred to a special committee consisting of Supervisors Heslin, of Washington; Hicks, of Bethany; Webster, of Fulton; Smith, of Wheeler, and Bentley, of Sumner. This committee made its report, which, as a basis for many motions and much oratory, resulted in the adoption of a resolution offered by John M. Everden, of Emerson, to submit the question of raising $6,000, by bonding, to the electors in April, 1878. When the time for the election arrived, the voters were present with their war paint on, and again defeated the bonding proposition, this time by a vote of 1,471 to 1,284; a majority of 187.

Session commencing October 14, 1878; E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, chairman. A special committee composed of Supervisors Long, of Washington; Cuff, of Pine River, and Wilson, of Sumner, was appointed to investigate the matter and see what was best to be done to bring about the completion of the jail. The committee reported at the session of January, 1879.

Wm. Marlow was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed himself. The superintendents reported that the whole number of inmates in the County House during the year was 27; average, 14. The number temporarily aided was 189.

The supervisors were not pleased with the town drain law, and asked the legislature to repeal it.

At the session of January, 1879, about the first thing to be considered was a petition from seventy-five residents of Fulton, asking that the salaries of supervisors and county officers be cut down twenty-five per cent. Laid on the table till next day, at which time it was taken from the table, and then the board immediately adjourned till afternoon. In the afternoon Mr. Long moved that salaries be reduced twenty per cent. Laid on the table till tomorrow. Thus the board came at the matter by degrees, as it were:

as they could seem to stand it. Next day the matter was taken up and a motion and a vote fixed the supervisors' salaries at $2.50 per day. Then the sheriff's and deputies per diem were reduced twenty per cent. Then a halt was called, and the committee on salaries was instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing county officers' salaries twenty per cent. While the committee was cogitating over the "expediency," the board got busy and fixed salaries as follows: Treasurer, clerk, judge of probate and prosecuting attorney, $800 each. This was a reduction of nearly six per cent. each on three of them, and nothing on the fourth. Not an immense stride in the direction of economy and retrenchment, but it was in that direction, anyway. Possibly a suggestion thirty years later to reduce salaries wouldn't have achieved any greater results.

It was shown at this session that about one-fourth of Elba Township had never been surveyed, owing to the townships having quite an area of impenetrable and unnavigable swamp land within its borders. A resolution was passed, asking the legislature to have it surveyed by the state, it being state swamp land.

D. W. Altenburg was appointed drain commissioner; 13 to 3.

Supervisor Long, from the special committee to consider the question of the best way to finish up the jail, reported, recommending that the proposition to raise by taxation in the year 1879, the sum of $4,000, be submitted to the people at the succeeding spring election. By resolution it was so ordered.

At the June session, 1879, E. W. Kellogg was chosen chairman. A canvass of the vote on the proposition to raise by tax in 1879 the sum of $4,000 with which to complete the jail and sheriff's residence showed that 2,314 electors had voted in favor of the proposition, and 952 against it: a favorable majority of 1,351.

Wm. S. Turck, J. H. Seaver and C. E. Webster were appointed a committee to superintend the completion of the jail. They entered into bonds of $5,000, to be personally responsible for all sums expended on the jail over and above the $4,000 voted.

The supervisors were confronted with a perplexing condition. The state supreme court had recently rendered a decision holding that the statute providing that all property must be assessed at its true cash value, was mandatory and must be strictly complied with. The practice had been to ostensibly comply with the requirements of the law, but really each supervisor had been a law unto himself, and, in the hope of keeping taxes down in his own township, would assess as low as his hopes and fears would allow him to, with a tendency downward with each succeeding year. Or, amounting to the same thing, if they did not actually reduce the assessment of the same property from year to year, they failed to increase their valuations to an extent commensurate with the march of improvements and the consquent increase in values. Of course the bunch in each county had to equalize the townships in such a way as to meet the views of enough members to secure for it a majority vote for its adoption. And the result was, generally, that there would be much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth among the minority.

The delegate to the meeting of the State Board of Equalization, as a loyal and astute representative, would then go through the same routine in behalf of his county that the supervisor did in behalf of his township—do his best to keep his county's rating low and all the others high. It is but fair to say, however, that Gratiot County has had one representative to the Board of State Equalization, who took the opposite method, and gave his county a great send-off as the best county in the state, and gave the

board to understand that he and his constituents craved their full share of taxation. But nearly everybody knew that it was all for the same object, the expectation being that the board would admire his bluff and his generosity, and would show their appreciation of his open candor and faith, in a reciprocal display of leniency by giving his county a low rating. Perhaps the county has had more than one of that kind. There may have been two or three of them.

The decision of the supreme court gave supervisors a distinct surprise. Gratiot's supervisors got together and gave orders that supervisors should make out new tax rolls, and turn over a new leaf by putting the valuations up nearer to where they should be. It was one certain supervisor's first year, and he was one of the most honest and conscientious men in the world; but it was found that in following precedent generally, and the old tax rolls of the township in particular, combined with his own individual desire to give his townsmen a fair deal, he had assessed at a rate that required a special remedy. So he was directed or made to believe it was his best way, to multiply every detail of his assessment by two. This he did, thus doubling every person's assessment, and, of course, though inconsistently, incurring the wrath of all who "caught on" to the fact. It was his first and his last year; and he was just as pleased to quit as his constituents were to have him quit.

In recent years the state tax commission is doing something to remedy the matter, and methods and results are improving.

At the October session of 1879, the special committee—Turck, Webster and Seaver—appointed to finish the jail, reported that the job was completed at a cost of $3,855, leaving a balance of $145 in the fund.



COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE.

The jail question was first broached at the session of January, 1877, and the first installment of funds was voted in April of that year. So it took the greater part of three years to build it. And behold, is it not standing to this day, a monument to the perseverance of the supervisors and the good sense—though considerably delayed—of the people! And though it is not necessary to say it here, it may not be out of place to say it, that the building, in its fine location and with its beautiful surroundings of shade trees and lawn, is a credit to the county. Sheriffs can hardly be blamed for working hard for the right and privilege of living there; and if the same cannot plausibly be said for the culprits who bring up within its walls, it can at least be presumed that the sting of prison life must be greatly alleviated by the opportunity afforded for living—if only for a brief time—in such a pleasant resort, with so many attractions. Of course these observations are not history, in a strict sense, but they are thrown in to serve as a relief station on the dry and dusty road along which the reader has to travel in getting through this continued story, so largely statistical and unexciting.

At this October, 1879, session, the board appointed Parmer R. Phillips, of Ithaca, superintendent of the poor.

At the session commencing January 5, 1880, L. S. Ferris and Samuel H. Stevens, of Sumner, petitioned for the privilege of constructing a dam across Pine River at the Village of Sumner. Referred to the committee on roads and bridges, and granted later.

The board, by this time, had recovered from its economical attack of a year previous, and it now restored that six per cent. to the officers salaries, making them read $850 for each of the four—treasurer, clerk, judge of probate and prosecuting attorney.

It was ordered that the proceedings be let to the lowest bidder, for publication, the cost not to exceed legal rates.

The session of October, 1880, was presided over by E. W. Kellogg, of Newark.

John Shelt, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent of the poor.

C. M. Spaulding, of Grand Rapids, was engaged as official stenographer for the circuit court, to receive $10 per day.

At the session of January, 1881, Thos. H. Harrod, of North Star, was appointed drain commissioner.

The board adopted a resolution calling upon the legislature to appropriate state swamp lands to aid in removing obstructions—bars, shoals, etc.—from the channel of Maple River. The legislature donated ten sections of swamp lands for the purpose named.

### New Township Created.

The legislature of 1881 passed a special act creating the Township of Ithaca. It is made up of four sections of land at the geographical center of the county—taking section one of Newark, section six of North Star, section thirty-one of Emerson, and section thirty-six of Arcada. Ithaca Village occupies the center of the township. It may be stated that the principal object to be gained by the organization of this new township was the much greater convenience afforded the people of the four sections interested in getting to the elections. The large population of the Village of Ithaca was located in four different townships, and, of course, at every township election and at every general election the electors of the village were compelled to abandon their homes, vacate the village, and go six miles in four different directions to cast their ballots. So the change was a great convenience to the people of Ithaca. It was an advantage, also to every one of

the four townships from which Ithaca Township was taken, as it gave them better control of their own local affairs and interests. The large voting population at Ithaca Village was conducive to a tendency to dominate township matters, thus making it possible to advance certain local interests to the detriment of other interests located elsewhere. It is all easy to see and needs no further elaboration.

At the June session, 1881, E. W. Kellogg, chairman, the new township was represented by its first supervisor, A. W. Russell.

Chas. H. Morse, of New Haven, was chosen delegate to the meeting of the State Board of Equalization.

The proceedings of the board were given to the Journal and Democrat, Ithaca, and the Herald, St. Louis, for publication at three-fourths legal rates, divided according to circulation.

October 10, 1881. A petition signed by seventy dissatisfied people was received, asking for the removal of the county drain commissioner. No action was taken. Drain commissioners in those days traveled no flowery path to popularity and glory any more than they do in these later days.

Wm. Marlow, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed himself.

Ervin H. Ewell, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed John Shelt, removed after an investigation conducted by a committee composed of Supervisors Morse, Webster and Weiss.

The proceedings were ordered published by the Gratiot Journal, St. Louis Leader and St. Louis Herald for $100 divided in proportion to circulation.

At the session of January, 1882, Drain Commissioner T. H. Harrod tendered his resignation and it was accepted.

Samuel C. Robinson, of New Haven, was appointed drain commissioner.

Supervisor Morse introduced a resolution declaring the Maple Rapids dam a great detriment to Gratiot County, in that it caused a great overflow of the lands along Maple River, by which much sickness was engendered, and thousands of acres of land rendered worthless. Continuing, the resolution recited the fact that the legislature had appropriated ten sections of land in aid of the work of dredging and deepening the channel, and that the work would be useless if not impossible of accomplishment unless the dam was removed; therefore, calling upon the State Board of Health to investigate the situation and the conditions with the view of having the dam declared a nuisance, and removed. Adopted.

Geo. W. McHenry, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of E. H. Ewell, who resigned to accept a government position on the Capitol police force at Washington, D. C.

A special session of the supervisors was held February 28, 1882, to take action in the Maple Rapids dam matter, the dam having been declared a nuisance by the State Board of Health. Supervisors Chas. E. Webster, B. A. Hicks, E. W. Kellogg, Chas. H. Morse, A. W. Russell and Jerry D. Thompson, on whose petition the special meeting was called, were appointed a committee to recommend suitable action to be taken in the matter. They recommended the appointment of a committee of five to proceed to take such action as would seem best for the interests of the county, even to the extent of bringing action in the courts if necessary. They also recommended the appropriation of $1,000 to defray the expenses of whatever action should be taken. All of which was adopted by a vote of 16 to 1; Supervisor Weiss alone voting against the propositions. The committee of five was then appointed as follows: Supervisors C. E. Web-

ster, of Fulton; W. D. Tucker, of Bethany; C. H. Morse, of New Haven; E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, and Prosecuting Attorney Chas. J. Willett.

October 9, 1882, Wm. Brice, of North Shade, chairman. P. R. Phillips, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed himself.

Salaries were fixed as follows: Clerk, $800; treasurer, $800; prosecuting attorney, $850; judge of probate, $1,100.

At the January session, 1883, a resolution introduced by Supervisor Sidney Thompson, of North Star, was adopted, instructing the county treasurer to charge three per cent. interest for county funds in banks, and turn the same into the contingent fund.

October 8, 1883, Wm. Brice, chairman. A. N. Martin, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor.

The board appropriated $75 for publishing the proceedings, to be divided equally between the Ithaca Journal, Ithaca Times, St. Louis Herald, St. Louis Democrat and St. Louis Leader.

January 7, 1884. S. C. Robinson was appointed drain commissioner to succeed himself.

At the session of October, 1884, Wm. Brice, of North Shade, was chosen chairman.

The committee on ways and means recommended that the board borrow $9,000 to pay indebtedness and defray expenses until taxes would be coming in, the following December. Adopted. So a shortage of funds occurring now and then in these later days is no new thing.

Citizens of Ithaca petitioned the board to aid the Agricultural Society; otherwise it was likely to lose its grounds and improvements. So the board voted the Society a tax levy of ten cents on the $1,000; a donation of $350.

Chas. E. Webster was appointed superintendent of the poor.

A resolution to pay Garrett K. Cruson, of Lafayette, $309.25, to reimburse him for money spent on account of wounds received while protecting public money when he was township treasurer of Lafayette, was laid on the table. At the following January session it was taken from the table and passed.

January 5, 1885. The board received seven petitions, largely signed, asking for the removal of Drain Commissioner S. C. Robinson. Referred to the committee on drainage. The committee afterward asked permission to withdraw the petitions, which was granted, and the petitions were withdrawn. All of which makes the matter "as clear as mud."

A petition was received from Dr. J. F. Suydam, of Alma, asking that A. N. Martin be removed from the office of superintendent of the poor; and preferred charges. The trouble was ventilated before the full board, sworn evidence being introduced. The board decided that the charges were not sustained.

A special meeting of the board was held June 8, 1885. Wm. Brice was elected chairman by a vote of 16 to 1.

The chairman stated the object of the special session was to provide funds to carry on necessary business. The shortage was an account of the county now having to carry the delinquent taxes, instead of the state, as heretofore, etc., etc. The board borrowed $10,000 on an order payable in eight months and bearing interest at seven and one-half per cent.

At the session commencing October 12th, 1885, a committee composed of C. E. Webster, A. W. Russell and Wm. Brice, which had charge of the building of an addition to the County House, reported that a brick additon had been built, 32 by 45 feet on the ground and two stories high, at a cost of $2,472.77, Fred Kinkerter doing the job.

At this session came a suggestion and a resolution to the effect that medical attendance for the poor of the county should be let to the lowest bidder; the letting to be by districts, each township and the county house to constitute a district—18 districts in all. The resolution was laid on the table. At the session a year later—October, 1886—the system was adopted.

P. R. Phillips was chosen superintendent of the poor to succeed himself.

Once more the supervisors had to resort to a loan to pay indebtedness and keep business going. The loan this time was $15,000.

### Abolished Another Office.

January 4, 1886. A resolution was introduced by Supervisor Pepple, of Emerson, to the effect that it was not necessary to appoint a county drain commissioner. This was adopted, and the office left vacant. A resolution by Supervisor Chambers, of New Haven, made it the duty, or perhaps privilege, of township drain commissioners to finish all drains laid out by the county drain commissioner, and the resolution was adopted.

In accordance with the provisions of an act of the legislature, passed at its last session, the board appointed agents to attend to the burial of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors in the several townships as follows: Ithaca, A. W. Russell; Elba, Daniel Gower; Hamilton, Wm. Stahl; Lafayette, Chas. C. Hamlin; Wheeler, Joseph Brumby; Washington, N. B. Bowker; North Star, S. D. Belding; Emerson, N. M. Showers; Bethany, Rev. W. C. Calland; Fulton, T. B. Musser; Newark, J. L. Richard; Arcada, G. S. Ward; Pine River, C. H. Crandall; North Shade, John O. Clark; New Haven, C. H. Morse; Sumner, Seneca Sly; Seville, N. B. Bradley.

June 14, 1886, Marvin R. Salter, of Ithaca, chairman.

Darius Reid, of Arcada, was appointed to represent the county at the meeting of the State Board of Equalization.

October session, 1886. The Village of Ashley was incorporated by resolution of the board, based on a petition of the inhabitants interested. November 11, 1886, was the date designated for the first election.

A schedule of salaries was adopted as follows: Prosecuting attorney, $600; clerk, $800; treasurer, $800.

A. N. Martin was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed himself, by a vote of 16 to 0.

The Journal, Herald and Corner (Elm Hall) Local, to publish the proceedings at $25 each.

The session of January, 1887, was presided over by Darius Reid, of Arcada, elected by acclamation, by a unanimous vote.

By this time drain matters, without a county drain commissioner, began to work unsatisfactorily, particularly where the drains extended through different townships and into adjoining counties. So a resolution was adopted restoring the office, and Sidney S. Hastings, of St. Louis, was appointed drain commissioner.

The proposition submitted to the voters of the state, at the April election, 1887, for the adoption or rejection of an amendment to the state constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, received a large favorable majority in the county though it was defeated in the state. The vote in Gratiot County was—yes, 3,648; no, 1,607; majority in favor of the proposition, 2,041.

At the October session, 1887, Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville, was chosen chairman.

Chas. E. Webster, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent of the poor, 17 to 0.

A petition was received from citizens of Estella Village asking to have the name of their village changed to Sumner, to correspond with the name of the postoffice. The village had been platted and named Estella in 1868. The request was granted.

The Advance and the Journal of Ithaca, and the Herald of St. Louis, were given the printing of the proceedings at $30 each.

The plan of letting the medical treatment of the poor to the lowest bidders, by townships, was not satisfactory to all the people. Supervisor Kimes, of North Star, offered a resolution to discontinue the system, but it was voted down.

By another resolution by Supervisor Miller, of Bethany, the board decided to continue the practice.

A special meeting of the board of supervisors was held November 8, 1887, for the purpose of correcting some irregularities in the equalization as adopted at the October session. A two-days' session was held.

At the session of January, 1888, the question of local option was submitted to the people, to be voted on at a special election to be held February 13, 1888. A canvass of the votes February 14, 1888, showed as follows: For local option, 2,747; against local option, 495; majority, 2,252.

In the following May the local option law was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

There was enough done at the session of January, 1888, to furnish $60 worth of printing, which was divided equally between the Gratiot Journal, Gratiot Herald, Alma Record and St. Louis Leader.

October 8, 1888. Supervisor Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville, was made chairman.

P. R. Phillips was appointed poor superintendent to succeed himself, the vote being 16 to 0.

It was determined to continue the system of letting the medical care of the poor to the lowest bidders, by townships.

The job of publishing the proceedings was given to the Gratiot Journal, Gratiot Herald, Alma Record, St. Louis Leader and St. Louis Press, at $20 each.

At the session commencing January 7, 1889, a proposition to appoint a probate register was voted down.

A special meeting held April 17, 1889, to take action to defend a suit brought by H. M. Aylesworth against the county to collect payment of drain orders given in 1871—73 on the construction of the Newark and Arcada drain. Attorney Chas. J. Willett, of St. Louis, was employed to assist Prosecuting Attorney Byron H. Sawyer in the defense.

Supervisor Wesley J. Miller, of Bethany, was chosen chairman of the board.

October 14, 1889. A. N. Martin, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed himself. The superintendents were instructed to re-let contracts for the medical treatment of the poor, by townships to the lowest bidders.

Jesse Pepple, of Emerson, was appointed county drain commissioner to succeed S. S. Hastings.

All supervisors were instructed to levy a tax of one-tenth of a mill on a dollar for a soldiers' relief fund; resolution by D. O. Cuff, of Pine River.

The Ashley Gleaner was let in on the job of printing the proceedings; also the St. Louis Republican.

At the session of January, 1890, Attorneys Willett and Sawyer reported progress in the suit of Aylesworth against the county to collect on the Newark and Arcada drain orders.

A petition was received asking the board to re-build the Bridgeville bridge, and to fill in the flats on the north side of the bridge proper, a long space that had previously been planked. The committee on roads and bridges reported unfavorably, and the petition was refused, for the reason that the section of highway under consideration was a part of the Saginaw, St. Louis & St. Johns State Road, and consquently the county was not under obligations to keep it repaired.

Alanson J. Brown, of Ithaca, was appointed drain commissioner, Jesse Pepple, who was appointed at the October session of 1889, having declined the appointment.

Washington and Fulton Townships were authorized to raise $2,000 each to defray the expense of rebuilding the Bridgeville bridge. This was adopted after voting down a proposition to charge the expense of rebuilding to the Townships of Washington, Fulton, North Star, Newark and Ithaca. This latter proposition was based on the presumption that the townships named were the most interested in having the bridge kept up.

October, 1890. Hiram Haring, of North Shade, was chosen chairman.

A petition was received numerously signed, asking for action on the part of the board in the matter of rebuilding Bridgeville bridge, and suggesting that the expense of the undertaking be apportioned to the townships according to their respective interests. Referred to the committee on roads and bridges. The committee reported favorably, recommending that a committee of three disinterested persons be appointed to apportion the cost among the townships according to the townships' interests. The report was laid on the table, and afterward taken up and rejected.

The Alma News was a new candidate for some of the printing fees, being given an even showing with the Ithaca Herald, St. Louis Independent and the Ashley Gleaner.

January session, 1891. A resolution was introduced which provided for abolishing the office of secretary of the board of school examiners, and also the township boards of review. Referred to the committee on resolutions and afterward adopted.

The board adjourned to January 26, 1891, at which time a special committee composed of Smith, Meacham and Coon, which had been appointed to investigate charges against Jerry Davis, the keeper of the county farm, reported that they had made a thorough investigation and had found the charges absolutely without foundation. The report was adopted.

### First County School Commissioner.

June session, 1891. The membership of the board was increased by the addition of a representative from the newly chartered City of St. Louis. By the act of incorporation the city assessor was made a member of the board of supervisors. Stephen Ostrander, Sr., was the first representative from the City of St. Louis.

Hiram Haring, of North Shade, was chosen chairman of the board.

The legislature, at its recent session, had made important changes in the school laws. The new law enacted at that time, has remained substantially the same to the present time. The board, at its June session, 1891, elected the first county school commissioner in the person of Orin G. Tuttle, who received fifteen votes. J. N. McCall and Fred Fullerton were appointed school examiners for two and one years, respectively.

The salary of the school commissioner was fixed at $1,200.

The board inaugurated the scheme for publishing its proceedings that has been in vogue ever since, in substance—letting one publisher have the job at a stipulated price, and he to furnish the printed proceedings in supplement form to all other publishers in the county for circulation among their subscribers. By this method each publisher can put the matter before his readers at slight expense, the result being that the doings of the board of supervisors go into a majority of the families in the county.

Supervisor Gaylord Helms, of Emerson, was elected delegate to the meeting of the State Equalization Board at Lansing.

October session, 1891. A committee consisting of N. Smith, of Wheeler; S. Ostrander, of St. Louis, and Jas. W. Payne, of Fulton, was appointed to consider and report on the question of adding 80 acres of land to the County Farm, by purchase. Later, at the same session the committee reported that the land in question could be bought for $3,200, with a payment of $700 down and the balance on time. The committee recommended the purchase, and their recommendation was adopted.

J. W. Harrod, of Ithaca, was appointed county drain commissioner.

Ira W. Montague was appointed superintendent of the poor.

A local option election was held January 25, 1892, the proposition carrying by a vote of 1990 to 851. Afterward, the matter being carried to the supreme court, that tribunal set aside the election, on the ground that the supervisors' canvass of the vote, declaration and official record of the result, were not signed by the chairman and clerk of the board until some time after the final adjournment of the board.

October 10, 1892, C. W. Martin, of Ithaca, chairman.

Up to this session party lines had not been strictly observed in the formation of the committees. The new chairman, however, inaugurated a new system, by adhering strictly to party lines in announcing the committees, every chairmanship being given to the republicans. No matter how long or how valuable his services may have been, the democrat was placed at the fag end of the committee, while the republican was given the more responsible position at the head of the committee, no matter how new and inexperienced he might be. It had nothing to recommend it but the most partisan bias—if that could be termed a recommendation—but the system has been pretty generally adhered to even since, no matter which party had the majority.

N. Scott Baldwin, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor. Martin W. Coon, of Washington, was appointed county school examiner.

The contract for lighting the court house and jail by electric light was ordered renewed for one year at a cost of $120.

A resolution introduced by Supervisor Helms, to the effect that supervisors should be paid only for actual attendance at the sessions of the board, was voted down—11 to 7.

Nothing of importance beyond the ordinary routine business came before the board at its session of January, 1893.

The session beginning October 9, 1893, was presided over by C. W. Martin, of Ithaca.

T. A. Ely, of Alma, was appointed superintendent of the poor to succeed C. E. Webster.

A. S. McIntyre, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor to fill a vacancy.

At the session of January, 1894, no business of a striking nature was transacted, only routine business occupying the attention of the board.

October, 1894. C. W. Martin was chosen chairman.

The report showed live stock on the County Farm of the value of $509. Value of produce raised in 1894, $1,139.34. Number of inmates during the year, 57. Present number, 41. For indebtedness, interest on mortgage and for repairs, about $2,000 was asked for, and $7.000 for the support of the poor.

Jesse Pepple was appointed superintendent of the poor.

Will M. Coon was appointed county school examiner.

Ithaca Village authorities offered to donate $500 if the supervisors would appropriate a like sum for the purpose of improving the court house grounds by grading, etc., and putting in water works. The board accepted the proposition and the sheriff, clerk and judge of probate were appointed to cooperate with the villarge council in carrying out the work.

At the January session of 1895, E. P. Potter was elected temporary chairman, and then voting commenced for permanent chairman. The day was spent in balloting, and was resumed the next day, when, on the 64th ballot, D. L. Sharrar, of Arcada, was elected, receiving 11 votes to 6 for Gaylord Helms, of Emerson. The strife was between republican members, as that party had a majority on the board.

October, 1895. Another spirited and prolonged contest for chairman, caused by an overplus of ambitious members of the republican faith, that party having a majority on the board. Elon P. Potter, of Hamilton, was the winner, but it took 48 ballots to decide the matter.

The County Farm began to show crop returns worth mentioning, the report showing as follows: Wheat, 380 bushels; oats, 706 bushels; corn, 2,000 bushels; potatoes, 400 bushels; onions, 120 bushels; beets, 100 bushels; carrots, 300 bushels; other roots, 1,000 bushels. Live stock as follows: one pair of oxen, five cows, nine head young cattle, 36 hogs, 16 sheep, 50 turkeys, 200 chickens.

A. S. McIntyre was elected superintendent of the poor.

A. J. Brown was elected drain commissioner.

J. N. McCall was elected school examiner.

### Four Supervisors from St. Louis.

The session of January, 1896, developed nothing more exciting than the ordinary routine business.

But what the January term lacked in excitement was made up at the June session, when four supervisors appeared with credentials from the City of St. Louis—one from each ward. Previous to this, from the time of its incorporation as a city, St. Louis had been represented by one member—the city assessor. The city's amended charter that gave it a representative for each ward, and so greatly increased its power and influence on the board was not looked upon with favor by the other portions of the county. It was, therefore, determined to keep them out if possible, and with that view, by advice of the prosecuting attorney the clerk was instructed to not enter their names on the roll as members of the board. On the second day of the session the four were allowed to present their case, Attorney Whitney, of St. Louis, speaking in their behalf. Attorney Stone acted for the prosecuting attorney in the latter's absence. After both sides to the controversy had been presented the board, by a vote of 10 to 7 refused to allow them to sit as members.

City Attorney Leonard, of St. Louis, then took a hand in the game, telephoning over that unless the four were seated, the St. Louis tax rolls would be withheld from the board, and consequently the county would have to get along with its equalizing and taxation operations without any help from St. Louis' large amount of taxable property.

Then the board came back at the city by passing a resolution, presented by Supervisor Meacham, instructing the clerk to notify the mayor and council of St. Louis, that unless the city's assessment rolls were in the hands of the board at an adjourned meeting to be held July 27, 1896, the board would proceed to equalize on the best information procurable from other sources, fixing the valuation of real and personal property in St. Louis accordingly.

Pending the re-convening of the board on July 27th, a writ of mandamus from the circuit court compelled the board to admit the four from St. Louis to seats, and the order was confirmed by the supreme court, when the board took the matter up to that tribunal of last resort.

D. L. Sharrar was chairman of the board.

Leo. J. Schaeffer, of Sumner, was elected delegate to the meeting of the State Board of Equalization.

October 12, 1896. C. Franklin Pike was appointed school examiner.

T. A. Ely was appointed superintendent of the poor.

A board of county canvassers was appointed as provided for at the last legislative session. The appointees were Geo. A. Hafer, of Ithaca; E. P. Potter, of Hamilton, and W. J. Miller, of Bethany. Alternate, Edwin Meacham, of Elba. The pay of the members of the canvassing board was fixed at $3 per day.

Salaries—Clerk, $800; treasurer, $1,000; prosecuting attorney, $1,000; probate judge, $1,200; commissioner of schools, $1,200.

At the January session, 1897, Supervisors Potter, of Hamilton; Barstow, of Ithaca, and Coffin, of Emerson, were appointed a committee to employ attorneys in the case of Aylesworth against the board of supervisors; the case being the long-drawn-out Newark and Arcada ditch litigation.

October 11, 1897, D. L. Sharrar, chairman.

The report showed produce raised on the County Farm as follows, in bushels: Corn, 3,500; oats, 620; wheat, 124; rye, 40; buckwheat, 44; potatoes, 265; roots, 200; hay, 20 tons. The live stock consisted of seven cows; 13 head young cattle; 44 sheep; 60 hogs; 50 turkeys; 180 chickens.

Chas. A. Scholtz, of Wheeler, was appointed drain commissioner.

Fred Fullerton was appointed school examiner.

Jesse Pepple was appointed superintendent of the poor.

At an adjourned session, November 1, 1897, the committee on county officers reported that at the time of the suspension of the Ithaca National Bank, during the present year, Treasurer Otto had $6,860.04 on deposit in that institution; that already a portion of that sum had been paid, leaving still due about $4,000. It seems proper to state here that the bank finally paid all its obligations; and furthermore that the present Ithaca National Bank has no relationship to the suspended bank, either near or remote.

At the term commencing January 3, 1898, a communication was received from the Ingham County Board of Supervisors, inviting the board to send a delegate to a supervisors' convention to be held at Lansing, February 1, 1898. The board selected D. L. Sharrar, of Arcada, to represent Gratiot County at the convention.

October session, 1898, D. L. Sharrar, chairman.

Wm. A. Bahlke, of Alma; C. W. Giddings, of St. Louis, and F. E. Durfee, of Fulton, were appointed a committee to see about compiling an index to title of all lands in Gratiot County, the same being recommended as a great convenience and time-saver.

C. F. Pike, was elected school examiner, 19 to 2.

A. S. McIntyre was elected superintendent of the poor, 19 to 2.

County canvassers were appointed as follows: E. Meacham, of Elba; C. J. Chambers, of New Haven; E. M. Becker, of Lafayette; alternate, F. P. Merrill, of Ithaca.

A petition was received from Parker Merrill, of St. Louis, and John R. Wilson, clerk, asking permission to construct a dam across Pine River, below St. Louis, for the purpose of furnishing power to operate an electric light plant, etc., at St. Louis. The petition was granted.

At the January, 1899, session, Leo J. Schaeffer, of Sumner, was elected chairman, receiving 10 out of the 18 votes cast; the number of members-elect being 21.

F. E. Durfee, of Fulton, was elected to the meeting of the Supervisors' Association at Lansing, February 7, 1899.

October session, 1899, F. E. Durfee, chairman.

The Alma Sugar Co. extended an invitation to the board to visit and inspect its new sugar factory, offering free transportation and entertainment. Accepted.

### New Court House Discussion Started.

The question of building a new court house had begun to be discussed by the people of the county, the feeling being quite prevalent that the old building was inadequate to the transaction of the county's business, and that the valuable county and court records required better protection than was furnished by the offices and vaults of the old building. Up to the time of the session of October, 1899, the board had taken no steps in the matter. On the fifth day of the session—October 13th—the matter was bruoght forcibly to the attention of the board by a delegation of Alma citizens with a proposition for the removal of the county seat to Alma, and the erection of a new court house at that place.

The action of the board immediately following this inauguration of the matter, and continuing till the completion of the court house, is chronicled in another place and under a different heading, in this volume. Other business of the board is continued here.

Newton Burns, of Bethany was appointed county drain commissioner.

Lester H. Hayt, of Alma, was appointed superintendent of the poor.

Joseph M. Hoxie, of Fulton, was appointed school examiner.

The committee on county buildings recommended that the wooden part of the County House be removed and a brick building erected in its place. Adopted, and $2,000 appropriated for the purpose

The Gratiot County News was given the printing of the proceedings and furnishing supplements to the other papers, at $50.

A special meeting of the board was held April 19, 1900, for the purpose of canvassing the vote taken at the April election on the question of issuing bonds in the sum of $34,000 for the purpose of building a new court house. Frank L. Pressley, of Newark, was chosen chairman.

The result showed, for the loan, 4,058; against the loan, 2,311; majority for the loan, 1,747. Gordis Smith, J. M. Williams and C. J. Chambers were appointed a bonding committee. J. Marks, J. L. Smith and F. P. Merrill were appointed a building committee.

At an adjourned meeting held June 4, 1900, bids were received for the court house bonds, Spitzer & Co., of Toledo, being the highest bidders—$34,907.60. The bonds to run five years and to draw four per cent. interest, payable semi-annually. The bonds were awarded to Spitzer & Co.

At this same meeting, plans and specifications for the proposed building were submitted by various architects, those of Claire Allen, of Jackson, being approved and adopted by the board.

By a unanimous vote the board ordered the old court house sold at a price not less than $6,000, and to be reserved till the new court house was ready for occupancy.

A special meeting was held July 21, 1900, for the purpose of considering bids for the construction of the court house. A. W. Mohnke, of Grand Rapids, was found to be the lowest bidder, his bid being $39,249. The highest of the seven bids was $58,973. Mr. Mohnke was given the contract.

At the session beginning October 8, 1900. Gaylord Helms was appointed superintendent of the poor.

M. E. Hull was appointed county school examiner.

The following were appointed county canvassers: W. D. Tucker, F. G. Palmer, Henry Bodfish. Canvassers to have a per diem of $4.

A sinking fund for the court house bonds was decided upon, and $6,800 appropriated as a starter.

At the session of January, 1901, a petition was received with thirty-eight signers, asking for the incorporation of the Village of Middleton, the territory to include the whole of section 7, of Fulton Township. A remonstrance against such incorporation was also received, containing sixty-three signatures. Petition and remonstrance were referred to a committee composed of Pitt, of Seville; Williams, of North Star, and Martin, of St. Louis. The committee reported unfavorably on the petition, and the report was adopted by a vote of 11 to 10.

Supervisor Pitt offered a resolution relative to the sparrow bounty, calling upon the legislature to repeal the bounty law, and giving the figures representing the cost to Gratiot County alone in three years: The amount paid in 1898 was $3,804.60; in 1899, $4,465.86; in 1900, $3,291.29; a total of $11,565.75 in three years.

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the board.

A special meeting of the board was held April 25, 1901. E. P. Potter was elected chairman over C. J. Chambers, by a vote of 11 to 10, on the eighth ballot.

Frank M. Harrington, of Ithaca, was appointed a member of the court house building committee in place of F. P. Merrill, resigned, and the building committee was instructed to procure counsel and resume work on the court house, work having been suspended for a time.

At a session of the board held in June, 1901, Newel Smith, of St. Louis, was appointed delegate to the State Board of Equalization.

John Selfridge was appointed janitor of the new court house, with monthly salary of $40.

Jas. Henry, Alice M. Henry and H. J. Tuger, constituting the St. Louis Milling Co., were granted permission to construct a new dam, doing away with the old one.

Prosecuting Attorney Kirby asked permission to employ assistance in the prosecution of the Quimby murder case. Granted.

At the October session, 1901, E. E. Fell was appointed county school examiner.

F. M. Harrington resigned as a member of the court house building committee. Accepted, and then the board appointed a new building committee, consisting of E. P. Potter, of Hamilton; F. M. Harrington, of Ithaca, and E. J. Alverson, of Alma.

County Farm produce in bushels—Wheat, 290; oats, 1,000; corn, 2,000; beans, 60; rye, 62; onions, 52; potatoes, 250; roots, 700; cabbage, 60 heads; hay, 30 tons; millett, 10 tons.

Petitions were presented asking that the local option question be submitted to a vote of the electors of Gratiot County. Referred to a committee—Eli Oswold, of St. Louis; A. H. Maurer, of Newark, and Fred Read, of Fulton. The committee reported favorably, and the election was ordered for April, 1902.

Parker Merrill, of St. Louis, was appointed drain commissioner, receiving 11 votes, to 10 for Newton Burns.

David Duncan was appointed superintendent of the poor—11 votes to 10 for Henry Randolph.

Supervisor Pitt offered a resolution providing for the purchase of eight or ten easy chairs for the old folks at the County Farm. Adopted.

Dr. V. C. Vaughn, of Ann Arbor, was allowed a claim for professional services in the Quimby murder trial.

T. W. Whitney's claim of $1,000 for services as assistant to Prosecutor Kirby in the Quimby murder trial, was allowed at $800.

Newel Smith, of St. Louis, offered a resolution to rescind the vote ordering the submission of the question of local option, for the reason that in passing upon the sufficiency of the petitions the poll lists and registration books had not been consulted. Lost by a vote of 18 to 3.

A special session of the board was held April 14, 1902, with C. J. Chambers, of New Haven, as chairman, to canvass the local option vote. Supervisors Brice, of North Shade; Duff, of St. Louis; Case, of Emerson; Delavan, of Arcada, and Pitt, of Seville, were designated as a committee to canvass the vote, and report. The proposition was defeated, the vote standing 2,753 for the measure and 3,319 against it; an adverse majority of 566.

A special session of the board was held July 28, 1902, for the purpose of attending to a lot of minor matters concerning the new court house.

It was decided to have suitable dedicatory exercises September 10, 1902. Supervisors Harrington, Duff, Delavan, Potter and Fox were appointed a committee to make necessary arrangements.

Ithaca was invited to appoint a committee to act with the committee of supervisors in arranging for the dedication.

At the session of October, 1902, Howard A. Potter was appointed school examiner by a unanimous vote.

The County Farm report showed as follows: Oats 1,234; corn, 2,000; wheat, 483; potatoes, 250; onions, 65; roots, 200; hay, 35 tons; cabbage, 2,800 heads. Live Stock—Cows, 10; young cattle, 12; sheep, 60; hogs, 36; fowls, 150. There was $1,000 in the fund, and $500 worth more live stock and tools than a year ago. The superintendents asked for an appropriation of $1,500 for a new barn.

T. A. Ely was appointed superintendent of the poor.

County canvassers appointed—H. C. Barstow, Chas. Morrow, H. R. Munson.

A resolution offered by Mr. Pitt provided for grading the court house grounds. Adopted.

At the January, 1903, session, E. P. Potter was chosen chairman.

October 12, 1903. E. P. Potter was made chairman without opposition.

Walter E. Swope was chosen school examiner.

Julius B. Kirby presented a claim for $1,800 for services as attorney in the prosecution of cases in behalf of the county. The committee on claims recommended that it be allowed at $1,200. Referred back to the committee. The committee reported it again, this time without recommendation. On motion of Supervisor Harrington, the claim was allowed at footing—$1,800.

Jesse Pepple was appointed superintendent of the poor by a vote of 12 to 9 for G. Helms.

Parker Merrill was appointed drain commissioner by a vote of 12 to 8 for R. M. Palmer.

Supervisor Read offered a resolution to ask the superintendent of public instruction to establish a county normal training school for Gratiot County at Ithaca, as one of the ten provided for by the legislature of 1903; and to appropriate $200 for the maintenance of the school for the coming year. Adopted by a vote of 11 to 10.

At the session of January, 1904, a committee composed of Supervisors Delavan, Read and Richards, was appointed to ascertain the total cost of the court house with its furnishings, etc., complete, reported as follows: Cost of the building, $57,332.68. Salaries of the architect and the superintendent of construction, the decorating, furniture, fixtures, carpets, etc., $16,770.55. Total cost of building and furnishings, $74,103.23.

A resolution by Supervisor Pitt, adopted by the board, instructed Attorneys Stone, Kress and Leet, as attorneys for the county, to enter into a stipulation with Abram B. Knowlson and Henry G. Kraekel with whom the county had suits pending both as plaintiff and defendant, discontinuing all suits, all parties releasing all claim for damages.

October 10, 1904, E. P. Potter, chairman.

A resolution was introduced to submit the County Road System to a vote of the people at the November election, 1904; and then the board rejected the resolution by a unanimous vote.

D. L. Sharrar was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of T. A. Ely, resigned.

R. E. Hughes was appointed superintendent of the poor for the full term.

Howard A. Potter was chosen school examiner.

Chas. Morrow, L. J. Marvin and A. L. Wight were appointed county canvassers.

County officers' salaries—Clerk, $800; treasurer, $1,200; prosecuting attorney, $900; judge of probate, $1,500; school commissioner, $1,200; janitor, $50 per month.

A resolution was offered to give the printing of the proceedings to the Herald and Journal, Ithaca, the Record and Journal, Alma, and the Independent and Leader, St. Louis, supplements to be furnished to the other papers; all for $50. An amendment to substitute the Ithaca News for all the others, and supplements to be furnished to all the others; all for $40, was voted down by a strict party vote. Puzzle: Find the $10.

At the January, 1905 session, a proposition to buy an adding machine for the use of the county offices was adopted, 12 to 9.

A special session was held April 24, 1905. D. L. Sharrar was made chairman on the 31st ballot. Four supervisors appeared from the new City of Alma.

Geo. E. Sharrar of Alma was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of D. L. Sharrar, resigned.

### They Instructed the Court.

Criminal proceedings on one charge and another had been in progress against a Gratiot County citizen for some time, at a very large expense to the county, particularly for extra attorney's fees. Inasmuch as there had been no other visible results but a superabundance of costs, the board had got tired of paying the bills. So it was decided to put on the brakes and give the court a jog. Supervisor Pitt presented a resolution declaring, in

substance that the case mentioned ought to stop by order of the court. That in the opinion of the board no more costs ought to be made. The resolution provided for the appointment of a committee of three to interview the judge and ask him to use his good offices to stop the proceedings. Also to ask the judge to not appoint any more attorneys to assist the prosecuting attorney at the expense of the people, and that hereafter the board would refuse to allow and pay any attorney fee for services in the case.

This was adopted by a vote 21 to 2, Supervisors Tuttle and Munson alone voting in the negative. The committee called for by the resolution was made up of Supervisors Pitt, Stoneman and H. Read. The committee waited upon the judge, presented their case and the resolution, and received in return a lecture from Judge Stone that time will never efface from their memories.

No one will doubt that the supervisors had very great provocation, but it is equally clear that they were very presumptuous in attempting to dictate to the court in a criminal proceeding. They had no difficulty in seeing the obsurdity of their action by the time the judge got through with them.

A special meeting was held August 9, 1905, to take action looking to the installment of a new heating plant for the court house. The steam heating system and plant still in use was adopted by the board, and its installment ordered.

October session, 1905. A proposition to install a town clock in the tower of the court house was adopted, the Village of Ithaca agreeing to assume one-half of the expense.

Supervisor Pitt offered a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to confer with the Pioneer Society and take necessary steps to provide for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the organization of the county, in the year 1906. Supervisors Pitt, Tuttle and Brice were appointed such committee.

E. P. Potter was appointed county drain commissioner.

Walter E. Swope was appointed school examiner.

Geo. E. Sharrar was appointed superintendent of the poor.

Arrangements were perfected with the Ithaca Village Council relative to the town clock proposition, the village to pay one-half of the expense and at the end of five years the clock to become the property of the county exclusively.

At the session of January, 1906, Supervisors Sharrar and Pitt were elected delegates to the State Association of Supervisors.

Supervisor Tuttle presented a resolution providing, in accordance with a statute of 1905, for the appointment of agents in the several townships and cities, for the burial of indigent soldiers and sailors. Adopted, and appointments were made as follows:

Arcada—Henry C. Clark; Bethany—Jonathan W. Salsbury; Elba—David Duncan; Emerson—N. M. Showers; Fulton—T. B. Musser; Hamilton—C. S. Betts; Ithaca—N. G. Sutliff; Lafayette—Richard R. Goward; Newark—A. D. Perkins; New Haven—Samuel Ludwick; North Shade—John McCuaig; North Star—Fred Coss; Pine River—Lyman H. Mapes; Seville—Wm. A. Bradley; Sumner—Seneca Sly; Washington—B. C. Hall; Wheeler—Joseph Brumby; St. Louis—Gilbert E. Hall; Alma—Gerritt S. Ward.

The anniversary committee reported progress and asked for an appropriation of $100 to help defray the expenses of the celebration. Granted. The celebration to be held at Ithaca, July 4, 1906.

At the June session, 1906, John L. Smith of Emerson was chosen chairman, receiving 13 votes to 12 for P. M. Smith of Alma.

Supervisor Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville, was elected delegate to the meeting of the State Board of Equalization, receiving 13 votes to 12 for P. M. Smith.

### Controversy Over County Funds.

At the session of October, 1906, Supervisor P. M. Smith, of Alma, introduced a resolution to regulate the disposition of the county funds in the hands of the county treasurer. The resolution precipitated a long-drawn-out controversy, and litigation that lasted three or four years, the spirit and intent of the resolution finally prevailing.

The resolution in substance was as follows: That the bonds of the treasurer be fixed at $40,000, and that in accordance with the provisions of law such bond should be executed by a surety company, and the cost of the same to be paid by the county. The money in the treasury should then be deposited in such state or national bank or banks in the county as would give to the county the best rate of interest on monthly balances. The money to draw interest at a reasonable rate for the use and benefit of the county, rather than for the benefit of private individuals or corporations. The bank or banks to give ample bonds to said county treasurer for the safe keeping of the funds and for the payment of the interest. The treasurer to immediately advertise for bids, the same to be opened by the treasurer, prosecuting attorney and clerk, and the prosecuting attorney to see that everything was properly and legally done.

The practice had been for the treasurer to deposit where he saw fit, and the county received no benefits from the use of the funds. Certain banks or bankers would go upon the bonds of the treasurer and the latter was presumed to reciprocate by depositing with those banks. Many times it was charged that certain banks at different times would take an active interest in the election of certain candidates with the expectation, if not with the positive understanding, that if elected the official would show a friendly feeling toward such banks. This was natural enough, and it is not meant to charge any particular harm to the transaction. But the result of such procedure was that the county got no returns for the use of its money; and the balances were large at many times. It was said that by the proposed new rule the county would be the gainer by nearly $2,000 a year.

Treasurer Harvey R. Munson, elected at the November election following the adoption of the said resolutions by the board, declined to accede to the demands of the board, and acting under the advice of attorneys, proceeded in the usual way, proposing to give individual bonds as treasurer as had been customary.

Not to go too much into detail, suffice it to say that the treasurer won out by getting an order from the supreme court requiring the board to convene and approve his bond if found sufficient. The board then, at a special session held February 4, 1907, thinking to give the treasurer "cold feet" by placing the amount of his bond out of reach of ordinary bondsmen, fixed it at $100,000, and adjourned to February 18, 1907. But the treasurer and his backers were not at all disconcerted, for at the adjourned session they were on hand with the bonds; and the bondsmen personally present with sworn financial statements aggregating more than $300,000.

The board approved the bonds.

So the treasurer won on the law as it existed. But the board went at it and got a special act through the legislature, applicable to Gratiot County alone, embodying the principles and provisions that they had been contending for. But the treasurer had not reached the limit of his opposition and nerve. He came back at the board with the contention that the special act was unconstitutional, and he would have to be shown before he would

comply. Then the matter had to again go the rounds of the courts, a decision finally coming from the supreme court that the special act was all right and binding. So, well along toward the end of his four-year term Treasurer Munson yielded to the inevitable and took the necessary steps to comply with the wishes and order of the board.

The new system yields about $1,700 a year for the benefit of the general fund of the county; that is to say—for the benefit of the taxpayers of the county.

At this session of October, 1906, Gaylord Helms was appointed superintendent of the poor by a vote of 13, to 12 for Jesse Pepple.

Myron E. Hull was appointed school examiner.

County canvassers appointed: Glenn Du Bois, of Newark; B. M. Coffin, of Emerson; Edgar Follick, of Sumner.

January 7, 1907. John L. Smith, of Emerson, and Perley M. Smith, of Alma were elected delegates to the State Association of Supervisors, by a unanimous vote.

E. Arnold, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of R. E. Hughes, resigned.

October session, 1907, P. M. Smith, of Alma, chairman. M. W. Coon, of Elba, was appointed chairman pro tem.

A petition was received from citizens of Breckenridge asking that the village be incorporated. There was also a remontrance against the proposition. Laid on the table till the January session.

E. Arnold was elected superintendent of the poor for the full term.

H. J. Rose, of Ashley, was elected school examiner.

E. P. Potter was elected drain commissioner.

A. J. Chambers was elected county canvasser to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Glenn Du Bois from the county.

January 6, 1908. The petition and remonstrance relative to the incorporation of the Village of Breckenridge, were taken from the table and referred to a special committee—J. L. Smith, A. H. Lowry and Frank Peach. After due investigation the committee reported favorably on the petition, and the report was adopted by the board, the first election to be held at the opera house in said village, April 9, 1908, Chas. A. Zubler, Chas. Watson, Jesse Hodge and Alex. Chisholm to be inspectors of election.

P. M. Smith and Henry Read were elected to attend the meeting of the State Association of Supervisors.

Petitions were received by the board for the submission of the question of Local Option. These being found correct, the election was held in April, 1908, resulting in the adoption of the measure by a majority of 1,357. The law is still in force in the county.

October session, 1908. John T. Swigart, of Alma, was appointed superintendent of the poor, 13, to 9 for T. J. Clark.

M. E. Hull was appointed school examiner, 13, to 10 for W. E. Hoxie.

County canvassers elected: Clarence Hopkins, I. F. Hilsinger, J. B. Resseguie.

Supervisors McEnderfer, Coon and Pitt, constituting the committee on resolutions, reported, referring to days of destitution in Gratiot, then reciting facts relative to the suffering of the people of Northern Michigan on account of destructive forest fires, recommended that the board appropriate $200 in aid of those sufferers. The recommendation was adopted.

At the January session, 1909, Supervisors J. M. Williams, of North Star and M. W. Coon, of Elba, were elected delegates to attend the meeting of the State Association of Supervisors at Lansing.

A special session was held February 19, 1909, at which Fred Hunter was appointed janitor at the court house.

October 11, 1909, J. L. Smith, chairman.

J. P. Whitman of Ithaca was appointed superintendent of the poor by a vote of 13, to 12 for G. Helms.

Hollie Rose of Ashley was appointed school examiner, receiving 21 votes.

The janitor was allowed a monthly salary of $85.

The County Farm report showed as follows: Horses, 4; hogs, 28; cows, 8; young cattle, 17; sheep, 70; chickens, 200. Produce raised—Wheat, 550; oats, 300; beans, 300; corn, 1,500; potatoes, 250; squash 300; carrots, 75; onions, 60; turnips, 50; tomatoes, 50; cabbage, 3,000 hds.; celery, 300 bunches; hay, 25 tons; sugar beets, 60 tons; apples, 60 bushels. Total value of crops, estimated, $2,700. Number of poor cared for at the farm, 64; helped outside people, 450.

At the January session, 1910, the question of local option again came before the board. Local option having been in force two years in the county, the people were entitled to another vote on the question by taking the proper steps. Of course those opposed to the law were the ones to petition for the submission of the question this time. Petitions with enough signatures were presented to the board, but some of the affidavits relative to their filing with the county clerk were found to be fatally defective, so the board, by a vote of 17 to 8 refused to submit the question to a vote of the people, and the matter being taken to the courts, the board's action was fully sustained.

At the session commencing October 10, 1910, Jas. Gibbs of Newark was chosen chairman.

### On the Death of Supervisor Wm. T. Pitt.

The death of Wm. T. Pitt, for many years supervisor from Seville Township, was announced, and the following resolutions offered by Supervisor P. M. Smith of Alma, were unanimously adopted, and signed by each member of the board:

"Whereas, since the last session of this board the Great Ruler of the Universe has seen fit to call from our midst by death, one of our members, Wm. T. Pitt, and

"Whereas, this board will miss the presence, the genial smile and ever readiness for duty of our deceased member who for many years had his seat among us; now, therefore be it

"Resolved, by this board of supervisors now in session, that we extend to Mrs. Wm. Shong, daughter of our deceased member, our heartfelt sympathy in her irreparable loss, and to the county at large, and the community in which he lived, in the loss of a good citizen; and be it further

"Resolved, that this resolution be entered upon the records of the proceedings of this board, and a copy thereof sent to Mrs. Wm. Shong, and other copies be furnished by the clerk of this board to the several newspapers of the county."

In response to these resolutions Mrs. Bell (Pitt) Shong sent the following acknowledgment, which was ordered spread upon the records of the board:

"I wish to thank you for your kind remembrance to me in these, my sad days. May the good Lord watch over and care for you one and all. and may the knowing of my father help to make each one of you nobler and better men. Wishing that you might believe this little verse that my father posted on his desk—

'I like the man who faces what he must,
With step triumphant and a heart of cheer;
Who fights the daily battle without fear,
Sees his hopes fall, yet keeps unfaltering trust
That God is God, that somehow, true and just,
His plans work out for mortals.'"

Bids were received from several Gratiot County banks, for the custody of the county funds, and the contract was awarded to the Ithaca National Bank for all the funds; the bank to pay interest at 3½ per cent. per annum on average daily balances, said interest to be credited monthly.

At a special session of the board of supervisors commencing January 3, 1911, Edward S. Grice appeared, representing the first ward of St. Louis in place of S. Ostrander, removed from the ward.

A session of the board was held commencing April 11, 1911, in accordance with the provisions of law enacted at the 1911 session of the legislature. A. F. Bollinger of New Haven was elected chairman by a vote of 12, to 10 for Jas. Gibbs of Newark, and one for Geo. M. Whitman of Ithaca.

A session of the board was held commencing June 26, 1911, for the purpose of equalizing the valuations of the townships and cities, and to choose delegates to represent the county at the meeting of the State Board of Equalization to be held at Lansing in August. T. A. Ely of Alma, Fred Bradford of Arcada, and E. S. Owen of Wheeler were chosen delegates.

The valuation of the county as assessed was found to be as follows: Real estate, $13,662,971; personal, $2,194,743; total, $15, 857,714.

At the session of the board commencing April 9, 1912, B. L. Case of Emerson was chosen chairman. Routine business was transacted.

At the October session, 1912, the soldiers' relief commission reported $355.40 expended during the year, leaving a balance of $44.89 in the fund.

Frank E. Ellsworth, superintendent of the Alma schools was elected school examiner. Henry J. Dodge of Ithaca was re-elected superintendent of the poor by acclamation. Chas. A. Van Deventer, W. F. Markham and A. L. Giles were chosen county canvassers by acclamation.

Bids for the custody and use of the county funds were opened, and on motion the Ithaca National Bank was designated as the repository of the funds. Afterward the action was reconsidered and the matter referred to the committee on county officers—Pernert, Swope, Himes. The committee reported recommending that one-fifth of the funds be deposited with each of the following banks: Ithaca National Bank, Gratiot County State Bank of St. Louis, Commercial National Bank of Ithaca, Pompeii State Bank, and First State Bank of Breckenridge. The recommendation was turned down, and then the Ithaca National Bank was designated to take it all at four per cent. interest on daily balances.




**SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY OFFICERS, JAN., 1911.**—No. 1, John B. Rowell, Sheriff; 2, E. C. Grice; 3, Frank Peach; 4, C. E. Going; 5, B. L. Case; 6, L. C. Hull; 7, W. L. Hutchinson; 8, T. J. Clark; 9, T. A. Ely; 10, Henry English; 11, R. W. Brice; 12, H. R. Munson; 13, I. S. Seaver; 14, R. E. Hughes; 15, Fred Bradford; 17, L. M. Sweet; 18, E. C. Owen; 19, F. C. Newton; 20, F. R. Himes; 21, A. P. Lane; 22, A. A. Andrus; 23, C. H. Goggin; 24, A. F. Wright; 25, John Scott; 26, J. M. Williams; 27, C. H. Jessup; 28, James Gibbs; 29, George M. Whitman.

### Equalization of October, 1912.

At this session—October, 1912—the board fixed the valuation of the county at $17,450,000, the townships and wards being equalized as follows:

| | Real Estate | Personal (as assessed) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada— | $ 784,390 | $ 50,610 | $ 835,000 |
| Bethany— | 880,210 | 46,790 | 927,000 |
| Elba— | 579,045 | 70,955 | 650,000 |
| Emerson— | 891,190 | 71,810 | 963,000 |
| Fulton— | 863,700 | 164,300 | 1,028,000 |
| Hamilton— | 424,775 | 35,225 | 460,000 |
| Ithaca— | 797,365 | 306,635 | 1,104,000 |
| Lafayette— | 846,760 | 67,240 | 914,000 |
| Newark— | 819,700 | 80,300 | 900,000 |
| New Haven— | 714,775 | 43,225 | 758,000 |
| North Shade— | 885,585 | 121,415 | 1,007,000 |
| North Star— | 946,635 | 65,365 | 1,012,000 |
| Pine River— | 787,340 | 59,660 | 847,000 |
| Seville— | 584,045 | 65,955 | 650,000 |
| Sumner— | 661,375 | 45,625 | 707,000 |
| Washington— | 730,150 | 81,850 | 812,000 |
| Wheeler— | 799,710 | 87,290 | 887,000 |
| St. Louis— | | | |
| 1st Ward— | $ 123,221 | $ 29,486 | $ 152,707 |
| 2nd Ward— | 474,481 | 39,200 | 514,081 |
| 3rd Ward— | 162,378 | 26,289 | 188,667 |
| 4th Ward— | 232,001 | 37,544 | 269,545 |
| Total St. Louis— | $ 992,081 | $ 132,519 | $ 1,125,000 |
| Alma— | | | |
| 1st Ward— | $ 391,634 | $ 114,300 | $ 505,934 |
| 2nd Ward— | 609,323 | 69,790 | 679,113 |
| 3rd Ward— | 172,063 | 38,950 | 211,013 |
| 4th Ward— | 219,010 | 248,930 | 467,940 |
| Total Alma— | $ 1,392,030 | $ 471,970 | $ 1,864,000 |
| Total Valuation— | $15,381,261 | $ 2,068,739 | $17,450,000 |

Officers' salaries were fixed as follows: Judge of probate, $1,800, without extras; clerk, $800 and fees; treasurer, $1,200 and fees; school commissioner, $1,500; drain commissioner, $1,000; janitor, $90 per month.

By a nearly unanimous vote, the question of the adoption of the county road system was submitted to a vote of the people to be taken in April 1, 1913. Supervisor Case's was the only opposing vote: Supervisors Parrish and Newton absent.

At the election in April, 1913, the county road system was voted down by a vote of 1,827 for, and 2,883 against.

The superintendents of the poor were authorized to expend $1,000 in tiling the County Farm.

At the meeting of the board in April, 1913, Fred Bradford, of Arcada, was elected chairman.

A special committee composed of Supervisors Peach, Russell and Whitman was appointed to consider the matter of making an appropriation to assist in laying a cement pavement on the streets adjacent to the Court House square on the north and west. The committee recommended appropriating $800 for the purpose. Adopted, and Supervisors Russell, Case and Whitman were appointed a committee to look after the county's interests in the construction of the pavement.

# GRATIOT COUNTY ELECTIONS.

## The Vote on Presidential, State and County Officers From 1855 to 1913.

The Act of the Michigan Legislature providing for the organization of the County of Gratiot was passed at the 1855 session of that body, and was approved February 3rd of that year. The act is herewith given in full as it passed the two Houses and received the signature of Gov. Bingham:

AN ACT TO ORGANIZE THE COUNTY OF GRATIOT.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. That the County of Gratiot shall be organized, and the inhabitants thereof entitled to all the rights and privileges to which, by law, the inhabitants of the organized counties of this state are entitled.

Section 2. There shall be elected in the said County of Gratiot on the 1st Tuesday of November, 1855, all the several county officers, to which, by law, the said county is entitled, and said election shall in all respects, be conducted and held in the manner prescribed for holding elections for county and state officers. Provided, that the county officers so to be elected shall be qualified and enter upon the duties of their respective offices on the 1st Monday in January, 1856, and whose constitutional term of office will expire at the time prescribed by the general law.

Section 3. The Board of Canvassers of said county, under this act, shall consist of the *presiding inspectors of election* from each township therein, and said inspectors shall meet at the place where said election shall be held in the Township of Pine River, on the first Tuesday after the election, and organize by appointing one of their number chairman and another secretary of said board, and shall thereupon proceed to discharge all the duties of a board of canvassers in ordinary cases of election for county and state officers.

Section 4. The Sheriff, County Clerk and County Treasurer of said county, to be elected as provided by this act, shall designate a suitable place in the Township of Pine River for holding the circuit court in said county. They shall also designate suitable places in the same township, (as near as practicable to the place designated by them for holding the circuit court) for holding the offices of Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds and Judge of Probate of said county, until the county seat of said county shall be established, and shall make and subscribe a certificate in writing, describing the place thus designated, which certificate shall be filed and safely preserved by the County Clerk; and after such certificate is thus filed, the place thus designated shall be the place of holding the circuit court and county offices until the board of supervisors shall establish the county seat. And it is hereby made the duty of the board of supervisors of said county, *on or after 1860*, to designate and establish the county seat of said county.

Approved February 3, 1855.

The election was held in accordance with the provisions of this act. Up to the time of said election there had been but seven townships organized in the county. North Shade's first election had been held April 3, 1854, and it was the only organized township in the county at the time of the passage of the above-mentioned act. Pine River, Arcada and North Star held their first elections April 2nd, following the passage of the law. Emerson Township got around to hold its first election October 24, 1855, while Fulton and New Haven delayed matters until November 2nd, only four days before the county election which occurred on the 6th of November.

In accordance with the provisions of the legislative act, the meeting of the county canvassing board "was held in Pine River Township, (in Alma), November 13, 1855, in pursuance of Section 3 of Act No. 16, Session Laws of 1855, entitled 'An Act to organize the County of Gratiot.' The said board proceeded to elect a chairman, there being a majority present of the Presiding Inspectors of Election from each township therein."

Francis Nelson, of Arcada, was made chairman and Elijah Porter, of Pine River, secretary. Thereupon the said board, being called to order by said chairman, proceeded to canvass the votes polled for each of the several candidates for office, and the number of votes polled for each was as follows, in the several townships:

It was found that there had been 284 votes polled, the canvass showing the following result:

**Nov., 1855:** Judge of Pro.—John R. Cheesman, 284; Sh.—Geo. E. Walker, 159, Isaac H. Jones, 123; Co. Clk.—Orville M. Wood, 284; Co. Treas.—Ralph Ely, 148, Abram M. Crawford, 120, Joseph B. Smith, 7; Reg. of D.—Henry Lane, 183; Pros. Atty.—Franklin Miller, 108, Benj. Crawford, 96, Marcus Service, 65; Cir. Ct. Com.—Henry Lane, 155, Stephen E. Longyear, 129; Surveyor—Sidney S. Hastings, 284; Coroners—Lewis B. Loomis, 269, Levi Smith, 150, Horace T. Barnaby, 133.

**Nov., 1856:** Since the election of November, 1855, in which only seven townships participated, seven more townships had been organized, and they all took part in this election—14 townships in all. Newark, Washington and Hamilton had come in by resolution of the board of supervisors, January 8, 1856; Elba, Lafayette, Seville and Sumner were served in the same way at a meeting of the board of supervisors held March 3, 1856. All of the new townships held their first elections on the first Monday of the April following. Bethany was a dependency of Pine River, and Wheeler was but a side-issue for Lafayette.

The total vote of the county at this election—November, 1856—was 527. This was the oft-quoted Smoky Fall of '56, and was the first National effort of the Republican party; the Fremont and Buchanan campaign. The voters divided their favors as follows:

Pres.—John C. Fremont, Rep., 388, James Buchanan, Dem., 136; Gov.—Kinsley S. Bingham, Rep., 387, Alpheus Felch, Dem., 138; Cong.—David S. Walbridge, Rep., 394; St. Senator—Stephen H. Warren, 380, Wilber Fisher, 104; Rep.—Jas. Kipp, 387, Jas. W. Ransom, 140; Judge of Pro.—Francis Nelson, 362, Wm. L. Sutherland, 164; Sh.—Homer L. Townsend, 317, Hiram Burgess, 164; Co. Clk.—Henry H. Smith, 322, Orville M. Wood, 198; Treas.—Lafayette Church, 374, Joseph B. Smith, 149; Reg. of D.—Elijah Peck, 356, Henry Lane, 163; Pros. Atty.—Sylvanus Groom, 353, Franklin Miller, 168; C. C. C.—Moses Tompkins, 519; Sur.—Addison R. Hayden, 263, Sidney S. Hastings, 255; Cor.—Horace T. Barnaby, 364, Joseph A. Guthrie, 363, Barlow Worthing, 163, John Knight, 163.

(Whipple Martin, Fulton, chairman of canvassing board.)

Sylvanus Groom was not eligible to the office of prosecuting attorney, not having been admitted to the bar, so the canvassers gave the election to Frank Miller.

At this time Gratiot County belonged to the 30th senatorial district. Candidate Stephen H. Warren, who was successful in the election, was a citizen of Montcalm County. The representative district was made up of the Counties of Clinton and Gratiot. Jas. Kipp, the successful candidate for representative, was a resident of Duplain, Clinton County.

Congressman David S. Walbridge was a resident of Kalamazoo.

Many readers will be interested in knowing how the several townships stood, politically, at this first general election in the county. Here are the figures.

Elba, Rep., 18, Dem., 4; Washington, Rep., 30, Dem., 3; Fulton, Rep., 52, Dem., 36; North Shade, Rep., 45, Dem., 2; New Haven, Rep., 24, Dem., 6; Newark, Rep., 24, Dem., 20; North Star, Rep., 35, Dem., 20; Hamilton,

Rep., 5, Dem., 8; Lafayette, Rep., 13, Dem., 3; Arcada, Rep., 39, Dem., 13; Emerson, Rep., 17 Dem., 12; Sumner, Rep., 22, Dem., none; Seville, Rep., 4, Dem., 3; Pine River, Rep., 59, Dem., 8.

**April, 1858:** The election for circuit judge for the 10th Judicial District of which Gratiot County was a part, resulted as follows:

Wilber F. Woodworth, Rep., 468; John W. Longyear, Dem., 262.

Mr. Woodworth received a majority in the district. He afterward resigned and his place was filled by the appointment of James Birney, of Bay City, by the governor.

(Welcome J. Partelo, chairman of canvassing board.)

**Nov., 1858:** Ralph Ely, of Arcada, was chairman of the board of county canvassers. There were 576 votes cast; a gain of only 49 votes over the election of 1856.

Gov.—Moses Wisner, Rep., 360, Chas. E. Stuart, Dem., 192; Cong., 3rd Dist.—Francis W. Kellogg, Rep., 366, Thos. B. Church, Dem., 191; St. Sen., 30th Dist.—Osmond Tower, 357, Alex. F. Bell, 207; Rep., Gratiot and Clinton—Sylvester Hoyt, 218, David I. Daniels, 319; Sh.—Homer L. Townsend, 280, Joseph B. Smith, 271, J. B. Smith, 15; Clk.—Emery Crosby, 361, Benj. E. Sawtelle, 215; Treas.—Lafayette Church, 394, John W. Howd, 104, Oscar A. Everden, 77; Reg. of D.—Elijah Peck, 389, Henry P. Clark, 184; Pros. Atty.—Israel B. Coats, 372, Isaac Powers, 176; Sur.—Sidney S. Hastings, 347, Addison R. Hayden, 216; C. C. C.—Israel B. Coats, 355, Isaac Powers, 173; Cor.—Horace T. Barnaby, 450, Thos. J. Tann, 364, Geo. E. Gifford, 137.

It will be noticed that the vote on sheriff was quite close. Homer L. Townsend had but nine votes over Joseph B. Smith. But here comes along "J. B. Smith" with 15 votes. No one can doubt that the 15 who voted for J. B. Smith intended to vote for Joseph B. Smith, and thought they were doing so when they voted. If those 15 votes had been counted as the voters intended, Mr. Smith would have been elected, and would have had five votes to spare. According to the strict letter of the law, however, they could not be so counted. Consequently Mr. Smith was defeated by the carelessness or ignorance of his friends. There is documentary evidence to show that the matter caused a lot of interest if not actual excitement among the friends of Mr. Smith. No less than fourteen affidavits were made soon after the election, setting forth the facts that the affiants voted at the election for J. B. Smith, "intending and designing" to vote for Joseph B. Smith, the nominee of the Democratic County Convention, for sheriff. Thus they did what they could to rectify their mistake, but the canvassers evidently ignored their efforts, and following the strict construction of the law, counted in Mr. Townsend. The names of those whose wits came too late to do any good are as follows: Lyman Matthews, Jas. D. Christman, Joseph Bentley, Heman Tyler, Wm. H. Laycock, A. W. Herrick, James Otto, David Carpenter, James Hawkins and D. C. Payne, all of Fulton Township, and Melancton Pettit, Henry Thorp, Erastus C. Farrington and Wm. C. Beckwith, of Emerson Township. The affidavits were all filed with County Clerk Henry Smith, on the 11th day of November, 1858, probably during the session of the canvassing board.

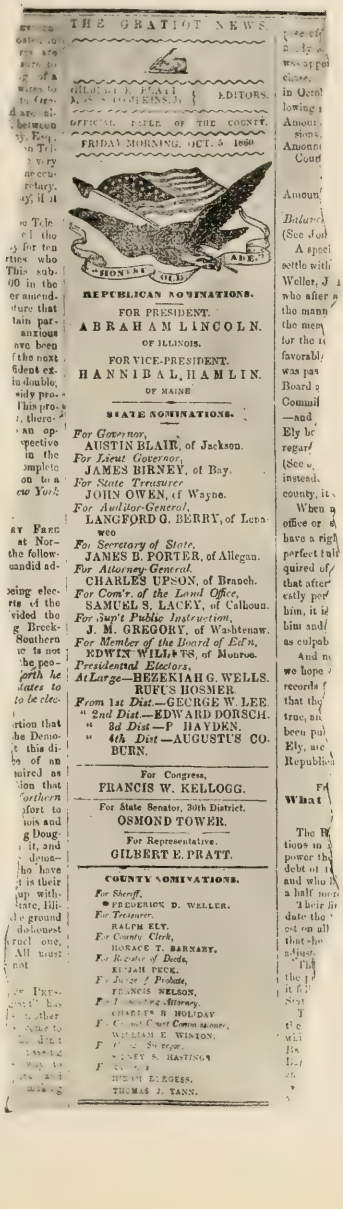
**April, 1859:** Sup. Ct. J.—Geo. Martin, Rep. 449, Alpheus Felch, Dem., 242.

(Sether Dean, ch. of bd. of canvassers.)

## Election of November, 1860.

Here is an interesting souvenir of the epoch-inducing election of 1860; the election immediately preceding the civil war. The old ticket as printed in the Gratiot News of October 5, 1860, has a familiar look to us old fellows; and the individual names all along down from Abraham Lincoln to Thomas J. Tann, would excite emotions in the dullest mind.

The following named gentlemen represented their respective townships on the board of canvassers: Henry P. Howd, of Fulton, chairman; Christopher Dodge, Elba; Geo. E. Walker, North Shade; Andrew J. Allen, Newark; Culwell Martin, North Star; Wm. Barton, Hamilton; Sam. T. Roe, Lafayette; M. Pettit, Emerson; Luther C. Smith, Arcada; Henry Shults, Seville; Fred D. Weller, Bethany; Alonzo Squire, Washington; John A. Crispell, New Haven; Joseph Rockafellow, Sumner; Elijah Porter, Pine River. They found as follows:



THE GRATIOT NEWS.

GILBERT E. PRATT, EDITORS.
A. S. HODGKINS, EDITORS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 5 1860

HONEST OLD ABE.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
OF ILLINOIS.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.
HANNIBAL HAMLIN.
OF MAINE

STATE NOMINATIONS.

*For Governor,*
AUSTIN BLAIR, of Jackson.
*For Lieut Governor,*
JAMES BIRNEY, of Bay.
*For State Treasurer*
JOHN OWEN, of Wayne.
*For Auditor-General,*
LANGFORD G. BERRY, of Lenawee
*For Secretary of State,*
JAMES B. PORTER, of Allegan.
*For Attorney-General.*
CHARLES UPSON, of Branch.
*For Com'r. of the Land Office,*
SAMUEL S. LACEY, of Calhoun.
*For Sup't Public Instruction,*
J. M. GREGORY, of Washtenaw.
*For Member of the Board of Ed'n,*
EDWIN WILLITS, of Monroe.
*Presidential Electors,*
*At Large*—BEZEKIAH G. WELLS.
RUFUS HOSMER.
*From 1st Dist.*—GEORGE W. LEE.
" *2nd Dist.*—EDWARD DORSCH.
" *3d Dist*—P HAYDEN.
" *4th Dist*—AUGUSTUS CO-BURN.

For Congress,
FRANCIS W. KELLOGG.

For State Senator, 30th District.
OSMOND TOWER.

For Representative.
GILBERT E. PRATT.

COUNTY NOMINATIONS.

*For Sheriff,*
FREDERICK D. WELLER.
*For Treasurer.*
RALPH ELY.
*For County Clerk,*
HORACE T. BARNABY.
*For Register of Deeds,*
ELIJAH PECK.
*For Judge of Probate,*
FRANCIS NELSON.
*For Prosecuting Attorney,*
CHARLES B HOLIDAY
*For County Court Commissioners,*
WILLIAM E. WINTON.
*For County Surveyor,*
SIDNEY S. HASTINGS
*For Coroners*
MIRAM BURGESS.
THOMAS J. TANN.

**Nov., 1860:** Pres.—Abraham Lincoln, Rep., 496, Stephen A. Douglas, Dem., 314; Gov.—Austin Blair, Rep., 496, John S. Barry, Dem., 317; Cong.—Francis W. Kellogg, Rep., 485, Thos. B. Church, Dem., 307; St. Sen., 30th Dist.—Osmond Tower, Rep., 492, Frederick Hall, Dem., 313; Rep., Gratiot and Clinton—Gilbert E. Pratt, Rep., 439, Hiram C. Hodge, Dem., 358; Judge of Pro.—Francis Nelson, Rep., 407, John R. Cheesman, Dem., 379; Sh.—Frederick D. Weller, Rep., 436, Joseph B. Smith, Dem., 371; Co. Clk.—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 513, Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 284; Treas.—Ralph Ely, Rep., 472, Lyman T. Cassada, Dem., 323; Reg. of D.—Elijah Peck, Rep., 426, Luther J. Dean, Dem., 247; Pros. Atty.—Chas. B. Holiday, Rep., 318, Israel B. Coats, Ind., 318. (Coats won by lot.) C. C. C.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 605; Sur.—Sidney S.

Hastings, Rep., 524, Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 274; Cor.—Hiram Burgess, 412, Thos. J. Tann, 433, Robert G. Hutchinson, 293, Geo. E. Gifford, 294, Addison H. Mack, 60, Amasa Packard, 50.

Gilbert E. Pratt, elected to the legislature, enlisted the next year, and later died in the service. He was a resident of Gratiot County.

Israel B. Coats died during his term as prosecuting attorney, and Moses Tompkins, Jr., was appointed to the vacancy.

(Edward L. Drake, chairman of board of canvassers.)

**Nov., 1862:** Austin Blair, Rep., 524, Byron G. Stout, Dem., 320; Cong. —Francis W. Kellogg, Rep., 463; St. Sen.—Westbrook Devine, Rep., 381, John Tann, Dem., 239; Rep.—Jas. Gargett, Rep., 440, John R. Cheesman, Union Dem., 365; Sheriff—Frederick D. Weller, Rep., 450, Cornelius Holiday, Union Rep., 377; Co. Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith, Rep., 437, Horace T. Barnaby, Union Rep., 367; Treas.—Elijah Peck, Rep., 462, Lyman T. Cassada, Union Dem., 358; Reg. of D.—Henry P. Howd, Rep., 417, Wm. Long, Union Dem., 413; Pros. Atty.—Moses Tompkins, Jr., Rep., 415, Wm. E. Winton, Union Rep., 389; C. C. C.—Elisha McCall, Union Dem., 417; Sur.— —Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 431, Jas. B. Wheeler, Union Rep., 402; Cor.— Wm. C. Newcomb, 424, Thos. Blumb, 412, Addison H. Mack, 409, Erastus Perry, 382.

Union Dem. and Union Rep. designate those who were nominated at a union or non-partisan convention. Thirty votes cast for plain Moses Tompkins for prosecuting attorney, were counted for Moses Tompkins, Jr., thus giving him a majority. Thrown out, the result would have given W. E. Winton four majority.

(Edward L. Drake, ch. canvassing board.)

**April, 1863:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 424; Dem., 332; Cir. J., 10th Dis.— Jas. Birney, Rep., 429, Jabez G. Sutherland, Dem., 330. Sutherland received a majority in district and was elected. (Thos. B. Lamb, ch. canvassing board.)

**Nov., 1864:** Pres.—Abraham Lincoln, Rep., 571, Geo. B. McClellan, Dem., 368; Gov.—Henry H. Crapo, Rep., 572, Wm. M. Fenton, Dem., 364; Cong.—John F. Driggs, Rep., 574; St. Sen.—Westbrook Devine, Rep., 571, John B. Hutchins, Dem., 373; Rep.—Luther Smith, Rep., 547, John R. Cheesman, Dem., 389; Judge of Pro.—Francis Nelson, Rep., 606, Benj. Crawford, Dem., 388; Sh.—David Bailey, Rep., 619, John Baker, Dem., 398; Co. Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith, Rep., 646; Edson Packard, Dem., 384; Treas. —Elijah Peck, Rep., 612, Roswell Danley, Dem., 400; Reg. of D.—Henry P. Howd, Rep., 630, Wm. Long, Dem., 379; Pros. Atty.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 604, Elisha McCall, Dem., 421; C. C. C.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 606, Elisha McCall, Dem., 415; Sur.—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 632, Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 379; Cor.—Elbridge Franklin, Rep., 625, Hiram Burgess, Rep., 617, Cornelius Campbell, Dem., 385, Wolcott L. Stebbins, Dem., 381. (J. A. Guthrie, ch. canvassing bd.)

**April, 1865:** Sup. Ct. J.—Isaac P. Christiancy, Rep., 455. (Moses H. White, ch. canvassing bd.)

**Nov., 1866.** Gov.—Henry H. Crapo, Rep., 888, Alpheus S. Williams, Dem., 482; Cong., 6th Dist.—John F. Driggs, Rep., 885, Julius R. Rose, Dem., 486; St. Sen., 26th Dist.—David H. Jerome, Rep., 868, John R. Cheesman, Dem., 495; Rep.—Luther Smith, Rep., 894, John Jeffery, Dem., 475; Sheriff—David Bailey, Rep., 881, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 498; Co. Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith, Rep., 855, Samuel N. Miller, Dem., 512; Treas.— Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 898, Leman A. Johnson, Dem., 465; Reg. of D.— Theodore Nelson, Rep., 906, Hubbard Biggs, Dem., 460; Pros. Atty.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 890, Elisha McCall, Dem., 479; C. C. C.—Giles T. Brown,

Rep., 893, Elisha McCall, Dem., 478; Sur.—Chas. B. Fraker, Rep., 894, Anson, R. Arnold, Dem., 478; Cor.—Wm. C. B. Sherwood, Rep., 885, Barnard Creasinger, Rep., 890, Joseph B. Smith, Dem., 479, Lyman T. Cassada, Dem., 479. (Moses H. White, ch. canvassing bd.)

**April, 1867:** Sup. Ct. J.—Benj. F. Graves, Rep., 909, Sanford M. Green, Dem., 380; Co. Supt. Sch.—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 905, Andrew J. McKee, Dem., 357; Del. to Con. Con.—Dewitt C. Chapin, Ind., 633, Nathan Church, Rep., 630.

Nathan Church was the regular Republican nominee for delegate, Dewitt C. Chapin, Republican, running as an Independent.

The constitution evolved was defeated at the polls by 38,849 majority. (John Franklin, ch. canvassing board.)

**Nov., 1868:** Pres. Ulysses S. Grant, Rep., 1240, Horatio Seymour, Dem., 749; Gov.—Henry P. Baldwin, Rep., 1236, John Moore, Dem., 762; Cong., 6th Dist.—Randolph Strickland, Rep., 1222, Wm. Newton, Dem., 763; St. Sen., 26th Dist.—Alfred B. Wood, Rep., 1232, Jas. L. Ketchum, Dem., 762; Rep.—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 1147, Leman A. Johnson, Dem., 832; Judge of Pro.—Elijah Peck, Rep., 1031, Benj. Crawford, Dem., 938; Sh.—Elisha C. Cook, Rep., 1215, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 783; Co. Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith, Rep., 1121, John R. Cheesman, Dem., 845; Treas.—Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 1272, Wm. Long, Dem., 718; Reg. of D.—Theodore Nelson, Rep., 1268, Thos. Bamborough, Dem., 727; Pros. Atty.—Andrew J. Utley, Rep., 1112, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 867; C. C. C.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 1199, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 770; Sur.—Sidney S. Hastings, Rep., 1217, Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 747; Cor.—Nap. B. Fraker, Rep., 1232, Wm. Yerington, Rep., 1232, John Jeffery, Dem., 763, Geo. W. Clark, Dem., 765. (Sam. Bigelow, ch. canvassing bd.)

**April, 1869:** Co. Supt. Sch.—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 1408; Cir. Judge—Jabez G. Sutherland, 1488.

**Nov., 1870:** Gov.—Henry P. Baldwin, Rep., 1080, Chas. C. Comstock, Dem., 764; Cong., 6th Dist.—John F. Driggs, Rep., 941, Jabez G. Sutherland, Dem., 869; St. Sen., 26th Dist.—Alfred B. Wood, Rep., 1040, John Jeffery, Dem., 807; Rep.—Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 1054, John R. Cheesman, Dem., 793; Sh.—Elisha C. Cook, Rep., 1051, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 792; Co. Clk.—Nathan Church, Rep., 1005, Chas. W. Tann, Dem., 760; Treas.—Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 1065, Hiram Harrington, Dem., 736; Reg. of D.—Dewitt C. Chapin, Rep., 938, Dwight Stitt, Dem., 809; Pros. Atty.—Chas. E. Williams, Rep., 868, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 870; C. C. C.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 770, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 900; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 1002, Anson R. Arnold, Dem., 747; Cor.—Geo. W. Jennings, Rep., 1071, David Bailey, Rep., 906, Jas. L. Shults, Dem., 904, Calvin R. Race, Dem., 768. (Wm. H. Pratt, ch. canvassing bd.)

**April, 1871:** Co. Supt. Sch.—Dillis D. Hamilton, Rep., 608, Randall Faurot, 459, Edwin W. Shaw, 430, Elisha McCall, 404; Co. Drain Com.—Jas. S. Donahue, 947, Philip Burlingame, 968.

**Nov. 1872:** Pres.—Ulysses S. Grant, Rep., 1482, Horace Greeley, Dem., 577; Gov.—John J. Bagley, Rep., 1479, Austin Blair, Dem., 650; Cong.—Nathan B. Bradley, Rep., 1520; St. Sen.—Ralph Ely, Rep., 1395, John L. Evans, Dem., 747; Rep.—Chas. H. Morse, Rep., 1497, Wm. Long, Dem., 749; Judge of Pro.—Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 1265, Samuel J. Scott, Dem., 839; Sh.—Wm. H. Pratt, Rep., 1311, Chas. W. Tann, Dem., 804; Co. Clk.—Nathan Church, Rep., 1383, Jas. W. Howd, Dem., 784; Treas.—Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 1192, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 925; Reg. of D.—Dewitt C. Chapin, Rep., 1419, Daniel Taylor, Dem., 718; Pros. Atty.—Chas. E. Williams, Rep., 1467, Elisha McCall, Dem., 675; C. C. C.—Giles T. Brown,

Rep., 1418, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 781; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 1486, Addison Hayden, Dem., 671; Cor.—Edwin Y. Kelley, Rep., 1468, Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 1457, John Jeffery, Dem., 692, L. A. Ferris, Dem., 691.

Mr. Chapin died during his term and his daughter, Ella, finished the term, as register of deeds.

**April, 1873:** Co. Supt Sch.—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 1127.

**Nov., 1874:** Gov.—John J. Bagley, Rep., 1140, Henry Chamberlain, Dem., 924; Cong.—Nathan B. Bradley, Rep., 1173, Geo. Fred Lewis, Dem., 934; St. Sen.—Isaac A. Fancher, Rep., 1156, Edson Packard, Dem., 936; Rep.—Chas. H. Morse, Rep., 1187, Dwight Stitt, Dem., 910; Sh.—Wm. H. Pratt, Rep., 1125, Geo. W. Newcomb, Dem., 972; Co. Clk.—Wm. B. Scattergood, Rep., 1128, Dan. C. Johnson, Dem., 974; Treas.—Schuyler W. Ambler, Rep., 1180, Geo. W. Clark, Dem., 916; Reg. of D.—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 995, Jas. T. Hall, Dem., 1104; Pros. Atty.—J. Wilson Caldwell, Rep., 973, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 1122; C. C. C.—Francis Palmer, Rep., 1167, Elisha McCall, Dem., 923; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 1170; Cor.—Edwin Clark, Rep., 1182, Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 1150, Edward Wilson, Dem., 938, Jas. A. Cassada, Dem., 932.

On the question of Woman Suffrage—yes, 393; no, 1,277.

In the 8th Congressional District Nathan B. Bradley was elected over G. F. Lewis, his Democratic opponent by the small margin of 105 majority.

**A commission** appointed by the governor in 1873, consisting of two members from each of the nine congressional disrticts—18 members—revised the constitution; and at the election of November, 1874, their work was rejected by a majority of 84,749.

**April, 1875:** Cir. J.—Henry Hart, Rep., 1304, Andrew J. Utley, Dem., 1098. Hart's majority in the judicial district was 350.

**Nov., 1876:** Pres.—Rutherford B. Hayes, Rep., 2150, Samuel J. Tilden, Dem., 1312; Gov.—Chas. M. Crosswell, Rep., 2146, Wm. L. Webber, Dem., 1370; Cong.—Chas. C. Ellsworth, Rep., 2142, Fred H. Potter, Dem., 1496; St. Sen.—Chas. H. Morse, Rep., 2147, Cornelius Bennett, Dem., 1485; Rep.—Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 2224, Wm. Long, Dem., 1426; Judge of Pro.—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 2072, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 1554; Sh.—Geo. L. Patch, Rep., 2080, Daniel R. Sullivan, Dem., 1520; Co. Clk.—Wm. B. Scattergood, Rep., 2177, Jas. A. Cassada, Dem., 1443; Treas.—Schuyler W. Ambler, Rep., 2157, Dwight Stitt, Dem., 1463; Reg. of D.—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 1955, Jas. T. Hall, Dem., 1665; Pros. Atty.—Truman W. Whitney, Rep., 2070, Samuel J. Scott, Dem., 1530; C. C. C.—Francis Palmer, Rep., 2107, F. C. Cummins, Dem., 1507; Sur.—Ransom J. Fraker, Rep., 2077, Oliver S. Hayden, Dem., 1551; Cor.—Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 2143, John Vanderbeek, Rep., 2145, Wm. D. Scott, Dem., 1497, Edward Wilson, Dem., 1494.

**April, 1877:** Rep., 1380; Dem., 607. For bonding for new jail, 1722; against the proposition, 713.

**April, 1878:** On proposition to issue bonds to finish county jail—yes, 1284; no, 1471.

**Nov., 1878:** Gov.—Chas. M. Croswell, Rep., 1647, Orlando M. Barnes, Dem., 787, Henry S. Smith, Greenback, 1158; Cong.—Roswell G. Horr, Rep., 1626, Bradley M. Thompson, Dem., 792, Henry H. Hoyt, Gbk., 1157; St. Sen.—James W. Cochrane, Rep., 1561, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 917, Henry Smalley, Gbk, 1106; Rep.—Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 1757, Herbert G. Graves, Dem., 709, Edson P. Spink, Gbk, 1115; Sh.—Geo. L. Patch, Rep., 1539, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 953, Geo. W. Newcomb, Gbk., 1089; Co. Clk.—Wm. B. Scattergood, Rep., 1662, Stiles Kennedy, Dem., 797, Asa P. Beam, Gbk., 1107; Treas.—Wm. M. Barstow, Rep., 1626, Franklin C. Seymour,

Dem., 751, Geo. W. Clark, Gbk., 1194; Reg. of D.—Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 1456, John L. Sinclair, Dem., 1029, Chas. H. Crandall, Gbk., 1081; Pros. Atty.—Truman W. Whitney, Rep., 1551, Elisha McCall, Dem., 810, Chas. J. Willett, Gbk., 1192; C. C. C.—Chas. W. Giddings, Rep., 1716, Marcus L. Anderson, Gbk., 1217; Sur.—Sidney S. Hatsings, Rep., 1645, Geo. W. Belding, Gbk., 1199; Cor.—Chas. W. Howland, Rep., 1649, A. Sebring, Rep., 1648; T. J. Gulick, Dem., 760, W. D. Scott, Dem., 777, Ben. Cowles, Gbk., 1164, Frank Herron, Gbk., 1163.

**April, 1879:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 1823; Dem., 1603. Vote on bonding for $4,000 to complete jail—Yes, 2314; no, 952.

**April, 1880:** Vote to increase governor's salary from $1,000 to $3,000—Yes, 593; no, 2363.

**Nov., 1880:** Pres.—Jas. A. Garfield, Rep., 2548, Winfield S. Hancock, Dem., 1489, Jas. B. Weaver, Gbk., 868; Gov.—David H. Jerome, Rep., 2523, Fred M. Halloway, Dem., 1483, David Woodman, Gbk., 909; Cong.—R. G. Horr, Rep., 2526, Timothy E. Tarsney, Dem., 1780, Wm. H. Smith, Gbk., 686; St. Sen.—Giles T. Brown, Rep., 2702, M. H. Stanford, Dem., 1422, Theron A. Johnson, Gbk, 907; Rep.—Wilbur Nelson, Rep., 2536, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 1551, Horace S. Taylor, Gbk., 905; Judge of Pro.—Jas. Paddock, Rep., 2607, Willard D. Tucker, Dem.-Gbk., 2380; Sh.—Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 2444, Chas. E. Webster, Dem., 1571, Seeley D. Hicks, Gbk., 957; Co. Clk.—John M. Trask, Rep., 2279, Oscar F. Jackson, Dem., 1507, Kosciusko P. Peet, Gbk., 957; Treas.—Wm. M. Barstow, Rep., 2564, Daniel R. Sullivan, Dem., 1468, Gaylord Helms, Gbk., 972; Reg. of D.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk, Rep., 2792, Jas. T. Hall, Dem.-Gbk., 2188; Pros. Atty.—Chas. W. Giddings, Rep., 2366, Chas. J. Willett, Dem.-Gbk., 2600; C. C. C.—Jas. L. Clark, Rep., 2574, Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., L. T. Wright, Dem., 1586, Samuel J. Scott, Gbk., 854, Newell Leonard, Gbk., 820; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 2547, Thos. H. Harrod, Gbk., 1048; Cor.—Nap. B. Fraker, Rep., 2562, Joseph A. Guthrie, Rep., 2565, W. D. Scott, Dem., 1492, Elisha McCall, Dem., 1496, Addison H. Mack, Gbk., 962, C. Leitch Downie, Gbk., 907.

**April, 1881:** Sup. Ct. J.—Isaac Marston, Rep., 1891, A. C. Baldwin, Dem., 564, J. B. Shipman, Gbk., 991, C. G. Hyde, Pro., 65.

**Nov., 1882:** Gov.—David H. Jerome, Rep., 2260, Josiah W. Begole, (Dem. and Gbk., fusion) 2515, D. P. Sagendorph, Pro., 110; Cong.—Roswell G. Horr, Rep., 2333, Chas. J. Willett, Fusion, 2537; St. Sen.—John W. Hance, Rep., 2415, Frank S. Burton, Fusion, 2460; Rep.—Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 2464, Daniel O. Cuff, Fusion, 2402; Sh.—Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 2371, Kosciusko P. Peet, Fusion, 2505; Co. Clk.—John M. Trask, Rep., 2410, John T. Swigart, Fusion, 2448; Treas.—Townsend A. Ely, Rep., 2304, Sylvester B. Heverlo, Fusion, 2566; Reg. of D.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk, Rep., 2259, John L. Sinclair, Fusion, 2623; Pros. Atty.—Truman W. Whitney, Rep., 2293, Jas. K. Wright, Fusion, 2552; C. C. C. Jas. L. Clark, Rep., 2471, Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., 2432, Newell Leonard, Fusion, 2376, Edwin H. Ashley, Fusion, 2401; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, 2505, Thos. H. Harrod, Fusion, 2324; Cor.—Norman L. Higbie, Rep., 2415, Lucien H. Dayton, Rep., 2412, Wm. D. Scott, Fusion, 2461, C. L. Downie, Fusion, 2465.

**April, 1883:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 1992; Dem., 1983; Pro., 217. Chas. J. Willett, Dem., candidate for Regent of the University, received 2050 votes in the county.

**Nov., 1884:** Pres.—Jas. G. Blaine, Rep., 2676, Grover Cleveland, Dem., 2732; Gov.—Russell A. Alger, Rep., 2678, Josiah W. Begole, Fusion, 2707; Cong.—Roswell G. Horr, Rep., 2697, Timothy E. Tarsney, Fusion, 2805, Thos. Merrill, Pro., 187; St. Sen.—Henry Woodruff, Rep., 2731, Stiles Ken-

nedy, Fusion, 2720; Rep.—Henry Romaine Pattengill, Rep., 2643, Henry A. Weiss, Fusion, 2771, S. W. Ambler, Pro., 269; Judge of Pro.—Jas. Paddock, Rep., 2729, Willard D. Tucker, Fusion, 2690, Abraham W. Russell, Pro., 256; Sh.—Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 2479, Kosciusko P. Peet, Fusion, 2952, Columbus Levering, Pro., 243; Co. Clk.—John M. Everden, Rep., 2546; John T. Swigart, Fusion, 2881; Treas.—Chas. C. Foote, Rep., 2537, Sylvester B. Heverlo, Fusion, 2897, W. W. Dalgleish, Pro., 253; Reg. of D.—Isaac S. Seaver, Rep., 2395, John L. Sinclair, Fusion, 3059; Pros. Atty.—Jas. L. Clark, Rep., 2726, Jas. K. Wright, Fusion, 2718; C. C. C.—Joseph A. Crandall, Rep., 2698, Edward L. Walbridge, Rep., 2690, John J. McCarthy, Fusion, 2796, Edwin H. Ashley, Fusion, 2706; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 2754, Thos. H. Harrod, Fusion, 2672; Cor.—Curtis B. Willoughby, Rep., 2661, Chas. S. Watson, Rep., 2671, Wm. D. Scott, Fusion, 2738; C. L. Downie, Fusion, 2740, Edward Wilson, Pro., 280, Leroy F. Weaver, Pro., 281. The "Fusion" ticket was a union of Democrats and Greenbackers.

**April, 1885:** Sup. Ct. J.—Thos. M. Cooley, Rep., 2178, Allen B. Morse, Dem., 2279; Pro., 251.

**Nov., 1886:** Gov.—Cyrus G. Luce, Rep., 2912, Geo. L. Yaple, Fusion, 2603, Samuel Dickie, Pro., 323; Cong.—Roswell G. Horr, Rep., 2898, Timothy E. Tarsney, Fusion, 2654, Geo. W. Abbey, Pro., 268; St. Sen., 24th Dist.—Floyd L. Post, Rep., 2867, Sylvester B. Heverlo, Fusion, 2614, Orin Gates, Pro., 200; Rep.—Henry L. Wood, Rep., 2983, Henry A. Weiss, Fusion, 2553, Daniel W. Breckenridge, Pro., 297; Sh.—Perry D. Pettit, Rep., 2867, Edward L. Kimes, Fusion, 2676, John W. Doane, Pro., 295; Co. Clk.—Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 3044, Dixi G. Hall, Fusion, 2490, Geo. W. Saunders, Pro., 298; Treas.—Wm. Brice, Rep., 2847, Wm. T. Pitt, Fusion, 2691, Columbus Levering, Pro., 304; Reg. of D.—Chester W. Martin, Rep., 2961, Chas. H. Crandall, Fusion, 2595, A. W. Russell, Pro., 278; Pros. Atty.—Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., 2886, Wm. A. Bahlke, Fusion, 2627, Newell Leonard, Pro., 307; C. C. C.—J. A. Crandall, Rep., 2956, Giles T. Brown, Rep, 2909, John J. McCarthy, Fusion, 2656, John T. Mathews, Fusion, 2622; Sur.—Parker Merrill, Rep., 2942, Dewitt Vought, Fusion, 2579; Cor.—J. H. De May, Rep., 2903, John Hamilton, Rep., 2902, Chas. H. McLachlan, Fusion, 2613.

**April, 1887:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2764; Dem., 1531; Gbk., 825; Pro., 145; Cir. J., 21st Judicial Circuit.—Henry Hart, Rep., 2561, Chas. J., Willett, Fusion, 2737. Hart's majority in the district was 1606.

To prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the state—yes, 3648; no, 1607.

**Nov., 1888:** Pres.—Benjamin Harrison, Rep., 3667, Grover Cleveland, Dem., 2854, Pro., 416; Union Labor, 68; Gov.—Cyrus G. Luce, Rep., 3710, Wellington R. Burt, Fusion, 2854, A. B. Cheney, Pro., 389, Wildman Mills, U. L., 61; Cong.—Aaron T. Bliss, Rep., 3669, Tim. E. Tarsney, Fusion, 2116, Dan. W. Breckenridge, Pro., 380; St. Sen.—Edbert B. Green, Rep., 3666, Harvey W. Lyon, Fusion, 2873, Isaac N. Shepherd, Pro., 395; Rep.—Henry L. Wood, Rep., 3588, Chas. E. Webster, Fusion, 2966, Orin Gates, Pro., 381, Fred L. T. Hasse, U. L., 57; Judge of Pro.—J. Lee Potts, Rep., 3555, Hiram U. Woodin, Fusion, 2998, E. H. Stowe, Pro., 359, Lovell J. Fuller, U. L., 49; Sh.—Perry D. Pettit, Rep., 3598, John B. Rowell, Fusion, 2918, Stephen M. Boyle, Pro., 401, Moses Johnson, U. L., 44; Co. Clk.—Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 3738, Newel Smith, Fusion 2783, Geo. W. Saunders, Pro., 382, H. Oscar Kelly, U. L., 52; Treas.—Wm. Brice, Rep., 3527, Wm. T. Pitt, Fusion, 3009, Sidney Sessions, Pro., 375; Reg. of D.—Chester W. Martin, Rep., 3708, John T. Swigart, Fusion, 2844, Joshua L. Miller, Pro.,

383, Thos. J. Tann, U. L., 57; Pros. Atty.—Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., 3583; Wm. A. Bahlke, Fusion, 2967, Newell Leonard, Pro., 384; C. C. C.—Jo. A. Crandall, Rep., 3630, John M. Everden, Rep., 3693, Solomon J. Haring, Fusion, 2837, John G. Scott, Fusion, 2941; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 3675, Joseph W. Harrod, Fusion, 3255; Cor.—J. H. DeMay, Rep., 3657, John Hamilton, Rep., 3668, Cullen Leitch Downie, Fusion, 2866, Willard M. Weller, Fusion, 2869, Gilbert Keller, Pro., 396, Henry A. Shaw, Pro., 396. The "Fusion" ticket was composed of Democrats and Greenbackers. Geo. D. Reeves was appointed C. C. C. by Gov. Luce, January, 1889, vice J. A. Crandall removed from the county.

**Nov., 1890:** Gov.—Jas M. Turner, Rep., 2747, Edwin B. Winans, Fusion, 2283; Cong.—Aaron T. Bliss, Rep., 2872, Henry M. Youmans, Fusion, 2443, Wm. M. Smith, Pro., 390; St. Sen.—Frank L. Prindle, Rep., 2792, Farwell A. Wilson, Fusion, 2348, John W. Doane, Pro., 445; Rep.—Wesley J. Miller, Rep., 2766, Hugh Chisholm, Fusion, (Patrons of Industry and Dem.) 3191; Sh.—Nap. B. Bradley, Rep., 2811, Jas. P. King, Fusion, 3142; Co. Clk.—John L. Richard, Rep., 2750, Inman N. Cowdrey, Fusion, 3195; Treas.—Edwin Meacham, Rep., 2722, Frank Munson, Fusion, 3227; Reg. of D.—Andrew S. McIntyre, Rep., 2768, Wm. T. Pitt, Fusion, 3186; Pros. Atty.—Kelly S. Searl, Rep., 2735, Jas. Clarke, Fusion, 3207; C. C. C.—John M. Everden, Rep., 2789, Geo. D. Reeves, Rep., 2775, Geo. S. Aldrich, Fusion, 3163, Jacob M. Wiltse, Fusion, 3164; Sur.—Daniel W. Altenburg, Rep., 2786, Joseph W. Harrod, Fusion, 1957, Sidney S. Hastings, 952; Cor.—David A. Hatt, Rep., 2768, John Hamilton, Rep., 2773, Frank McNitt, Fusion, 2761, Thos. J. Hoxie, Fusion, 3177, Frank M. Nitt, 420.

The "Fusion" county ticket was first nominated by the "Patrons of Industry" (P. I's), and afterward endorsed bodily by the Democrats.

Notice how the Frank M. Nitt tickets defeated Frank McNitt for coroner.

Jacob M. Wiltse elected as one of the circuit court commissioners, was ineligible, so on January 23, 1891, Gov. Winans appointed Newell Leonard to the vacancy.

**April, 1891:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2740; Fusion, 1832; Pro., 274. Cir. Judge—Sherman B. Daboll, Rep., 3026, Chas. J. Willett, Fusion, 1731. (W. J. Miller, ch. canvassing bd.)

**Nov., 1892:** Pres.—Benj. Harrison, Rep., 3037, Grover Cleveland, Dem., 1661; Gov.—John T. Rich, Rep., 3028, Allen B. Morse, Fusion, 1733; Cong.—John Avery, Rep., 3044, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Fusion, 2938; St. Sen.—Geo. A. Steel, Rep., 3049, John T. Swigart, Fusion, 2971; Rep.—Silas Moody Rep., 3057, Hugh Chisholm, Fusion, (Dem.—P. I.) 2967; Judge of Pro.—John M. Everden, Rep., 3128, John P. Madden, Fusion, 2878; Sh.—Perry D. Pettit, Rep., 3105, Jas. P. King, Fusion, 2921; Co. Clk.—Jas. G. Kress, Rep., 3068, Inman N. Cowdrey, Fusion, 2948; Treas.—John W. Otto, Rep., 3036, Frank Munson, Fusion, 2983; Reg. of D.—Nap. B. Bradley, Rep., 3036, Wm. T. Pitt, Fusion, 2982; Pros. Atty.—Wm. A. Leet, Rep., 3135, Geo. S. Aldrich, Fusion, 2881; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, Rep., 3068, Geo. D. Reeves, Rep., 3081, Newell Leonard, Fusion, 2938, Archie McCall, Fusion, 2946; Sur.—Dan. W. Altenburg, Rep., 3096, Joseph W. Harrod, Fusion, 2928; Cor.—Chas. S. Watson, Rep., 3073, John Hamilton, Rep., 3076, Geo. W. Eldridge, Fusion, 2958, Willard M. Weller, Fusion, 1651, Chas. H. McLachlan, Fusion, 1291.

The "Fusion" county ticket was first nominated by the "P. I.s" (Patrons of Industry) and afterward endorsed by the Democrats.

**April, 1893:** (Barney Swope, chairman board of county canvassers.) Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2330, Dem., 1217, Peoples, 819; Cir. J.—S. B. Daboll, Rep.,

2365; Co. Sch. Com.—Orin G. Tuttle, Rep., 2368, Retta Peet, Dem., 1131, Bernard Kildea, Peoples, 782.

**Nov., 1894:** Gov.—John T. Rich, Rep., 3020, Spencer O. Fisher, Dem., 831, Alva W. Nichols, Peo., 1258, A. M. Todd, Pro., 224; Cong.—John Avery, Rep., 2960, Hiram B. Hudson, Dem., 759; Wm. T. Pitt, Peo., 1357, Austin Barber, Pro., 208; St. Sen., 19th Dist.—Chester W. Martin, Rep., 2976, E. G. Bement, Dem., 789, Dewitt Vought, Peo., 1292, John W. Doane, Pro., 223; Rep.—B. Frank McNall, Rep., 2989, Wm. Long, Dem., 796, Newton Burns, Peo., 1286, Wm. L. Steele, Pro., 208; Sh.—Perry D. Pettit, Rep., 2944, Jonathan B. Willoughby, Dem., 859, Geo. W. Pearce, Peo., 1298, Stephen M. Boyle, Pro., 186; Co. Clerk—Jas. G. Kress, Rep., 2999, Geo. C. Douglas, Dem., 803, Elmer N. Post, Peo., 1278, Joshua L. Miller, Pro., 206; Treas.—John W. Otto, Rep., 3002, John W. Harris, Dem., 765, Hiram Haring, Peo., 1305; Reg. of D.—Nap. B. Bradley, Rep., 3010, Henry Stitt, Dem., 773, Ransom C. Lake, Peo., 1285, Guilford Lee Webster, Pro., 211; Pros. Atty.—Wm. A. Leet, Rep., 2998, Elisha McCall, Dem., 797, Samuel J. Scott, Peo., 1403; C. C. C.—Geo. D. Reeves, Rep., 3005, John D. Spinney, Rep., 2990, Newel Smith, Dem., 806, Newell Leonard, Peo., 1284; Cor.—Chas. S. Watson, Rep., 3026, Jas. W. Payne, Rep., 3013, J. Frank Suydam, Dem., 797, Frank J. Graham, Dem., 797, John P. Madden, Peo., 1291, Frank McNitt, Peo., 1288; Sur.—Dan. W. Altenburg, Rep., 3010, Joseph W. Harrod, Fusion, 2264. (Geo. A. Hafer, chairman canvassing board.)

**April, 1895:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2463, Dem., 639, Pro., 231; Co. Sch. Com.—Orin G. Tuttle, Rep., 2479, Mrs. Nettie Lemley, Dem., 747. (Darius Reid, chairman canvassing board.)

**Nov., 1896:** Pres.—Wm. McKinley, Rep., 3380, Wm. J. Bryan, Fusion, 3969, Gold Democrat electors, 72, Prohibition electors, 59, National electors, 36; Gov.—Hazen S. Pingree, Rep., 3507, Chas. R. Sligh, Fusion, 3848, R. F. Sprague, G. D., 84, R. C. Safford, Pro., 65, John Giberson, Natl., 37; Cong.—Wm. S. Mesick, Rep., 3383, Jonathan G. Ramsdell, Fusion, 3988; St. Sen.—Chester W. Martin, Rep., 3430, Elisha Mudge, Fusion, 3978; Rep.—Frank E. Stroup, Rep., 3446, Dewitt Vought, Fusion, 3954; Judge of Pro.—John M. Everden, Rep., 3506, Chas. H. Chase, Fusion, 3901; Sh.—Clarence Giddings, Rep., 3402, Nelson J. McCullough, Fusion, 3988; Co. Clerk—Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 3473, Hiram Raring, Fusion, 3929; Treas.—Daniel L. Sharrar, Rep., 3408, Henry Read, Fusion, 3996; Reg. of D.—Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 3423, Frank M. Vandercook, Fusion, 3976; Pros. Atty.—J. Lee Potts, Rep., 3448, Newel Smith, Fusion, 3950; C. C. C.—John R. Wilson, Rep., 3417, Earl G. Torrey, Rep., 3409, Archie McCall, Fusion, 3983, Fred D. Yale, Fusion, 3978; Sur.—Wm. L. Altenburg, Rep., 3425, Joe W. Harrod, Fusion, 3970; Cor.—Chas. S. Watson, Rep., 3418, Major L. Dasef, Rep., 3411, Chas. T. Eno, Fusion, 3974, Jas. P. Carpenter, Fusion, 3984.

The "Fusion" ticket was made up of three parties—Democrat, Peoples and Union Silver. The principal issue before the people was, "The Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver," the campaign being mainly fought on that issue, from president to coroner; the Fusion forces winning everything from state senator down to the last coroner on the ticket.

(W. J. Miller, E. P. Potter, Geo. A. Hafer, county canvassers.)

**April, 1897:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2709, Fusion, 2496, Scattering 404; Co. Sch. Com.—Orin G. Tuttle, Rep., 2692, Chas. H. Covell, Fusion, 2525. (E. P. Potter, W. J. Miller, Geo. A. Hafer, county canvassers.)

**Nov., 1898:** Gov.—Hazen S. Pingree, Rep., 3097, Justin R. Whiting, Fusion, 2883, Noah W. Cheever, 102, Sullivan Cook, 68; Cong.—Wm. S. Mesick, Rep., 2964, Alva W. Nichols, Fusion, 3001, Harry M. Lowell, 94; St. Sen.—Chas. W. Giddings, Rep., 3140, Peter L. Ryker, Fusion, 2860;

Rep.—Henry L. Wood, Rep., 3066, Dewitt Vought, Fusion, 2941; Sh.—Delon Fleming, Rep., 2949, Nelson J. McCullough, Fusion, 3069; Co. Clk.—Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 3059, Hiram Haring, Fusion, 2954; Treas.—Daniel L. Sharrar, Rep., 3046, Henry Read, Fusion, 2967; Reg. of D.—Chas. A. Van Deventer, Rep., 2892, Frank M. Vandercook, Fusion, 3122; Pros. Atty.—Julius B. Kirby, Rep., 3014, Archie McCall, Fusion, 2991; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, Rep., 3087, Jas. G. Kress, Rep., 3074, Edwin H. Ashley, Fusion, 2908, Newell Leonard, Fusion, 2918; Sur.—Chas. A. Scholtz, Rep., 2935, Joseph W. Harrod, Fusion, 3065; Cor.—B. C. Hall, Rep., 3086, L. A. Howe, Rep., 3084, C. A. Crane, Fusion, 2912, Wm. L. Herman, Fusion, 2905.

On the question of a general revision of the State Constitution—Yes, 2128; no, 2118.

The candidate for prosecuting attorney on the Fusion ticket—Archie McCall—who, on the face of the returns was defeated by 23 votes, contested the election of his opponent, Mr. Kirby, on the ground that there were gross irregularities in conducting the election in the Township of Elba. The trial of the case in the circuit court resulted in the defeat of Mr. McCall's contention, but when the supreme court reviewed the case there was a speedy reversal, the court holding unanimously that the violation of the election law in Elba was so flagrant that the vote of that township must be thrown out. This result gave the election to Mr. McCall by a majority of 81. The office was turned over to him in July, 1899. (Ed. Meacham, C. J. Chambers, Frank P. Merrill, county canvassers.)

**April, 1899:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 2909, Dem., 2429; Cir. J.—Geo. P. Stone, Fusion, (no opp.) 2681; Co. Sch. Com.—Orin G. Tuttle, Rep., 2617, Retta Peet, Fusion, 2822. (Ed. Meacham, C. J. Chambers, F. P. Merrill, county canvassers.)

**Nov., 1900:** Pres.—Wm. McKinley, Rep., 4261, Wm. J. Bryan, Dem., 3207; Gov.—Aaron T. Bliss, Rep., 4169, Wm. C. Maybury, Dem., 3325, F. S. Goodrich, Pro., 168; Cong.—Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 4127, Geo. Killeen, Dem., 3434; St. Sen.—Hiram M. High, Rep., 4245, Elisha Mudge, Dem., 3273; Rep.—John W. Holmes, Rep., 4221, Dewitt Vought, Dem., 3255, J. E. Long, Pro., 171; Judge of Pro.—Isaac S. Seaver, Rep., 4249, Chas. H. Chase, Dem., 3258, Josh. L. Miller, Pro., 152; Sh.—John H. Parrish, Rep., 4130, Geo. M. Willoughby, Dem., 3362, Albert M. Shaw, Pro., 159; Co. Clk.—Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 4225, Chas. A. Throop, Dem., 3270, John Coston, Pro., 151; Treas.—Daniel L. Sharrar, Rep., 4165, Albert W. Dickerson, Dem., 3324, Alex. Chisholm, Pro., 155; Reg. of D.—Albert H. Lowry, Rep., 4255, Otto W. Rogers, Dem., 3219, Justus B. Gardner, Pro., 163; Pros. Atty.—Julius B. Kirby, Rep., 3961, Archie McCall, Dem., 3537; C. C. C.—Frank R. Monfort, Rep., 4270, Bert Hayes, Rep., 4255, Ed. H. Ashley, Dem., 3228, Newell Leonard, Dem., 3249; Cor.—Leslie A. Howe, Rep., 4241, Merritt G. Bassett, Rep., 4250, Willard Monfort, Dem., 3246, Joe M. Hoxie, Dem., 3225, Geo. J. Acker, Pro., 158, Wm. A. Vanderhoof, Pro., 157; Sur.—Edwin W. Redman, Rep., 4257, Wm. L. Steele, Dem., 3248. (Willard D. Tucker, Frank G. Palmer, Henry Bodfish, county canvassers.)

**April, 1901:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 3116, Dem., 1949; Co. Sch. Com.—Chas. F. Pike, Rep., 2849, Retta Peet, Dem., 2409, Thos. J. Lyon, Pro., 218. (Willard D. Tucker, Frank G. Palmer, Henry Bodfish, county canvassers.)

**Nov., 1902:** Gov.—Aaron T. Bliss, Rep., 3268, Lorenzo T. Durand, Dem., 1729, Walter S. Westerman, Pro., 147; Cong.—Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 3496, David J. Erwin, Dem., 1537; St. Sen., 19th Dist.—Coleman C. Vaughan, Rep., 3331, Willard D. Tucker, Dem., 1687; Rep.—John W. Holmes, Rep., 3317, Chas. T. Richards, Dem., 1708; Sh.—John H. Parrish, Rep., 3445, Isaac H. Church, Dem., 1617; Co. Clk.—Clifton J. Chambers,

Rep., 3224, Geo. Killeen, Dem., 1827; Treas.—Fred E. Smith, Rep., 3364, Oliver McEnderfer, Dem., 1645; Reg. of D.—Albert H. Lowry, Rep., 3479, Roy Cushman, Dem., 1538; Pros. Atty.—Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 3388, D. Lloyd Johnson, Dem., 1647; C. C. C.—Warren J. Shaver, Rep., 3362, John R. Wilson, Rep., 3379, John T. Mathews, Dem., 1644, Archie McCall, Dem., 1637; Sur.—E. W. Redman, Rep., 3382, Jo. W. Harrod, Dem., 1636; Cor.—L. A. Howe, Rep., 3409, Merritt G. Bassett, Rep., 3392, Jas. W. Howd, Dem., 1595, Chas. T. Eno, Dem., 1610. (Chas. Morrow, Harvey R. Munson, H. Chauncey Barstow, county canvassers.)

**April, 1903:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 3134, Dem., 1891, Pro., 235; Co. Sch. Com.—Chas. F. Pike, Rep., 2765, Retta Peet, Dem., 2409. (Chas. Morrow, O. G. Tuttle, Louis J. Marvin, county canvassers.)

**Nov., 1904:** Pres.—Theodore Roosevelt, Rep., 4530, Alton B. Parker, Dem., 1863, Prohibition ticket, 238, scattering, 73; Gov.—Fred M. Warner, Rep., 3524, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Dem., 2991, Jas. M. Shackleton, Pro., 180; Cong.—A. B. Darragh, Rep., 4251, Wm. A. Bahlke, Dem., 2213, Henry A. Miller, Pro., 215; St. Sen.—Townsend A. Ely, Rep., 4091, Willard D. Tucker, Dem., 2386; Rep.—John W. Holmes, Rep., 4186, Frank G. Palmer, Dem., 2235, Hugh Chisholm, Pro., 245; Judge of Pro.—Isaac S. Seaver, Rep., 4360, Oliver McEnderfer, Dem., 2098; Sh.—Emory Bradford Kille, Rep., 3592, Frank L. Pressley, Dem., 2893; Co. Clk.—Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 4274, Binnie M. Coffin, Dem., 2172, Benson J. Young, Pro., 230; Treas.—Fred E. Smith, Rep., 4284, John S. Doyle, Dem., 2154, Noah Wilson, Pro., 231; Reg. of D.—John C. Watson, Rep., 3880, Aciel F. Wright, Dem., 2574, Wheeler Mumford, Pro., 214; Pros. Atty.—Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 4078, Archie McCall, Dem., 2379, Chas. A. Salyer, Pro., 220; C. C. C.—Warren J. Shaver, Rep., 4273, Ebin Wilson, Rep., 4368, D. Lloyd Johnson, Dem., 2156; Cor.—L. A. Howe, Rep., 4297, John E. Hunter, Rep., 4296, Chas. A. Crane, Dem., 2135, Chas. H. McLachlan, Dem., 2131, Roscoe Higgins, Pro., 233, Byron Dingman, Pro., 237; Sur.—Ransom J. Fraker, Rep., 4289, Jas. G. Chase, Dem., 2136, Jo. W. Harrod, Pro., 248.

On the question of a new constitution for the state—Yes, 1768, no, 2110. (Chas. Morrow, Abram L. Wight, Louis J. Marvin, county canvassers.)

**April, 1905:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 3315, Dem., 1933, Pro., 239; Cir. J.—Kelly S. Searl, Rep., 2910, Geo. P. Stone, Dem., 2460.

K. S. Searl had a majority in the circuit and was elected.

On question of the state aiding in the improvement of the public highways—Yes, 2779, no, 1322.

(A. L. Wight, L. J. Marvin, Lewis D. Lepley, county canvassers.)

**April, 1906:** On the question of calling a convention for the purpose of a general revision of the state constitution—Yes, 2582, no, 2547. (A. L. Wight, L. J. Marvin, P. D. Pettit, county canvassers.)

**June 12, 1906:** On this date the several political parties voted on the question of adopting the primary system in nominating officers. The Republicans of the county voted as follows on nominating officers as designated: Gov. and Lieut. Gov.—Yes, 612, no, 103; Cong.—Yes, 600, no, 100; St. Sen.—Yes, 591, no, 103; Rep.—Yes, 596, no, 98; County officers—Yes, 589, no, 110. The Democrats of the county voted as follows on the question of nominating Governor and Lieut. Governor by the primary system: Yes, 139, no, 24. The Prohibition party, on the same question voted—Yes, 9, no, 1.

The result of the Republican primary was as follows: Gov.—Fred M. Warner, 701; Cong.—Archibald B. Darragh, 1335, Geo. G. Covell, 436; St. Sen.—Townsend A. Ely, 1507; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, 1030, Robert S. Miller, 393, Chas. F. Patten, 266; Sh.—E. Bradford Kille, 1536; Co. Clk.

—Richard E. Hughes, 1013, Joseph D. Sadler, 614; Treas.—Harvey R. Munson, 803, Birton I. Gee, 683, Henry R. Moench, 246; Reg. of D.—John C. Watson, 1553; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, 778, Bert Hayes, 339; C. C. C.—Grant Steele, 1406, John W. Myers, 11, D. W. C. Tiffany, 7, John D. Spinney, 8, Jas. G. Kress, 3; Sur.—Frank W. Hastings, 1435; Cor.—John E. Hunter, 1127, W. K. Ludwig, 1264. (A. L. Wight, L. J. Marvin, county canvassers.)

**Nov., 1906:** Gov.—Fred M. Warner, Rep., 2854, Chas. H. Kimmerle, Dem., 1742, R. Clark Reed, Pro., 122; Cong.—A B. Darragh, Rep., 2849, Arthur J. Lacey, Dem., 1795; St. Sen.—Townsend A. Ely, Rep., 2852, Wm. A. Bahlke, Dem., 1764; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 2680, Wm. T. Pitt, Dem., 1947; Sh.—E. Bradford Kille, Rep., 2373, Frank L. Pressley, Dem., 2294; Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, Rep., 2687, Willard D. Tucker, Dem., 1959; Treas.—Harvey R. Munson, Rep., 2666, Decatur Coleman, Dem., 1987; Reg. of D.—John C. Watson, Rep., 2711, Ira D. Suydam, Dem., 1948; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, Rep., 2576, Archie McCall, Dem., 2080; C. C. C.—Grant Steele, Rep., 2871, John W. Myers, Rep., 2850, D. Lloyd Johnson, Dem., 1756, John T. Mathews, Dem., 1782; Sur.—Frank W. Hastings, Rep., 2666, Jo. W. Harrod, Dem., 1973; Cor.—W. K. Ludwig, Rep., 2892, John E. Hunter, Rep., 2871, Elmer L. Street, Dem., 1743, Orill Reichard, Dem., 1762.

**April, 1907:** Sup. Ct. J.—Wm. L. Carpenter, Rep., 3004, Aaron V. McAlvay, Rep., 3191, Geo. P. Stone, Dem., 2266, John R. Carr, Dem., 1998, Prohibition, 177; Co. Sch. Com.—Chas. F. Pike, 2851, Retta (Peet) Baker, 2472. (B. M. Coffin, Glenn Du Bois, Edgar Follick, county canvassers.)

**August 13, 1907:** Primary for the nomination of delegates to the Constitutional Convention: Republican—John W. Holmes, 503, Frank R. Monfort, 447, John D. Spinney, 397, Walter C. Mallory, 328, Henry E. Walbridge, 178, T. F. Timby, 158, F. W. Redfern, 133, E. J. Moinett, 108, John T. Daniels, 99, Jas. Harrison, 85. Democratic—Geo. P. Stone, 216, John T. Mathews, 138, Wm. A. Bahlke, 129, J. Earl Brown, 33, H. J. Patterson, 27. (B. M. Cuffin, Glenn Du Bois, Geo. G. Ingledue, county canvassers.)

**September 17, 1907:** Election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention—John W. Holmes, Rep., 1036, Frank R. Monfort, Rep., 987, Henry E. Walbridge, Rep., 944, Geo. P. Stone, Dem., 636, John T. Mathews, Dem., 464, J. Earl Brown, Dem., 371, J. W. Harrod, Pro., 35, F. W. Balch, Pro., 26, Silas Kenyon, Pro., 20. Total vote in District—Gratiot and Clinton Counties: H. E. Walbridge, Rep., 1730, J. W. Holmes, Rep., 1718, F. R. Monfort, Rep., 1688, Geo. P. Stone, Dem., 1257, J. T. Mathews, Dem., 852, J. Earl Brown, Dem., 815, J. W. Harrod, Pro., 55, F. W. Balch, Pro., 46, Silas Kenyon, Pro., 36. (I. S. Seaver, E. B. Kille, R. E. Hughes, dist. canvassers.)

**Primary Election, Sept. 1, 1908:** Republican—Gov.—Jas. B. Bradley, 1230, Fred M. Warner, 1047, Horatio S. Earl, 268; Cong.—Francis A. Dodds, 1519, Geo. G. Covell, 990; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, 2143; Judge of Pro.—Isaac S. Seaver, 1592, Jas. G. Kress, 923; Sh.—John H. Parrish, 1468, Perry D. Pettit, 842, A. T. Willert, 276; Co. Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, 2198; Treas.—Harvey R. Munson, 1501, Henry R. Moench, 964; Reg. of D.—Geo. W. Long, 809, Fred W. Griswald, 790, Wm. N. Gladstone, 496, J. Sid. Beechler, 410; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, 2162; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, 29, John W. Myers, 24, W. J. Shaver, 19, Geo. S. Aldrich, 16; Sur.—E. W. Redman, 1502, C. A. Scholtz, 677; Cor.—W. K. Ludwig, 1785. Democratic—Gov.—Lawton T. Hemans, 107. Prohibition—Gov.—John W. Gray, 13. (B. M. Coffin, Aaron J. Chambers, K. P. Peet, Co. canvassers.)

**Nov., 1908:** Pres.—Wm. H. Taft, Rep., 4160, Wm. J. Bryan, Dem., 2374; Prohibition electors, 175, Socialist electors, 32, Independence Party electors, 5; Gov.—Fred M. Warner, Rep., 3209, Lawton T. Hemans, Dem., 3363; Cong.—Francis A. Dodds, Rep., 4187, Leavitt S. Griswold, Dem., 2423; St. Sen., 25th Dist.—Newton O. Ward, Rep., 4184, Clark C. Field, Dem., 2430; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 4135, Vincent P. Cash, Dem., 2486; Judge of Pro.—Isaac S. Seaver, Rep., 4032, Henry Read, Dem., 2633; Sh.—John H. Parrish, Rep., 3324, Frank L. Convis, Dem., 3359; Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, Rep., 4133, Hugh L. Torbert, Dem., 2507; Treas.—Harvey R. Munson, Rep., 3852, John L. Smith, Dem., 2802; Reg. of D.—Geo. W. Long, Rep., 4143, Oliver McEnderfer, 2489; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, Rep., 4080, John T. Mathews, Dem., 2569; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, Rep., 4169, John W. Myers, Rep., 4156, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 2458, Wm. A. Bahlke, Dem., 2473; Sur.—E. W. Redman, Rep., 4190, John Burns, Dem., 2440. On the question of the adoption of the new State Constitution—Yes, 2597, no, 1961. (Clarence Hopkins, I. F. Hilsinger, Fred S. Brown, county canvassers.)

**April, 1909:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 3150, Dem., 1830, pro., 250.

**April, 1910:** Vote on question of direct nomination of circuit judge—Yes, 2869, no, 847. (Clarence Hopkins, Fred Brown, county canvassers.)

**Primary Election, Sept., 1910:** Republican—Gov.—Chase S. Osborn, 818, Patrick H. Kelley, 637, Amos Musselman, 353; Cong.—Francis A. Dodds, 1608; St. Sen.—Newton O. Ward, 1298; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, 987, Robert S. Miller, 647; Sh.—John H. Parrish, 581, Chas. B. Doan, 288, Wesley H. Parr, 212, Wm. H. Caswell, 209, Ralph E. Pettit, 181, John Rush, 159, E. Bradford Kille, 123, Chas. A. Zubler, 106; Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, 889, John F. Schwartz, 880; Treas.—Adelbert P. Lane, 953, Fred E. Smith, 732; Reg. of D.—Geo. W. Long, 1587; Pros. Atty.—Chas. H. Goggin, 978, John M. Everden, 783; Dr. Com.—Edwin W. Redman, 883, Elon P. Potter, 801; C. C. C.—Geo. S. Aldrich, 1095, John D. Spinney, 1071; Sur—Joseph W. Harrod, 30, Edwin W. Redman, 13; choice for U. S. Senator—Chas. E. Townsend, 886, Julius C. Burrows, 853. Democrat—Gov.—Lawton T. Hemans, 224; St. Sen.—Vincent P. Cash, 101; Rep.—Dewitt C. Vought, 187; Sh.—John B. Rowell, 235; Clk.—Newton Burns, 92, Thos. E. Garlock, 71; Treas.—Jas. Gibbs, 221; Reg. of D.—Philip W. Creaser, 110; Pros. Atty.—Archie McCall, 228; Dr. Com.—Jackson M. Williams, 211; C. C. C.—John T. Mathews, 203, Jas. K. Wright, 188; Cor.—Kosciusko P. Peet, 198, Wilbur F. Markham, 180; choice for U. S. Senator—John Winship, 89. Prohibition—Gov.—Fred M. Corbitt, 23; Rep.—Justus B. Gardner, 23; Sh.—John S. Beery, 23; Clk.—Benson J. Young, 23; Treas.—Noah Wilson, 21; Reg. of D.—Albert M. Shaw, 20; choice for U. S. Senator—Wm. A. Taylor, 23.

**Nov., 1910:** Gov.—Chase S. Osborn, Rep., 2357, Lawton T. Hemans, Dem., 2016, Joseph Warnock, Pro., 23, Herman Richter, So., 4; Cong.—Francis A. Dodds, Rep., 2717, Hubbard Head, Dem., 1628; St. Sen.—Newton O. Ward, Rep., 2735, Vincent P. Cash, Dem., 1632; Rep.—Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 2614, Dewitt C. Vought, Dem., 1727, Justus B. Gardner, Pro., 174; Sh.—John H. Parrish, Rep., 1944, John B. Rowell, Dem., 2085, Walter H. Spooner, Pro., 531; Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, Rep., 2734, Newton Burns, Dem., 1687; Treas.—Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 2753, James Gibbs, Dem., 1663; Reg. of D.—Geo. W. Long, Rep., 2716, Philip W. Creaser, Dem., 1718; Pros. Atty.—Chas. H. Goggin, Rep., 2408, Archie McCall, Dem., 2054; Dr. Com.—Edwin W. Redman, Rep., 2666, Jackson M. Williams, Dem., 1754; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, Rep., 2682, Geo. S. Aldrich, Rep., 2747, John T. Mathews, Dem., 1735, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 1643; Cor.—W.

K. Ludwig, Rep., 2757, Orill Reichard, Rep., 2751, Wilbur F. Markham, Dem., 1653, Kosciusko P. Peet, Dem., 1658; Sur.—Joseph W. Harrod, Rep., 2798. Amendment to Constitution relative to bonded indebtedness of counties—Yes, 1116, no, 1808. (Clarence C. Hopkins, Fred S. Brown, Co. canvassers.)

**Primary Election, March 1, 1911, for Circuit Judge:** Rep.—Kelly S. Searl, 515; Dem.—Geo. P. Stone, 131, John T. Mathews, 132.

**April, 1911:** Sup. Ct. J.—Rep., 3207, Dem., 1734, Pro., 157, So., 42; Cir. Judge—Kelly S. Searl, Rep., 2802, Geo. P. Stone, Dem., 2310. The election in the circuit resulted in the choice of K. S. Searl. Co. Sch. Com.—Howard A. Potter, Rep., 3196, Claude Miller, Dem., 1839. Am. relative to primary school money—Yes, 2434, no, 1975. Am. relative to adopting county road system—Yes, 1971, no, 2817.

**Primary Election, Aug. 27, 1912:** Republican—U. S. Sen.—Wm. Alden Smith, 1659; Gov.—Amos S. Musselman, 1028, Fred. C. Martindale, 733; Cong. at large—Pat. H. Kelley, 1426; Cong., 11th Dist.—Francis O. Lindquist, 722, Francis A. Dodds, 863, Dennis E. Alward, 235; St. Senator—Francis King, 1338, Frank Dusenbury, 464; Rep.—Newel Smith, 605, John W. Myers, 603, Robert S. Miller, 523; Judge of Pro.—J. Lee Potts, 997, Isaac S. Seaver, 849; Sh.—Wilbur Ennis, 873, Wesley H. Parr, 515, John Rush, 301, Wm. A. Seamon, 140; Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, 779, Fred C. Pernert, 699, Hollie J. Rose, 342; Treas.—Adelbert P. Lane, 1602; Reg. of D.—Bird J. Tucker, 1133, Fred W. Griswold, 688; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, 937, Chas. H. Goggin, 888; Dr. Com.—Edwin W. Redman, 997, Elon P. Potter, 780; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, 1457, John Dunham, 6; Cor.—W. K. Ludwig, 1242, B. C. Hall, 1034; Sur.—Joseph W. Harrod, 1501. Democrat—U. S. Sen.—Alfred Lucking, had maj., Geo. P. Hummer; Gov.—Woodbridge N. Ferris, no op.; Cong. at large—Ed. Frensdorf, no op.; Cong., 11th Dist.—Achie McCall, no op.; St. Sen.—Frank L. Convis, no op.; Rep.—Willard D. Tucker, 289, Aciel F. Wright, 175; Judge of Pro.—John T. Mathews, 467; Sh.—John B. Rowell, 489; Clk.—Frank Himes, 457; Treas.—Binnie Coffin, 230, Ira D. Suydam, 216; Reg. of D.—Philip W. Creaser, 443; Pros. Atty.—Geo. P. Stone, 465; Dr. Com.—Joseph Foster, 430; C. C. C.—Jas. K. Wright, 415, D. Lloyd Johnson, 300; Cor.—Jas. P. Carpenter, 401, Chas. F. O'Neill, 326; Sur.—Ephraim S. Reist, 420. Geo. P. Stone declined the nomination for Pros. Atty., and D. Lloyd Johnson was appointed to the vacancy. D. Lloyd Johnson declined the nomination for Circuit Court Commissioner. National Progressive—Rep.—Geo. H. Carl, 4; Sh.—Geo. W. Irish, 2; Clk.—Homer Dunham, 2; Treas.—Chas. H. Smith, 2; Reg. of D.—Wm. H. Miner, 1.

**Nov., 1912:** Pres.—Wm. H. Taft, Rep., 1810, Woodrow Wilson, Dem., 1836, Theo. Roosevelt, Natl. Progressive, 2135, Prohibition ticket, 83, Socialist ticket, 45, Socialist Labor ticket, 3; Gov.—Amos S. Musselman, Rep., 2130, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Dem., 2367, L. Whitney Watkins, Natl. Pro., 1288, Prohi., 71, So., 31; Sec. of St.—Fred C. Martindale, Rep., 2292, Jas. B. Balch, Dem., 1918, Howard H. Batdorff, Natl. Pro., 1533; Cong., 11th Dist.—Francis O. Lindquist, Rep., 2342, Archie McCall, Dem., 2212, John W. Patchin, Natl. Pro., 1211; St. Sen.—Francis King, Rep., 2566, Frank L. Convis, Dem., 2031; Rep.—Newel Smith, Rep., 2288, Willard D. Tucker, Dem., 2122, Geo. H. Carl, Natl. Pro., 1334; Judge of Pro.—J. Lee Potts, Rep., 2617, John T. Mathews, Dem., 2353; Sh.—Wilbur B. Ennis, Rep., 2606, John B. Rowell, Dem., 2316, Geo. W. Irish, Natl. Pro., 877; Co. Clk.—Richard E. Hughes, Rep., 2663, Frank R. Himes, Dem., 2164; Treas.—Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 2772, Binnie M. Coffin, Dem., 2030; Reg. of D.—Bird J. Tucker, Rep., 3111, Philip W. Creaser, Dem., 1835; Pros. Atty.—John M. Everden, Rep., 2684, D. Lloyd Johnson, Dem., 2201; Dr. Com.—

Edwin W. Redman, Rep., 2788, Joseph Foster, Dem., 2045; C. C. C.—John D. Spinney, Rep., 2743, John Dunham, Rep., 2802, Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 2054; Cor.—Will K. Ludwig, Rep., 2768, B. C. Hall, Rep., 2742, Jas. P. Carpenter, Dem., 1993, Chas. F. O'Neil, Dem., 1967; Sur.—Joseph W. Harrod, Rep., 2823, Ephraim S. Reist, Dem., 1936. Woman Suf. Am.—Yes, 3256, No, 2203. City Charter Am.—Yes, 3184, no, 1652. (Chas. A. Van Deventer, Wilbur F. Markham, A. L. Giles, county canvassers.)

**April, 1913:** Justices Supreme Court—Rep., 2214, Dem., 1575, Natl. Pro., 784, Socialist, 50, Prohibition, 107. Woman Suffrage—Yes, 1737, no, 2673. County Road System—Yes, 1827, no, 2883. Pensions for Firemen—Yes, 1451, no, 2633.

## JUDGES OF PROBATE.

John R. Cheesman, Dem., 1855.
Francis Nelson, Rep., 1856, '60, '64.
Elijah Peck, Rep., 1868.
Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 1872.
Giles T. Brown, Rep. 1876.
Jas. Paddock, Rep., 1880, '84.
J. Lee Potts, Rep., 1888, 1912.
John M. Everden, Rep., 1892.
Chas. H. Chase, Fusion, 1896.
Isaac S. Seaver, Rep., 1900, '04, '08.

## SHERIFFS.

Geo. E. Walker, Rep., 1855.
Homer L. Townsend, Rep., 1856, '58.
Frederick D. Weller, Rep., 1860, '62.
David Bailey, Rep., 1864, '66.
Elisha C. Cook, Rep., 1868, '70.
Wm. H. Pratt, Rep., 1872, '74.
Geo. L. Patch, Rep., 1876, '78.
Alfred A. Wood, Rep., 1880.
Kosciusko P. Peet, Fusion, 1882, '84.
Perry D. Pettit, Rep., 1886, '88, '92, '94.
Jas. P. King, Fusion, 1890.
Nelson J. McCullough, Fusion, 1896, '98.
John H. Parrish, Rep., 1900, '02.
E. Bradford Kille, Rep., 1904, '06.
Frank L. Convis, Dem., 1908.
John B. Rowell, Dem., 1910.
Wilbur B. Ennis, Rep., 1912.

## COUNTY CLERKS.

Orville M. Wood, Dem., 1855.
Henry H. Smith, Rep., 1856.
Emery Crosby, Rep., 1858.
Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., 1860.
Wm. C. Beckwith, Rep., 1862, '64, '66, '68.
Nathan Church, Rep., 1870, '72.
Wm. B. Scattergood, Rep., 1874, '76, '78.
John M. Trask, Rep., 1880.
John T. Swigart, Fusion, 1882, '84.
Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 1886, '88.
Inman N. Cowdrey, Fusion, 1890.
Jas. G. Kress, Rep., 1892, '94.
Hiram Haring, Fusion, 1896.
Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 1898, 1900.
Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., 1902, '04.
Richard E. Hughes, Rep., 1906, '08, '10, '12.

## TREASURERS.

Ralph Ely, Rep., 1855, '60.
A. M. Crawford, Rep., appointed Feb. 12, 1856.
Henry Lane, appointed Oct. 13, 1856.
Lafayette Church, Rep., 1856, '58.
Elijah Peck, Rep., 1862, '64.
Wm. S. Turck, Rep., 1866, '68, '70.
Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., 1872.
Schuyler W. Ambler, Rep., 1874, '76.
Wm. M. Barstow, Rep., 1878, '80.
Sylvester B. Heverlo, Fusion, 1882, '84.
Wm. Brice, Rep., 1886, '88.
Frank Munson, Fusion, 1890.
John W. Otto, Rep., 1892, '94.
Henry Read, Fusion, 1896.
Daniel L. Sharrar, Rep., 1898, 1900.
Fred E. Smith, Rep., 1902, '04.
Harvey R. Munson, Rep., 1906, '08.
Adelbert P. Lane, Rep., 1910, '12.

## REGISTERS OF DEEDS.

Henry Lane, Dem., 1855.
Elijah Peck, Rep., 1856, '58, '60.
Henry P. Howd, Rep., 1862, '64.
Theodore Nelson, Rep., 1866, '68.
Dewitt C. Chapin, Rep., 1870, '72. On the death of Mr. Chapin, January, 1873, Ella Chapin finished out his term.
Jas. T. Hall, Dem., 1874.
Joseph H. Seaver, Rep., 1876, '78.
Geo. S. Van Buskirk, Rep., 1880.
John L. Sinclair, Fusion, 1882, '84.
Chester W. Martin, Rep., 1886, '88.
Wm. T. Pitt, Fusion, 1890.
Napoleon B. Bradley, Rep., 1892, '94.
Frank M. Vandercook, Fusion, 1896,'98.
Albert H. Lowry, Rep., 1900, '02.
John C. Watson, Rep., 1904, '06.
Geo. W. Long, Rep., 1908, '10.
Bird J. Tucker, Rep., 1912.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

Franklin Miller, Dem., 1855, '56.
Israel B. Coats, Rep., 1858, '60.
Moses Tompkins, Rep., appointed on death of Mr. Coats in 1861, and elected in 1862.
Wm. E. Winton, Rep., 1864, '66.
Andrew J. Utley, Rep., 1868.
Jas. K. Wright, Dem., 1870, '74, '82.
Chas. E. Williams, Rep., 1872.
Truman W. Whitney, Rep., 1876, '78.
Chas. J. Willett, Fusion, 1880.
Jas. L. Clark, Rep., 1884.
Byron H. Sawyer, Rep., 1886, '88.
Jas. Clarke, Fusion, 1890.
Wm. A. Leet, Rep., 1892, '94.
Newel Smith, Fusion, 1896.
Julius B. Kirby, Rep., 1898, 1900.
Supreme Court decision, throwing out Elba Township, election of 1898, gave Archie McCall, Fusion, the election and he took possession in July, 1899, finishing the term.
Marvin R. Salter, Rep., 1902, '04.
John M. Everden, Rep., 1906, '08, '12.
Chas. H. Goggin, Rep., 1910.

## HEADS OF COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Giles T. Brown, Rep., 1867, '69, '73.
Dillis D. Hamilton, Rep., 1871.
Orin G. Tuttle, Rep., 1893, '95, '97.
Retta Peet, Fusion, 1899.
Chas. F. Pike, Rep., 1901, '03, '07.
Howard A. Potter, Rep., 1911.

## STARVATION TIMES IN GRATIOT.

### Some Reasons for the Distressing Shortage.

Many details and incidents bearing upon the days of destitution in Gratiot County, and the sufferings passed through by many, are given in the section of this work devoted more particularly to the meetings of the Gratiot County Pioneer Society. Those details are the personal experiences of the members, as given in special papers read at the meetings, and in the interchange of reminiscences by the members present. This present section is devoted more particularly to the official action taken to alleviate the distress, by way of appropriations by the board of supervisors, and also the distribution of the same and of the supplies donated by outside sympathizers.

It may be well to summarize, briefly, some of the principal causes that created or led to, the period of destitution in Gratiot. The so-called "Graduation Act," a governmental statute enacted early in the year 1854, to take effect in August of that year, was the initial and chief factor in the trouble. It was a beneficent and praiseworthy act in itself. By its provisions certain government lands were to be reduced in price from the regular price of $1.25 per acre, to 50 cents per acre. But its effect was to cause a large number of poor people, who desired to better their condition by possessing

a home of their own, but whose limited means prevented them from securing land in the settled portions of this and adjoining states, to hasten into the county and secure a piece of the 50-cent government land. It would seem that the greater portion of those buying, calculated to move on to their purchases at their leisure, after they had gathered together sufficient to maintain themselves until something could be raised on their lands. But here came an order from the land department a short time after the act became in force, requiring that all purchasers should occupy and improve their land within one year from its purchase, or the land would revert back to the government, and they would forfeit the purchase price.

While it is difficult to see how the government could plausibly have done otherwise, its action seems to have taken people by surprise, and the result was, a rush of people to take possession of their purchases. So here was the first factor leading to the trouble—an overplus of settlers, considering the distance to supplies, and the difficulties connected with travel and transportation. But this unfortunate condition need not necessarily have been fatal to the possibility of survival, had it not been supplemented by a failure of crops brought about by alternate floods and drouths, and with the climax of late and early frosts, to put the finishing touches to the discouraging conditions. Considering the settlers' lack of means, lack of teams and tools, and lack of supplies within reach, the job of supporting a family in a practically unbroken wilderness must be set down as a difficult one with weather conditions the most favorable; but with all nature working against a man, in addition to the other drawbacks, the odds are too great.

And then it would probably be no stretch of the imagination to presume that there was quite a sprinkling of shiftlessness among the settlers. There is in all communities. Of course one takes his life in his hands to even suggest such a thing, for there are plenty of people who seem to think that every pioneer was at least a saint if not an angel, simply because they were pioneers. But they were not. Mainly just human beings, with only occasionally an angel. Just as we find it even to this day. There were good people and bad people, and all grades between. Mostly industrious but some lazy, and occasionally one even vicious. But all, or nearly all, in those times, were in the same fix; victims of the unfortunate combination of circumstances that brought hunger and destitution to themselves and their families, and all must be helped.

### Relief Measures Inaugurated.

At a special meeting of the board of supervisors held May 27, 1857, the first official action was taken by the county authorities looking to the relief of the destitute poor of the county, other than what relief could be and was furnished through the ordinary means. At this meeting of the board a set of resolutions bearing upon the subject was introduced by Supervisor E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, which, being referred to a committee, were reported on favorably, and were then adopted unanimously. The resolutions are here given entire:

"Whereas, There is great necessity of providing for the relief of the county in the uncommon scarcity of provisions, therefore,

"Resolved, That the chairman of the board (Addison Hayden, of North Star) in and for Gratiot County be, and is hereby authorized, to draw orders upon the county for $4,000, payable in one year from date, drawing seven per cent. interest, which shall wholly or in part, as necessity may require, be negotiated for provisions.

"Resolved, That the provisions so purchased shall be sold at actual cost to inhabitants for their own consumption, for which said individuals

shall give their notes, payable in nine months from date, with interest at ten per cent.

"Resolved, That such provisions shall be held in depot at such places as may be convenient, subject to the order of the supervisors, in proportion to the estimate now in the hands of said supervisors, and that no supervisor shall draw more than shall be deemed necessary for his township.

"Resolved, That such provisions be held by said respective supervisors, who shall dispose of the same, and be responsible therefor, until the obligations therefor be deposited with the county treasurer, and duly receipted, and that no moneys shall be paid or provisions distributed, except upon the order of the supervisors respectively. And each supervisor shall keep an accurate account of the amount of provisions so procured in his township, and the expenses incurred in and for the same.

"Resolved, That the provisions so held shall not be sold to individuals whose means may enable them to purchase from the markets, inasmuch as the intention of this whole matter is to relieve those whose means will not enable them to purchase at the markets."

Each resolution was voted on separately, and each carried unanimously. On motion of Mr. Kellogg, the chairman was instructed to negotiate the orders either personally or by agent.

Previous to this meeting of the board of supervisors and the adoption of resolutions as above mentioned, the news of the serious plight of Gratiot County settlers had been carried to the outside, and relief supplies were already being received and distributed. This is conclusively shown by a resolution adopted at this same meeting. The resolution was presented by Supervisor S. S. Hastings, of Pine River, and was as follows:

"Resolved, That A. M. Crawford, former county treasurer of this county, is hereby tendered the thanks of this board of supervisors, on behalf of the people of Gratiot County, for his labors at St. Johns, in receiving and forwarding the donated supply of provisions from abroad, for this county."

The hard times continued through '57 and '58, the produce raised being inadequate to supply the necessities of the settlers, for the reasons already set forth. Supplies, however, were sent in from different parts of the state, and this, together with the appropriations made by the supervisors, and the regular expenditures of the superintendents of the poor, served to pull the people through. The crops of '59 proved good, and after they became available, conditions assumed a brighter appearance, and thereafter the people were self-sustaining. But the winter of 1858-9 was a hard one on the people, and the spring found them in such destitute circumstances that another special session of the board was held, and another appropriation made.

The special session was held May 14th, '59, Supervisor M. Pettit, of Emerson, chairman. Supervisor Ralph Ely, of Arcada, presented resolutions as follows:

"Whereas, It seems to have become the duty of this board of supervisors to devise some means for the support of the inhabitants of this county until the coming harvest in order to prevent starvation and death in our midst, therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Gratiot County, that the clerk of said county be hereby authorized and required, to draw orders on the treasury of said county to the amount of $8,000, payable in three years from date, with interest, to be issued for the purchase of provisions to meet the immediate wants of the inhabitants of said county, and that some person, to be appointed by this board, shall be required to go to Detroit and

other places, if necessary, with said orders, and use all possible exertions to negotiate with parties for provisions, on the most favorable terms possible, and the same to be forwarded to the following depots, to-wit: To St. Johns, in Clinton County, $3,200; to Pewamo, Ionia County, $2,500; to Midland, Midland County, $2,000; to St. Charles, Saginaw County, $300, all to be held subject to the order of the treasurer of said County of Gratiot.

"And the said county treasurer is hereby required, before giving orders for said provisions, to any person applying for the same, to require of each and every person so applying, good and sufficient security to the county, either by mortgage on real estate or otherwise, to be recommended first by the supervisor of his township and approved by said county treasurer, and deposited in the office of said treasurer, for the prompt payment of the amount therein stated, into the treasury of said County of Gratiot, within two years from date thereof, with interest. And that each and every person so obtaining said provisions shall be required to pay for the same such sums as will cover all the contingent expenses of procuring and disposing of the same; and thereby in no wise encumber the county. And it is hereby made the duty of the county treasurer to deal with each township in said county in proportion to their relative necessities, upon their giving security as above stated."

This was adopted unanimously, and then on motion of Supervisor Boyer, of Seville, Ralph Ely was made the purchasing agent provided for in the resolutions, the vote on the appointment being unanimous excepting that Mr. Ely voted no. Mr. Ely seems to have performed his duties with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the board and the people.

At the session of the board of supervisors in October, 1859, Mr. Ely reported having spent only $1,500.24 of the $2,000 appropriated. A special committee was appointed to settle with him, the committee being composed of Supervisors F. D. Weller, of Bethany; J. B. Smith, of Washington, and Cornelius Holiday, of Pine River. They "reported satisfactorily," according to the record, and were discharged, and on motion of Supervisor H. T. Barnaby, of North Star, Mr. Ely "was dicharged from all liability in regard to his agency as provision agent;" and then on motion of Mr. Ely, "the clerk was authorized to receive and cancel the remaining provision orders not expended."

### The Inevitable Payday Came Too Soon.

All that now remained to be done was the collection of the obligations entered into by the settlers for the aid furnished by the county. From the pointers given by the records, and from information otherwise obtained, there seems to be no doubt that the payments were slow, few and far between; another pretty good item of proof that the old settlers, in the aggregate, were possessed of some of the characteristics of modern mortals. The notes and mortgages given in return for provisions furnished in 1859, due and payable in two years, evidently were not all paid when due, for at a session of the board held in June, 1861, Mr. Cassada, of Fulton, offered a resolution, which was adopted, extending the time of payment to October 1, 1861. Then at the October session the time was extended to January 1, 1862.

Again the matter comes to the front by way of a motion by Mr. Cassada, which was adopted, ordering the county treasurer to "cancel all notes and mortgages given for provisions, when the maker of the same has died in the service of the United States."The next is under date of October 10,

1864, when the prosecuting attorney was instructed, "to foreclose all mortgages given for provisions, excepting those of soldiers now in the military service of the United States."

At the October session, 1865, a resolution was presented by Jas. Gargett, supervisor from Pine River, which was adopted, providing that all donation notes in the hands of the county treasurer, be turned over to the supervisors of the several townships where they belonged, and that the makers of the notes should work out the amounts on the roads; otherwise the supervisors should proceed to collect the same and apply the proceeds to the improvement of the roads.

The next thing that happened occurred in January, 1866, when Mr. Cassada offered a resolution, and it was adopted, providing, "that whatever remains of relief funds in the townships on March 1, 1866, be disposed of for any purpose, at the discretion of the electors of the townships interested. This had nothing to do with the notes and mortgages, but is presumed to have disposed of what was left of the relief funds.

Then comes a skip of ten years before the mortgage matter is referred to again. At the January session, 1876, Supervisor C. H. Morse, of New Haven, introduced a resolution providing for foreclosing the mortgages still remaining; or, "if the foreclosure is liable to cause distress, to cancel the same." The resolution was adopted.

So, having followed up this phase of the subject for seventeen years, it is hardly deemed worth while to continue the chase farther. If those notes and mortgages are not all paid by this time the case would seem to be hopeless.

### Recovery Was Rapid.

A clipping from the Detroit Free Press of August 13, 1860, tells of the appearances and prospects in Gratiot at that time, and shows how quickly the good crops of one favorable season put a bright and encouraging aspect to conditions, and gave heart and hope to those who had endured privation and discouragements to the limit. The Free Press item says: "Samuel Smith, who has charge of the Indian Mills, Isabella County, informs us that the lately established seat of that county is called Mount Pleasant. It is situated on the south bank of the Chippewa River. 'Starving Gratiot' where two or three years ago the people were compelled to subsist on basswood buds and roots to sustain life, is making her mark this season in the production of crops. We are informed by persons competent to judge, that the wheat alone in that and Isabella County, (and the settled part of Isabella County is almost wholly on the line of Gratiot County) will yield a surplus, over and above the requirements of the people in that section, of 25,000 bushels, and that some of the finest quality of wheat marketed in northern Michigan will be brought from this section.

"Other crops are looking remarkably well, and appearances give every indication of a heavy yield. Gratiot will soon be ranked as one of the most productive counties in the state."

### More Evidence of Rapid Development.

A writer from outside of Gratiot, writing in 1883, had this to say of the county's early tribulations, and what the county looked like: "In 1858 Gratiot was in a starving condition and required the aid of the charitably-minded all through the state, the frosts having killed every growing crop; and it was not one frost only, but several, and the fear that they would follow as a perpetual curse upon the locality, which induced the gravest fears in the minds of the settlers. At that time all were new and all were struggling, as it were, for existence. There was pine timber throughout the

county—the best timber as is ever the case on the best of farming lands, but the developments were literally nothing. Slashings, shanties, and roads that were a burlesque on the worst sort of a modern toll road; and such was the situation in a large proportion of the territory of surrounding counties."

Then comes the contrasting statement from the same pen, portraying the conditions a few years later: "Now Gratiot is a garden, as are the adjoining counties, and the extent of the development and increase is best illustrated by the statement that four years ago (1879) the writer attended an agricultural fair two miles west of St. Louis and about the same distance east of Alma, and found there at least six thousand people on the grounds; as good a show of live stock of all kinds, of fruit, grain and vegetables, butter, canned fruit and household manufactures pertaining to the farm, as is the average show of these classes made at the state fair. In the enclosure were ten acres covered with wagons, the horses unhitched and feeding at the boxes. Not all the scribbling for a campaign would demonstrate so clearly how thoroughly excellent is Gratiot as a farming county, and how thoroughly fore-handed are her farmers."

### Amateur Farmers. Notes on Destitution.

Some personal reminiscences of the starving times in Gratiot may well be sandwiched in here. One who tells from his own personal experiences and observations, says that many of the farmers were amateurs at the business, along in those early times, the times that tried the souls of men who were experienced in agriculture. Speaking of the fall of '56 he says: "The raising of any considerable amount of crops had not yet been accomplished, and, therefore, farming in Gratiot was yet an experiment. Very many of the inhabitants were yet without experience in tilling the soil, and seemed to entertain the opinion that the depositing of the seed in the ground under any circumstances insured a harvest, and proceeded on that supposition; but they paid dearly for their schooling. Much ambition was manifested to get in as much corn as possible, many planting among the logs and brush heaps, without burning over or otherwise disturbing the surface. Others who attempted to clear and prepare their ground found too much water in a wet spring to contend with; and in not a few instances they had no teams, consequently planting in many cases was as late as the middle of June. The corn planted among the logs and brush produced but little, and that little was largely destroyed by squirrels and mice which found very convenient hiding places in the brush heaps. That planted very late was caught by early frosts and thus rendered nearly worthless. This state of things greatly discouraged the people, and made the prospect for the approaching winter anything but flattering.

"In the spring of 1858 a settler went with his ox-team to Maple Rapids to secure some supplies. He had $3.50 in his pocket, and hoped to get $3.00 worth of flour and to spend the 50 cents for feed for his team. However, though the village boasted of three hotels, not a mouthful of hay, oats or straw could be obtained; so, hastening back to the timber, he said, 'I thanked God for leeks.' After an absence of two days he got home with three dollars' worth of provisions.

"We thought we had experienced hard times before this, but such was the difficulty of providing food for families at this time, few thought they could endure more. But they were destined to yet be driven to greater extremities. The news of want in this and adjoining counties reached the ears of other portions of the state, and although the facts were bad enough, the stories in many cases were greatly exaggerated. Some of the more faint-

hearted left the county and fled into the more populous regions, and not wishing to have a reputation for want of pluck, they told it just a little worse than the facts would justify. These statements, however, stirred the benevolence of many kind-hearted people to donate all kinds of supplies and send them into the county for the needy. Possibly some other counties were suffering nearly as much as this county was, but the 'outside' only talked of 'poor, starving Gratiot.' No one can possibly doubt the true benevolence of the donors, but it is possible that the county would have been as well off without the donations. There is no question that a good many worthy citizens were greatly assisted, as in cases of sickness, etc., but a large number of those who availed themselves of the donation, as soon as it was gone, left the county, while many of those who were truly industrious and enterprising, struggled through without assistance."

And again, talking of the outlook and of the realities of 1858, toward the last of the season: "Suffering for the necessaries of life was on the increase in spite of all the efforts thus far put forth to prevent it. It was thought that if the inhabitants could some how get along this one more year the crisis would be over. But the propects for this year hung over the county like a dark cloud. The people hoped against hope, and struggled against fate. The superintendents of the poor tried to relieve the worst cases, and did assist many. Not a few, with commendable pride, suffered in silence, until stories of suffering such as would make one shudder began to be whispered. Reports got afloat and reached the surrounding country that some had actually starved to death. This, however, was untrue. But a great many men were compelled to leave their families with scarcely anything to eat, and, taking it on foot through the woods, would go in search of food, and would not stop for rest, night or day, returning as soon as possible with what they could get, on their backs, and enduring incredible hardships.

"At the annual session of the board of supervisors in October, 1858, and at the adjourned session of January, 1859, the situation was exhaustively discussed. But they finally adjourned without taking aggressive action to relieve the suffering, excepting that they made liberal appropriations to the regular poor fund. However, the board convened early in May, 1859, in special session, called to take measures for the people's relief. An appropriation was made and plans for its distribution were adopted.

"The supplies provided by this appropriation, consisting of flour, cornmeal, beans, rice, pork, fish, etc., were shipped to different points for convenience in distribution—some to St. Johns, some to Dallas and Pewamo in Ionia County, and some to Saginaw County, of which latter shipment some portions were brought up Pine River to Alma. For convenience, the supervisors of the several townships were constituted sub-agents to distribute the supplies in their respective townships.

"The excitement over this distribution was intense. As long as a morsel of these supplies remained, or was supposed to remain, neither the county treasurer nor any of the supervisors could do much else but attend to its distribution. And some of the people did little else but travel around with a bag under their arm in pursuit of 'donation' as it was generally termed.

"By the 10th of June every morsel was distributed and consumed, and in some respects the people were worse off than before, having added to their destitution the embarrassment of debt. And how some families subsisted from this time till harvest remains a mystery to this day. The hardships of those days gave rise to the expression we have often heard quoted, referring to the diet of many—'Saw-dust pudding and slippery-elm

gravy.' And it is a fact that many families subsisted for weeks on what they could find in the woods. The blessing of good health generally prevailed, otherwise the suffering would necessarily have been even greater than it was.

"Reader, do you think you know anything about hard times? If you did not reside in Gratiot in 1859, you have but a faint idea of hard times.

"The crops this season proved pretty good excepting corn, which, having been planted late in most cases, was largely injured by the early fall frosts. Early planted corn matured and was a fair crop. In short the prospects for better times became very flattering."

## PIONEER SOCIETY AND MEETINGS.

### The First Meeting and Who Were Present.

As a result of persistent research, I find that the first attempt at the formation of a pioneer society for Gratiot County was made at St. Louis, January 1, 1874. The meeting was held at the office of McOmber & Paddock, and the following named pioneers were present: John R. Cheesman, W. A. McOmber, S. S. Hastings, W. L. Stebbins, Luther Smith, Jacob Burnham, Frank Miller, all of St. Louis; Henry Smith, Ira Smith, Emery W. Burgess, Hiram Burgess, Amos V. Packer, of Pine River; Ed. Lake, Harlow Cramer, Welcome Phineas Partelo, Martin W. Cramer, John Broadhead, of Bethany; David Milligan, of Wheeler; John Glover, of Arcada; Daniel Griffith, of Emerson.

The association was named the "Gratiot County Pioneer Society." Early settlers of Isabella County were invited to join the organization.

Officers were chosen as follows: President—John R. Cheesman; Secretary—Frank Miller; Treasurer—Henry Smith. Vice-Presidents for the several townships were named as follows: Aracada, Lafayette Church; Bethany, Sidney S. Hastings; Elba, Andrew Call; Emerson, Wm. W. Comstock; Fulton, Ben. Cowles; Hamilton, Elijah Curtis; Lafayette, Samuel Wheeler; Newark, John Jeffery; New Haven, Moses H. White; North Shade, Geo. E. Walker; North Star, Elisha C. Cook; Pine River, Ira Smith; Seville, James L. Shults; Sumner, Wm. H. Pratt; Washington, Jo. B. Smith; Wheeler, David Milligan.

A corresponding secretary for each township was selected as follows: Arcada, (to be supplied); Bethany, (to be supplied); Elba, (to be supplied); Emerson, Joseph A. Guthrie; Fulton Albert Wilcox; Hamilton, Jas. B. Curtis; Lafayette, Chas. C. Foote; Newark, E. W. Kellogg; New Haven, Chas. H. Morse; North Shade, (to be supplied); North Star, Elbridge Franklin; Pine River, (to be supplied); Seville, John B. Mallory; Sumner, Samuel Story; Washington, Napoleon B. Fraker; Wheeler, Barney Swope.

Committee on constitution and by-laws: Luther Smith, S. S. Hastings, Frank Miller, John Jeffery, and William Robinson, the latter a resident of Isabella County. The meeting adjourned in due course of time, but I fail to find any further pioneer doings till 1879.

### Another First Meeting.

October 18, 1879, I find that a meeting was held at the court house in Ithaca, "for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization of the pioneers of the county," as it is stated. In the absence of evidence to the contrary it seems likely that the organization started in 1874 had been

allowed to die, or at least it had gone into such a condition that it was deemed best to start in anew.

Dr. J. R. Cheesman, of St. Louis, was elected temporary chairman and Frank Miller, of Ithaca, secretary. By request, Wm. Long, of Washington, stated the purpose of the meeting, in a few able and eloquent remarks. A poem contributed by Attorney Oscar F. Wisner, of Ithaca, was then read by the secretary, and amid great applause a vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the author. A committee on permanent organization was then appointed, composed of Nathan Church, E. C. Cook and Chas. E. Webster. During the deliberations of this committee a paper on the early settlement of the county was read by the secretary, who received a vote of thanks for the same.

The committee on permanent organization reported: For President, John R. Cheesman; Secretary, E. W. Kellogg; Corresponding Secretary, Frank Miller; Treasurer, Parmer R. Phillips; Executive Committee to act with the president and secretary, Wm. Long, Ransom Allen, Wm. M. Barstow.

Township Vice-Presidents were then chosen as follows: Arcada, Ralph Ely; Bethany, S. S. Hastings; Elba, Andrew Call; Emerson, Wm. W. Comstock; Fulton, Jas. L. Payne; Hamilton, Elijah Curtis; Lafayette, Sam. Wheeler; Newark, Fred S. Kelly; New Haven, Moses H. White; North Shade, Roman Fyler; North Star, Henry Swift; Pine River, John Vanderbeek; Seville, Jas. L. Shults; Sumner, Isaac B. Ward; Washington, Cornelius Campbell; Wheeler, Barney Swope.

The organization was christened "The Gratiot County Pioneer Society." A discussion arose as to who should be considered pioneers, participated in by Newell Leonard, Wm. L. Phillips, F. S. Kelly, N. Church and others, and then a committee composed of E. W. Kellogg, E. W. Smith and Laf. Sweatland was appointed to settle the matter and report. The committee recommended that all who were in the county previous to 1870 be eligible to membreship; also that all who came afterward should be honorary members. More discussion of the subject and then it was voted that "all reputable persons who have resided in the county ten years heretofore, or in future for said length of time may become members."

A membership fee of ten cents was voted, also ten cents annual dues; ladies free.

Five-minute remarks being called for, Chairman Cheesman led off with his bear story, followed by remarks by Isaac Henson, Laf. Sweatland, Betsey Burgess, Elder Elijah Beard, Myron Wood, P. R. Phillips, W. H. Pratt and others.

After singing the doxology the meeting adjourned. "There were over 400 people present at this first formal meeting of the pioneers of Gratiot County," says the secretary's report. Isaac Preston, of Emerson, aged 84 years, was the oldest man present. Wm. Barton, also present, aged 81, settled in Hamilton in 1854.

The following is a list of those recorded as present at this first meeting, together with the names added the next year—1880—at the meeting held at the fair grounds, Ithaca. The date of their arrival in Gratiot, and the township in which they first located, are also given. For convenience sake, for reference, the names are assorted by townships:

Arcada—Nathan Church, '54; Wm. S. Hall, '56; Mrs. Harriet Preston, '54; Mrs. Maggie Du Bois, '56; Wm. S. Turck, '61; Wilbur Nelson, '54; Mary M. Sherwood, '59; Z. Moss, '59; C. C. Clark, '62; Homer Burns, '54; Lafayette Church, '54; Margaret Prouty, '55; Hattie Price, '68; A. E. Turner, '65; Jacob Rush, '54; Sidney Phippeny, '53; Henry Kinkerter, '65;

Bethany—Mrs. Elizabeth (Fox) Miller, '56; John G. Thompson, '65; Hiero B. Fox, '56; Clarence K. Fox, '56; Joel Rowley, '57; Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, '56.

Elba—A. T. Rice, '66; Mrs. C. J. Rice, '66.

Emerson—Erastus Hunt, '55; Jerry Shaver, '55; Mrs. Hannah Shaver, '55; Sam. Sanders, '69; Mrs. Abigail Sanders, '69; Parks Allen, '54; Ransom Allen, '54; E. C. Farrington, '54; Isaac N. Coleman, '55; Mrs. Emily Beckwith, '59; Wm. C. Beckwith, '59; Mrs. H. Josephine (Beckwith) Helt, '59; Chas. E. Beckwith, '59; Gracie Beckwith, '59; John M. Everden, '55; Joseph A. Guthrie, '55; Emma M. Guthrie, '55; Reuben C. Haight, '56; Jane Haight, '56; Warner Coston, '56; Mrs. Sarah Coston, '56; Francis W. Curtis, '62; Rachel Curtis, '62; J. K. Johnston, '61; Mrs. Laura A. Johnston, '61; Wm. Ching, '66; Wm. Imisson, '55; Mrs. Isabel Imisson, '55; Sam. Newton, '59; Mrs. S. Newton, '59; Marie (Mull) Kinkerter, '60; Wm. Preston, '54.

Fulton—Edward N. Du Bois, '56; Mrs. Adaline Du Bois, '56; Parmer R. Phillips, '51; J. H. Lewis, '55; Milton Lewis, '55; Wm. J. Carr, '60; Mrs. Rebecca Carr, '54; Chas. E. Webster, '62; A. H. Herrick, '55; W. H. Laycock, '53; Martin T. Mills, '57; Geo. Du Bois, '56.

Hamilton—Jas. B. Curtis, '54; Daniel H. Curtis, '54; Wm. Barton, '54; Mrs. Catharine Barton, '54; John R. Cheesman, '54; Silas Hill, '73; Elijah Curtis, '55.

Lafayette—Geo. Richardson, '65; Mrs. Jennie Richardson, '65; Nelson S. Roe, '54; Geo. Wonnacott, '55; E. H. Bergin, '56; J. M. Thissell, '68; Theodore Devereaux, '55; Mrs. Caroline Devereaux, '55.

Newark—Frederick Strouse, '54; Mrs. Sarah Strouse, '54; Samuel Lepley, '55; David F. Hawkins, '54; Mrs Coroline J. Hawkins, '54; Frederick S. Kelly, '54; Jas. Wood, '53; Inman N. Cowdrey, '56; John G. Kinney, '56; Andrew J. Hatfield, '62; John H. Jessup, '60; Thos. Cunningham, '54; Mrs. Hannah Cunningham, '54; Myron Wood, '53; Sylvester Wheeler, '54; Robert Reed, '54; Mrs. Juliette Miller, '55; Perry L. Beechler, '55; Mrs. Mary Cutter, '55; Ebenezer W. Kellogg, '55; Mrs. Adaline L. Kellogg, '55; Francis Kellogg, '55; Mrs. Janette Reed, '54; Wm. Strouse, '64; Ben. B. Parker, '54; John Parker, '54; C. Yound, '54; Giles T. Brown, '66; Sara L. Brown, '66; John Broadhead, '57; Mrs. E. Peck, '55; Mrs. Wm. Kinsel, '55; C. W. Kinney, '56; Olive Hunt, '55.

New Haven—Wm. Culy, '54; Mrs. Eliza Culy, '54; Geo. W. Maynard, '67; Chas. H. Morse, '67; W. S. Everest, '67; Proctor Shepard, '58; Henry P. Clark, '54.

North Shade—Roman Fyler, '53; Mrs. E. N. Fyler, '53; Wm. Brice, '54; Emery Crosby, '56.

North Star—Henry Swift, '55; Mrs. Laura E. Swift, '55; Jas. Vance, '55; Mrs. Louisa Vance, '55; Lafayette Sweatland, '54; Mrs. Lydia Sweatland, '54; David Mellinger, '54; Edward A. Chase, '57; Mrs. Susan Chase, '57; C. E. McBride, '56; Mrs. H. M. McBride, '56; David Bell, '56; Chas. Marion Chaffin, '54; Elijah Beard, '54; Lebius L. B. Hunt, '56; Mrs. Benjamin Crawford, '54; John W. Howd, '54; Jas. W. Howd, '55; Mrs. Laura (Howd) Merrifield, '54; John Zoss, '63; Thos. Vance, '54; Mrs. C. J. Holmes, '56; Violetta A. Holmes, '63; Mrs. Ida Wilson, '60; Mrs. E. C. Patch, '56; Mary Patch, '63; Thos. Fuller, '59; Mrs. Betsey Howd, '54; Gideon Teachworth, '54; Clarissa Teachworth, '54; John Fuller, '69; Elisha C. Cook, '58; Mrs. Margaret Cook, '58; Emma Crawford, '62; Sophia Crawford, '59; Nancy A. Hurd, '55; G. W. Cutter, '54; Susannah

L. Dean, '54; John F. Henry, '62; Mary P. Henry, '62; Charlotte Henry, '62; John Barnes, '54; Sarah Barnes, '54; Wm. M. Barstow, '56; Eunice C. Barstow, '55; John Hiffner, '56.

Pine River—Daniel R. Sullivan, '55; Wm. C. B. Sherwood, '56; Amos V. Packer, '55; Mrs. Elizabeth Packer, '55; Henry Smith, '54; Briggs B. Ellison, '62; Andrew Jackson Harrington, '56; Mr. A. J. Harrington, '56; Emery W. Burgess, '53; Nelson Colburn, '58.

Sumner—Nathaniel K. Strayer, '55; Wm. H. Pratt, '59; Isaac B. Ward, '56; Sam. Bigelow, '66; Edward L. Drake, '62; Cynthia B. Drake, '62.

Washington—Napoleon B. Fraker, '61; Mrs. Rebecca R. Fraker, '61; Wm. W. Comstock, '54; Mrs Margaret M. Comstock, '54; Robert Carothers, '53; Mrs. Hannah Carothers, '53; John C. Heslin, '56; Wm. Long, '60; Mrs. Wm. Long, '60.

Wheeler—Milo A. Pomeroy, '65.

St. Louis—Elias W. Smith, '54; Mrs. Rhoda Dodge, '61; Mrs. Artie P. (Dodge) Van Dine, '61; John L. Sinclair, '66; Daniel O. Cuff, '63; Chas. J. Willett, '67; Fred. D. Weller, '57; Henry Darcy, '70; Mrs. H. Darcy, '70; Jas. K. Wright, '67; Geo. L. Patch, '67; Sidney S. Hastings, '55.

Alma—Mrs. D. W. C. Chapin, '65.

Ithaca—Mrs. M. H. Church, '66; Nathan G. Sutliff, '66; Geo. W. Rice, '61; Wm. Marlow, '60; A. W. Russell, '65; Mrs. E. M. Russell, '65; Willis A. Russell, '65; Frank Miller, '55; Wm. D. Scott, '63; J. Harvey Cady, '67; Silas B. Bowman, '68; Mrs. F. McNeil Potter, '58; Henry Mead, '56; Harvey Hunt, '70; Alanson J. Brown, '68; Mary E. Brown, '56.

### Some of Their Doings in 1880.

The pioneer meeting of 1880 was held at the fair grounds, Ithaca, July 29th. It was well attended and proved interesting. President Cheesman called the meeting to order, W. S. Everest made a prayer and Giles T. Brown gave an address of welcome, in behalf of Ithaca. After a basket picnic dinner followed by a prayer by Elder Beard, Historian Frank Miller read a paper on the early settlement of Newark Township. Rev. Theodore Nelson, of East Saginaw, delivered an address, which, like all of his efforts along that line, was greatly enjoyed. Elisha McCall read an original, humorous poem written by Attorney J. H. Kimball, of Ithaca.

The following resolution of sympathy was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize, in their bereavement, with the relatives of Isaac Preston, Arnold Payne, Wm. Burgess, Elizabeth Kinney, Peter Mates, and all other old pioneers of Gratiot County who have been called away from earth to that better land where suffering and sorrow are unknown, since the last meeting of this society."

Lafayette Sweatland, Thos. J. Tann, Lafayette Church, J. R. Cheesman, Mrs. Sweatland, W. S. Everest, Newell Leonard, Fred S. Kelly, Betsey Burgess, Mrs Ed. Lake and others, made remarks:

Officers were elected as follows: President, J. R. Cheesman; Secretary, E. W. Kellogg; Treasurer, W. W. Comstock; Historian, Frank Miller; and Township Vice-Presidents—Arcada, Ralph Ely; Bethany, Joel Rowley; Elba, Wm. A. Krom; Emerson, Ransom Allen; Fulton, C. E. Webster; Hamilton, Daniel H. Curtis; Lafayette, Emery Crosby; Newark, F. S. Kelly; New Haven, John Pool; North Shade, Roman Fyler; North Star, C. E. McBride; Pine River, Henry Smith; Seville, Jas. L. Shults;

Sumner, Geo. S. Bell; Washington, Cornelius Campbell; Wheeler, David Milligan. An executive committee was elected consisting of Wm. Long, of Washington; Wm. M. Barstow, of North Star, and Ransom Allen, of Emerson.

### The Faithful Got Together.

I cannot fix the date of the pioneer meeting when the following named pioneers were present, but it was along in the early 80s:

Arcada—Geo. R. Chandler, '56; John M. Glover, '54; John Nevins, '54; Martha Pickett, '56; Mrs. L. C. Woodard, '62; Catherine A. Walker, '56; L. Holiday, '55.

Bethany—John S. Nevins, '61.

Emerson—Theron Finney, '59; Ransom Allen, '54.

Fulton—Benj. Cowles, '53; Louisa Cowles, '53; Finley Dodge, '57; J. A. Cassada, '55; Mrs. C. W. Cassada, '55; Thos. J. Morse, '55; B. A. Laycock, '56; John W. Otto, '55; Eliza C. Bassett, '60; Chas. E. Price, '56; Thos. R. Payne, '46; Henry Price, '56; Albert Tuttle, '50; Joseph Wang, '56; M. T. Mills, '54; Mrs. C. B. Mills, '54; Amos Robinson, '54; Mrs. David Doan, '54; C. L. Smith, '66; Alfred Burnett, '69; John H. Bangs, '54; G. E. Hall, '54; Lucy A. Hall, '54; Albert Payne, '46; Robert Gladstone, '61; Sidney Sessions, '69; John H. Bangs, '70.

Hamilton—Joseph Wright, '54; Hannah Wright, '54; Elijah Curtis, '55; Henry Curtis, born in '56.

Lafayette—T. Devereaux, '55; Caroline Devereaux, '55; David C. Rounds, '61; Sarah V. Rounds, '57; Emery Crosby, '56.

Newark—Philo Taylor, '54; Stephen Cunningham, '57; Ruth Cunningham, '57; Timothy Pressley, '57; Sarah Pressley, '57; Henry J. Fell, '66; Samantha A. Kinney, '72; Lorenzo L. Kinney, '56; Joseph O. Kinney, '56; C. H. Kinney, '56; Hester A. Kinney, '56; Hannah Wheeler, '55; Polly Taylor, '54; Magdelen Eyer, '54; Wm. H. Wheeler, '55; Ed. Wheeler, '55; John Wheeler, '55; S. Wheeler, '55; Z. Hoag, '66; Mary Hoag, '66; Geo. Naldrett, '54; Mrs. Naldrett; Andrew Fell, '71; Catherine Fell, '71; Mary J. Fell, '71; Annie C. Fell, '71; Elizabeth Kinney, '63; Luther Wood, '54.

North Star—E. A. Walter, '61; Ann M. Walter, '61; S. Barager, '62; Caroline Swift, '55; E. C. Cook, '56; A. L. Hurd, '55; Edgar S. Dean, '58; Douglas Barnes, '59; Alice M. Barnes, '66; David Reichard, '65; Margaret Reichard, '65; W. J. Barnes, '54.

Pine River—Geo. Luce, '53; Nancy Luce, '53; E. G. Goodrich, '65; Henry L. Griffith, born in '55; Silas Moody, '61; Ellen Moody, '61; Henry W. Sandall, '63; Mary Sandall, '63.

Seville—A. Pickett, '54.

Sumner—Mrs. C. A. Pratt, '62; Phebe Carr, '56.

Washington—Andrew S. Jolly, '54; Mary Jane Jolly, '54; Sampson Ovenden, '65; Jane M. Ovenden, '65; B. De Mott, '68; Wm. V. Carothers, '54; Jas. V. Carr, '56; Wm. A. Carr, '56; Jane M. Carr, '56; Chas. L. Carr, '56; Loretta Carr, '56.

### Barnaby Could Draw Tears From Stones.

At a pioneer meeting held at the fair ground, Ithaca, August 4, 1881, among the exercises was a short address by H. T. Barnaby, in which he spoke feelingly of the days immediately following the days of destitution, telling of the renewed hopes of the settlers, with a description of a winter's visit among neighbors, and closing with a fine and touching bit of sentiment: "The winter of 1859-60 was a pleasant one for business; good

sleighing all winter, and the crisis of the hard times mostly passed away. The people settled down to the business of improving their lands and erecting more comfortable and convenient buildings. A large amount of chopping was done, and evidences of prosperity, such as always follows persevering industry were seen on every hand.

"It is a matter of doubt whether any people ever took more real comfort than did the people of this county for the two or three years immediately following the scarce times, so well remembered. The days were spent in profitable labor 'from early morn till dewy eve.' The forests melted away before the steady strokes of the woodman. The falling trees and the stroke on stroke of the chopper's ax made the sweetest of music. After the day's labors were over there was a decided satisfaction in gathering around the large open fire-place piled high with flaming beech and maple, sending comfort, light and warmth to every corner of the humble cabin, and knowing that we were provided for for many days to come. Or, as was frequently the case after the labors of the day, a visit among neighbors was enjoyed. A charm gathers around the mere mention of those old-fashioned visits, where no stiff formality interfered, and nothing like style was introduced, only such as was convenient and comfortable; a charm that none but those who have enjoyed, will ever be able to appreciate and understand. Let me describe more fully one of those old-fashioned evening visits: The faithful and patient oxen are yoked up and hitched to the long sled, with its ample box filled with straw, and into this are loaded the women and children of several families—folks were not afraid of children in those days—and away they went, the sled squeaking in the frost, and the men following on foot, sometimes going to a distance of three or four miles, bringing up at some log cabin, whose inmates—having had timely warning, of course—await the coming of their guests, and welcome them to the fireside. And what a fireside! None of your meager affairs shut up in an iron box, but a regular log heap stretched wide like a smiling darkey's face.

"Then the feast; venison broiled, roasted, or fried—which will you have? And then such a johnny cake! Excuse me, but the making of a johnny cake is a lost art. And then the untramelled jollity! In my imagination I am there again. Those who have slept their last sleep are with me. Again I hear their merry voices and hear their ringing laughter. But when I lift my eye to the faces of those assembled here today, and see the deep furrows that time has plowed, and take note of your gray hairs, I am reminded that the days to which I have just alluded were long, long ago.

"The vision is gone; and, coming back to the reality, we sadly remember that many who helped to gladden life, and cheer our social circles, lie still where loving hands laid them long ago. * * * * But, brother pioneers, one by one we are going to our rest. Come with me to the silent city. Tread lightly, for underneath this sod she sleeps who shared your trials and anxieties in the days gone by; whose loving hands were skillful to make the most of your limited means; whose person was a thousand times more lovely for the patient content that made her cheerful amid the severest toils, and thankful for the plainest and coarsest attire. Yes, step lightly over the ashes of her whose smile, when the outside world was rough and perplexing, made your humble cabin a real heaven. Here also sleeps the comrade and neighbor whose strong arm changed those forests into fruitful fields.

"Farewell, fathers and brothers, mothers and sisters! We shall not meet again as we are now. One by one we shall be laid away to rest. But the memories of the past shall live in the hearts of the generations to come."

### Dr. John R. Cheesman's Address.

The pioneer meeting at Ithaca in June, 1888, was addressed by President Cheesman as follows:

"Pioneers of Gratiot County, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I am asked to extend to you a word of salutation and welcome. I do it with those peculiar emotions which memories of the long ago must awaken in every heart. More than the period assigned to one generation has come and gone since our pioneer days. The whole face of this country is wonderfully changed; and upon us, also, fellow pioneers, has passed a change quite as wonderful. The dense forests which were the habitations of the red man and the home of wild animals, are changed into fruitful orchards, fragrant meadows and luxuriant harvest fields—a noble landscape scene. Several populous towns, the centers of social refinement and culture, the seats of wealth and of traffic, now cover areas which some of us have traversed by the compass or by the blazed trees of the original surveyor. Many times a day the lightning express thunders along iron-ways which then were swamps and solitudes.

"We had faith, even in those first days, in the great possibilities of this county. Through all those years of hardship and of actual want, we kept our faith in a promise of wealth and abundance, which we have lived to see more than fulfilled. But we remember, sadly, today, that many who wrought with us, to bring about these marvelous changes, our comrades and friends in those early struggles, have passed away. Their toils are ended and they have entered into rest. We, too, are approaching the borders of that mysterious, undiscovered country, 'the bourne from whence no traveler returns.' Our mutual greetings and occasional intercourse become more precious as the years go by and old age comes apace.

"The memory of our pioneer days is more vivid than that of yesterday. We do not regret that we gave the vigor of our strength to the laying of the foundations that shall endure forever. May it sweeten and comfort our declining years, that we have stood in our lot and place, and have been useful to mankind; and, as the shadows of life's evening gather about us, may the twilight of the evening be more serene and blessed than that of the morning."

### Emery Crosby's Remarks at Same Meeting.

At the same pioneer meeting where Dr. Cheesman, as president, opened the exercises so eloquently and feelingly, Emery Crosby, pioneer of several townships, delivered an appropriate and interesting address, of which an outline of some of its features is here given, as a tribute not only to a worthy pioneer, but also to a valued teacher, a faithful county officer, and a man who probably filled more official positions in more townships of the county than any other citizen of the county; and always acceptably to his constituents:

"It is with pleasurable emotions that I greet you, for it is a pleasure to look upon your wrinkled and weather-beaten visages, to grasp your friendly hands and hear your kindly voices, and to trace upon memory's page the reminiscences of the days of yore. It is pleasant to call a halt occasionally, on our earth-pilgrimage; to lay aside the artificial social distinctions that freeze out the common sympathies of our common humanity

and almost make us forget that we are members of one great common brotherhood; to dismiss all the toils, the cares, anxieties and perplexities of this busy, bustling, jostling life-race, and do our best to have a good time. In these meetings old acquaintances are renewed and new ones formed, and friendship strengthened; true, genuine friendship which has its birth and growth in the heart, under conditions of common need, dependence, trials, hardships and privations incident to the settlement of a new country.

"While we look into so many happy faces today, we look in vain for many of the once familiar faces and forms of friends and neighbors and loved ones. The death angel has been busy in our midst, and many with whom we once took sweet counsel, around whose firesides we have chatted, planned and built air-castles, and around whose hospitable boards we have partaken of johnny cake made from corn, ground in a coffee mill and dressed with 'poor man's gravy', and maple sugar and seasoned with leeks. They are not here; they have gone to their reward. Time would fail me to recall their names and recount their deeds. The insatiable war-god has claimed his full share of trophies from the pioneers of Gratiot County; and some have sought what they fancied would prove a more congenial clime.

"A sad truth forces itself upon our minds just now; and that is, that the next annual gathering will not find us all thus assembled. Death is very close upon the track of some of us. We look upon each other today for the last time in this life. And while we contemplate the past, in contrast with the present, with just and pardonable pride, let us, as we return to our homes and to our life work, from this annual gathering, firmly resolve to do with our might what we have to do, until it shall be said, 'It is enough, come up higher'.

"And to you the sons and daughters of the pioneer fathers and mothers, and this other numerous host, who, in later years, have made your homes in this rich and beautiful agricultural county, let me say, preserve intact your rich heritage, and make the future of Gratiot County still more grand and glorious in everything that pertains to material, intellectual and moral excellence."

Mr. Crosby's words—"Death is very close upon the track of some of us," and again, "We look upon each other today for the last time," were prophetic, and proved personal to himself. He died in the following January.

### Many Short Speeches in 1892.

June 8, 1892, the Pioneer Society held a meeting in the court house, at Ithaca. Gilbert E. Hall was president and Dr. Geo. W. Pettey, secretary. John M. Everden, president of Ithaca, welcomed the society in an appropriate address, and enlarged upon the marvelous advancement made since his arrival in the county in 1854.

Newell Leonard read an interesting paper giving a history of the first settlement in the different townships.

Jas. W. Burgess, whose father, Hiram Burgess, was supervisor of Pine River in 1856, at the organization of the county, read a paper that was much appreciated, on pioneer life.

Off-hand remarks were made by Wm. C. Beckwith of Ithaca, A. J. Harrington of St. Louis, Ephraim Pettey of Bethany, who recited an original poem, Fred S. Kelly of Newark, Wm. W. Comstock of Emerson, Elias Shaw and Chas. Rooks of Bethany, Judge W. E. Winton of Ithaca

S. S. Hastings of St. Louis, I. N. Coleman of Emerson, Joseph Osworth of Bethany, Elder Elijah Beard, W. P. Partelo of Bethany, Judge Francis Nelson, Dr. W. D. Scott, and others.

Officers elected were—President, G. E. Hall; secretary, Geo. W. Pettey; treasurer, A. J. Harrington; vice-presidents, W. E. Winton, E. C. Farrington, Jas. Greer, S. S. Hastings, Gordis Smith, Elbridge Franklin, Nathaniel Walker, Wm. Long, W. S. Turck, Wm. Medler.

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The Pioneers met in Ithaca, June 21, 1893, and in addition to the other business of the session re-elected the officers of 1892. Miss Nettie Comstock was chosen historian.

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### Nettie Comstock Read a Paper.

The Pioneer meeting of 1894 was held June 20th, at Ithaca. Treasurer A. J. Harrington reported $10.80 in the treasury. An address of welcome was extended by Probate Judge J. M. Everden. Judge J. Lee Potts of Ithaca delivered an address which highly pleased his audience.

Officers for the ensuing year were—President, Wm. C. Beckwith; secretary, O. M. Everden; treasurer, A. J. Harrington; vice-presidents, Arcada, Wm. S. Turck; Bethany, G. E. Hall; Elba, Edwin Meacham; Emerson, Jotham Allen; Fulton, J. H. Lewis; Hamilton, Wm. Sickels; Ithaca, W. E. Winton; Lafayette, Chas. C. Foote; Newark, J. W. Mouser; New Haven, W. J. Pendell; North Star, Jacob H. Millinger; Pine River, Silas Moody; Seville, Walter C. Mallory; Sumner, Ralph Quick; Washington, Wm. Long; Wheeler, Albert P. Foland. Executive committee, T. A. Ely, Alma; C. W. Martin, Ithaca; Elias Shaw, St. Louis.

Historian Nettie Comstock read a very interesting paper giving many important facts of early history in the county.

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### They Tell Their Stories.

There was a good attendance at the pioneer meeting held June 14, 1895. A partial list of those present was as follows: Wm. Long and wife, Roman Fyler, G. E. Hall, Francis Curtis and wife, J. Heinlen and wife, J. R. Hiffner, Albert Bovee, Mary A. Cratsenburg, Mary Harris, Geo. Pettit, W. W. Comstock and wife, Nettie Comstock, Elias Shaw, Daniel Failing, Warner Coston, Geo. Randall and wife, Jerry Shaver, Z. Hoag and wife, O. M. Everden, E. A. Walker, A. M. Walker, A. S. Loomis and wife, W. H. Laycock and wife, Samuel Wheeler and wife, Ransom Allen and wife, Nathaniel Walker and wife, N. B. Fraker, Alanson Cowles and wife, John Price and wife, Newell Leonard, Mrs. Louisa Seaver, Mrs. E. M. Russell, W. E. Winton and wife, Dr. W. D. Scott.

A. J. Harrington gave a list of those members who had died during the past year, 47 being the number listed. The following is a partial list: S. S. Hastings, Wm. C. Beckwith, Lafayette Sweatland, Elijah Beard, Eli Woodmansee, Mrs. Anna A. Woodmansee, C. K. Sampson, Dr. J. R. Baldwin, Jehu E. Parkinson, Theo. H. Foland, Jas. Fry, Geo. W. Perry, Eliza Mull, Sam. C. Stevens, Ada M. Pratt, D. D. Strouse and wife (killed), Mary A. Kingsbury, Ethan Clark, Silas Placeway, W. L. Stebbins, Adam Oberlin, Mrs. Henry Hayes, Mrs. J. M. Frost, Eliza A. Taylor.

Resolutions of regret were offered by Newell Leonard, which were adopted.

Officers elected were—President, W. E. Winton; secretary, O. M. Everden; treasurer, W. W. Comstock.

Called upon for personal experiences responses were as follows, in part:

Wm. Long came to Washington with his wife, and, until he could build a house, lived in a deserted shanty without door, window, floor or roof. Wife was taken sick later on and he had to do his own work and the housework, making the butter between times, and having the ague all the time.

Ephraim Pettey bought state land in Bethany while the ground was frozen, consequently there was no mud. After it thawed there was not much else but mud. As time passed he found he had great onion land, and did well raising onions.

Albert Bovee came to Washington in 1858. Traded for his place without seeing it; and it was a good thing he didn't see it. He had 18 cents, all in cash when he got here. Chopped four acres and got in spring wheat; and it came along fine, but in June a frost killed it, and he didn't harvest a kernel. Carried butter to St. Johns to market, in pails suspended from a neck-yoke, and walked logs most of the way. Set out with 40 pounds one morning, and returned with about the same weight in groceries, and got home in time for dinner. But he couldn't do it now.

A. J. Harrington came to St. Louis "poorer than a church mouse." Hadn't even a nickel. Spoke at some length of the condition of the so-called roads, and the length, width and depth of the mud holes. He didn't care to go over the experiences again, although they used to have many a good time.

Mrs. A. J. (Barstow) Brown came to Gratiot in 1856. She taught school in Elba Township in an early day and boarded around. Her scholars numbered seven.

Alfred Stone came to Essex, Clinton County, in 1848, and worked over the line in Gratiot for Arnold Payne when Payne was the only settler in the county. Wages were 50 cents a day for chopping and other ordinary labor, but in haying they got 75 cents, and in harvest they got a dollar.

Edward Lake of Bethany came to Arcada in 1854. Can hardly see how they lived at that time. They lived in a bark shanty the first summer. He and Simon L. Nott made a two-wheeled vehicle with which they went to Maple Rapids, and got two bushels of potatoes for seed, paying a dollar a bushel. Their cart broke down three times before they got back; they raised a good crop of potatoes. They used to plant corn with an ax, smiting the ax into the turf, dropping in the kernels and then finishing the job by stepping on the spot.

Isaac N. Coleman came in 1855, settling in Emerson Township. He borrowed half a bushel of Ed. Lake's potatoes, and never saw such nice potatoes as he raised.

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The pioneers met at the court house June 20th, 1896. Interesting papers and talks by T. J. Tann, Mrs. Wm. Long, Mrs. Turner and others were enjoyed, and officers were chosen as follows: President, W. E. Winton; secretary, Chas. H. Chase; treasurer, W. W. Comstock; vice-president, I. N. Cowdrey; historian, T. A. Ely.

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**Paper by Mrs. Ella (Chapin) Watson.**

At the meeting of pioneers June 16, 1897, the officers elected were W. E. Winton, president; J. M. Everden, secretary; W. W. Comstock, treasurer.

Mrs. W. O. Watson, of Breckenridge, (formerly Miss Ella Chapin), read a paper, prepared by special request. While Mrs. Watson was not,

strictly speaking, a pioneer who had shared in the hardships of the earliest days, she nevertheless knew how to express her sympathies for those who were of that class, and her appreciation of the blessings accruing from their sacrifices. A condensation of her paper follows:

"I am not really a pioneer. To be counted among them is an honor which I should very greatly appreciate, but to which I strongly doubt my title. When I came with my father to Gratiot County in December, 1864, the pioneers had been here long before us. Their axes had already awakened the forest echoes, and many a giant tree had fallen beneath their sturdy strokes. Homes were started here and there, many of which gave promise of future affluence. I remember especially the farms of John Glover, Wm. Backus, H. Morse, David Bailey, Jacob Rush, Judge Francis Nelson, Wm. Sherwood and Rev. L. Church, all of Arcada, and all in our school district; beautiful farms, though new, with their comfortable log buildings, where want was then unknown, and where the most cheerful hospitality prevailed. It was here among these homes that I received my first lessons in pioneering. It is no wonder then that memory's gallery presents to me only the pleasantest of pictures! Their days of darkest trial were over then; their days of greatest hardships were ended. Toils, manifold and heavy, remained to them it is true, but they were well and happy; their homes were secured to them; they had proven by experience that farms could be made of Gratiot mud; their children were growing up about them and life was very pleasant.

"I remember the thrill of pride with which we gazed upon little Ithaca on that eventful first day, noticing especially the tiny court house (county offices), and the neat, comfortable school house placed high and dry on its commanding site—fitting type of the position which Gratiot County has always given to education—and realized that this was now our county seat.

"Enough of pioneering attended our entrance into the county to render the road, twisting in and out among the trees from Mr. Church's farm nearly to Alma, very hard to keep, and thus detaining us on our journey so that we did not reach home until after dark. And what do you think was the very first thing that we found in Alma? A young ladies' seminary, taught by the Misses Barnard of Muir, I think; another evidence of the place which education has always held in the hearts and minds of Gratiot County pioneers.

"We found a large-hearted people; they made us very welcome. But as we became acquainted with one family after another, we found very few families that were quite complete. One or more members were missing from nearly every one. Here a father, there a son, and in another a brother. How was this! Four years before, our country had sounded her war-cry; and the ranks of those first to respond were dotted thick with Gratiot's pioneers. Gratiot will not soon forget Company C of the old 8th, which took so many of her truest. At the time of which I write they had not yet returned. Many of them never returned; their death giving evidence of their loyalty. Last month we witnessed the ceremonies in honor of those who did not return; ceremonies recurring annually although the war which gave rise to them has been over for more than thirty years. Pioneers of Gratiot, we see here the patriotism which you have transmitted to your children.

"Time passed, and the little holes in the woods multiplied and still increased; and the blessed sunlight found its way through the tree tops, drying the surplus water and helping the roads. Turnpikes, and even railroads took the place of the old corduroys; farms blossomed and bore like gardens until today the sun does not shine upon a more fruitful land. Drive where

you will—east, west, north or south—and on all sides smiling peace and plenty greet you. And every township has its little hamlet whose air resounds with the busy hum of trade, the whistle of factories and the mechanic's hammer. * * *

"The months of business depression through which our country has just passed were scarcely felt in Gratiot, compared with other localities. Not one business firm among us succumbed. Those who had plenty divided their substance with those who had not, so that none within our borders were forced to the wall.

"Pioneers of Gratiot County, let me congratulate you, now in conclusion. You builded better than you knew, and you have bequeathed to your posterity a legacy of which you may justly be proud—a commonwealth second to none under the sun in enterprise, in loyalty, in education and in applied Christianity.

"Citizens of Gratiot County, today I congratulate you that your pioneers were made of such good stuff, and that Gratiot County is such a good place in which to live."

Experiences were related by Roman Fyler, Elias Shaw, N. B. Fraker, Ransom Allen, Fred Kelly, L. Church and others.

Ransom Allen came to Emerson in 1854, walking all the way from Detroit. He settled on some of the higher lands of western Emerson, and his five acres of wheat in 1855 yielded 50 bushels to the acre. It was a wet season, but his high land saved the day for him.

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August 24th was the date of the pioneer meeting in 1898. Village Clerk Jas. G. Kress gave the address of welcome, representing Village President Wilbur Nelson, who was absent.

Officers elected were—President, W. E. Winton; secretary, J. N. McCall; treasurer, W. W. Comstock.

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### Hon. C. W. Giddings and Others Remark.

June 28, 1899, the pioneers held their meeting in the court house Attorney Jas. G. Kress welcomed the society, in the absence of Jas. B. Crawford, village president.

The old officers were re-elected—President, W. E. Winton; secretary, J. N. McCall; treasurer, W. W. Comstock.

President delivered an address which forms the closing item of this department.

Attorney Chas. W. Giddings of St. Louis said that Wm. A. McOmber came to Gratiot in 1832, a trader among the Indians, and was the first white man in the county so far as is known. The first settlement was made by Arnold Payne in 1846. The first Fourth of July celebration was held at Ithaca in 1856. Hiram Burgess walked all the way to Dewitt to get handbills printed. In the growth of the county the farmers have come out best. The county has become one of the best agricultural counties in the state; and in educational advantages there is no lack, with three high schools which prepare for the university, many excellent smaller schools, our fine system of county schools, Alma College and Yerington's College.

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### There Were Many Deaths Reported.

At the pioneer meeting of August 17, 1901, held at the court house Attorney Kelly S. Searl gave an address of welcome which was responded to by Wm. Long, in the absence of President T. A. Ely.

Mrs. O. J. (Long) Campbell read a paper giving incidents of early days in Washington Township, which were highly appreciated. (Given elsewhere in this volume.)

Hon. Chas. H. Morse, of New Haven, gave an address. He was not a pioneer in the strictest sense, but came within one of it—married a pioneer's daughter. He then gave a very interesting and instructive address, covering a wide scope of time and space, closing with the statement that those who settled Gratiot County and those who followed them had made the county the first and best in the state. He was proud of the state, proud of the country and proud of his county.

Wm. T. Pitt of Seville gave a condensed history of Seville Township, with reminiscences of pre-historic times, drawn from relics in his possession —fossils found in the mounds of his township. He also had in his possession a portion of a large tree showing 173 annual rings outside of a cut made by an ax, showing that someone had been through the forests of Gratiot before the birth of Washington.

Iola (Smith) Lovell told of early days in St. Louis, and of boating trips down and up Pine River.

Officers elected were S. N. French, president; I. N. Cowdrey, secretary; Wm. Long, treasurer.

Following is a list of pioneer deaths during the year preceding this meeting: Jas. L. Shults, Seville; Mrs. Jane Finch, Alma; Mrs. Wm. Howe, Alma; Wm. Gargett, Alma; Chauncey C. Porter, St. Louis; Betsey Ferris, St. Louis; Samuel Gordon, St. Louis; John Vliet, St. Louis; Geo. L. Patch, St. Louis; John Tuger, St. Louis; Simon Vogt, St. Louis; Mrs. J. R. Cheesman, St. Louis; Peter Myers, Bethany; Mrs. Jas. Henry, St. Louis; Jas. Leppard, Pine River; Elliott White, Pine River; Warner Coston, Emerson; John Eichorn, Emerson; Knowler Gibbs, Newark; Henry Wiseman, Newark; Edmund Cole, Mr. Bailey, Newark; Mrs. Daniel Gable, Newark; G. Washington Clark, Fulton; Jason Kingman, Fulton; John P. Ruppert, Fulton; John W. Otto, Fulton; Sarah J. Bailey, Fulton; Mrs. John T. Swigart, Fulton; Rudolph Walker, Fulton; Caroline Holmes, Ithaca; Catharine Thoenen, Ithaca; Jane (Smith) Stevens, Ithaca; Elisha McCall, Ithaca; A. B. Spooner, North Star; Geo. Witham, North Star; Mrs. Jacob Huffman, North Star; Columbus Levering, North Star; Mortimer Belding, North Star; Henry Davidson, Elba; Daniel Robinolt, Elba; Mr. Hill, Wheeler; Mrs. John Duff, Wheeler; B. F. Welch, Hamilton; Mrs. N. B. Bradley, Ithaca; Mary Standish, Sumner; Mrs. F. R. Sequard, Pompeii; John H. Salisbury, North Shade; L. B. Carter, Ashley; John Carter, North Shade; Mrs. N. J. Baker, North Shade; Mrs. Milo Standish, New Haven; Mrs. N. B. Fraker, Washington; E. Hamilton Kinney, Newark; J. Henry Campbell, Ashley; John Muffly, Hamilton.

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### Seemingly They Are All Dead.

The Pioneer Society held its annual meeting at the court house September 5, 1902.

An appropriate and cordial address of welcome was made by Judge Geo P. Stone. Miss Retta Peet read a paper which was highly enjoyed. The principal address was by Rev. Geo. Killeen, who gave an interesting talk on the old times, in the enjoyment of which he was a participant.

Officers elected—President, Wm. E. Winton; secretary, Mrs. K. P. Peet; treasurer, I. N. Cowdrey. The narration of experiences brought out many interesting incidents of pioneer life.

The record of deaths among the pioneers during the year preceding was given as follows, by Mrs. C. W. Hamilton of Ithaca:

Daniel M. Iutzi, Newark; Mrs. Daniel Iutzi, Newark; Mrs. Mary W. Wagner, Fulton; Mrs. Anna Woodin, St. Louis; Albert Earl, St. Louis; Mrs. Randall Faurot, St. Louis; Mrs. Michael Pallasky, Alma; Wm. Culy, New Haven; Josiah C. Salyer, Fulton; Geo. Zimmerman, Lafayette; Edward Jarrett, Fulton; Dr. C. W. Marvin, Newark; David Burgess, St. Louis; Mrs. David Fry, New Haven; Mrs. J. M. Thissell, Breckenridge; Monroe Howland, Breckenridge; Mrs. Orin Whitcomb, Fulton; Wm. J. Alldaffer, North Star; Wm. Flanders, Sumner; Samuel E. Sower, Ithaca; Jane M. Haight, Emerson; Finley Dodge, Fulton; Joseph Wright, Ithaca; Timothy Ackles, North Star; Hiram Bovee, North Star; Alonzo K. Dodge, Washington; Warren W. Baker, Fulton; Wm. W. Comstock, Ithaca; Alex. Franks, Sumner; Isaac Swan, Elm Hall; Mrs. John Blucher, North Shade; Lewis Derry, Hamilton; Wm. Strouse, Newark; Mrs. Rebecca Curtiss, Wheeler; Mrs. C. E. Johnson, Hamilton; Mrs. Sophia Carter; Mrs. Mary E. Giddings, St. Louis; Mrs. Elizabeth Sheller, Perrinton; Chas. H. Smith, St. Louis; Peter Robinson, St. Louis; Mrs. Mary A. Belding, North Star; John Bogart, Arcada; Mrs. Mead, Breckenridge; Mrs. Mary Iles, North Star; Wm. V. Carothers, Washington; Thos. J. Tann, Elwell; Hiram Harrington, St. Louis; Jas. Gargett, Alma; Mrs. Elizabeth Kipp, Wheeler; Mrs. Taylor, Wheeler; Samuel H. Loveland, St. Louis; Mrs. Deborah E. Vliet, St. Louis; Mrs. Patrick Barrett, Mrs. John Baney, Bethany; Albert P. Foland, Wheeler; Peter Hoffman, North Star; John Wilson, St. Louis; Julius Mey, Pine River; Mrs. E. A. Walter, North Star; Mrs. Martha Follick, Elwell; Mrs. Ann Maria Sweatland, North Star; Peter Shong, North Shade.

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At the pioneer meeting held September 3, 1903, Dr. Bruske, president of Alma College delivered an address which was highly appreciated. Wm. J. Moffett recited an original poem.

Officers elected—President, W. E. Winton; vice-president, S. Moody; secretary, Mrs. K. P. Peet; treasurer, I. N. Cowdrey.

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### One of the Best of All.

The pioneer meeting held at the court house September 26, 1907, was largely attended and proved a very interesting occasion. Papers were read by W. W. Dalghish on the early history of Fulton; by Hon. Silas Moody on the early history of Pine River, and by Mrs. Nettie Todd giving facts as to the settlement of North Shade, and along down to 1866. Condensations of the articles are given in this volume in the sections devoted to the local histories of those townships.

After the reading of the papers mentioned, remarks were made by Silas Moody, Jacob Eyer, Marcus Pollasky, Mrs. Lydia (Franklin) Harter and others; the last mentioned lady giving an account of a school day in the early '60s, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

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### A Summing Up of the Whole Matter.

The following is a condensation of an address delivered before the Pioneer Society at its meeting June 28, 1899, by its president, Judge Wm. E. Winton. It comes in handy and appropriate as the closing section of this pioneer department, summing up, as it does, in brief but comprehensive form, the whole matter from howling wilderness to advanced civilization:

"We come together on this June day of 1899—near to the close of the 19th century—to rehearse experiences and reminiscences of 40 and 50 years ago, when strong men and brave women combatted poverty and hardships such as are seldom experienced in the settlement of any country.

"The history of the settlement of Gratiot County is peculiar to itself. Isolated from the outside world by the low lands on the east, the Maple River swamps on the south, and by an unbroken wilderness on the west and north; and from the report of the government surveyor to the department at Washington it was questionable whether it was worth settling, as it was represented to be a swamp unfit for human habitation. It had that appearance to the early pioneer. Much of its surface was flat, covered with a dense forest which prevented evaporation by the sun; the natural water courses and drainage dammed by the beaver and choked by the annual crop of forest leaves, fallen timber and tangled brush, so that extensive tracts of the county were submerged a large portion of the year, presenting an appearance uninviting and forbidding to the settler.

"It would have remained a howling waste much longer but for the inducement held out to the settler by the government—the reduction of the price of the land in consideration that the buyer make actual and immediate settlement thereon. The result was a sudden and simultaneous stampede into the county by a good class of people, but in most cases a class extremely poor; the very class congress designed to favor. No clearing, no roads, no improvements of any kind; one wild, unbroken expanse of woodland. St. Johns by way of Maple Rapids, and Saginaw by way of Pine River, were the nearest points of communication with civilization. Families dumped upon their new possessions, sheltered from the storm in their miniature bark-covered wigwams, with scanty supply of food; and before a parcel of ground could be reclaimed and food produced therefrom their larders were exhausted. Maple Rapids and St. Johns, the points of supply for the south half of the county, without roads were a long way off. Saginaw was also a distant point from which supplies were boated up the crooked Pine for the north half of the county. And in many cases the people were too poor to purchase the supplies when they reached those points, or even when the supplies were brought within their reach until they had earned the money by work upon the clearings of their more fortunate neighbors. And in the meantime their half-famished families existed as best they could.

"And while this helpless, deplorable state and condition of things existed among the early settlers, be it to the everlasting praise of the wealthy and more favored classes of our state for their liberal gifts for the relief of those helpless pioneers of '57, '58 and '59.

"It is but justice to state that while the donations were so indispensable in many cases, there were a goodly number of the earlier settlers who weathered the gale of hardships by their independent, personal efforts.

"The dark picture of pioneer life is not limited exclusively to Gratiot County. Privations are the natural incidents to such a life, modified, more or less by certain environments, in the settlement of any new country. And, dark as such pictures may be, they are not without their bright side. Society is near its level under the conditions referred to. Sorrow, sympathy and joy are mutual and reciprocal. The anticipation of an enjoyable future, lifts above present privations, stimulates muscular and mental activity to successfully combat hardships, overcome difficulties and give buoyancy to the soul. It is not only the privilege but the duty of every person, in some way, to make a commendable mark in the world. The pioneers of this county have nobly fulfilled this mission. With all the hardships and priva-

tions attendant on such a frontier life, they have successfully overcome every opposing element. By their hands the woods have disappeared, swamps have been drained, highways cast up, buildings erected, orchards planted, farms stocked with herds of cattle, fine horses, sheep and swine, and spacious fields fenced and cultivated and caused to yield to their utmost capacity.

"Today 'Starving Gratiot', so christened 45 years ago, has become the richest and greatest grain-producing county in the lower peninsula; the granary of the state. Yes, the pioneers of this county have made their mark in its development, redeeming it from the condition of an unpromising, uninviting, howling waste, and converting it into the richest and most promising section of the state.

"What a transition in 45 years! Where poverty then reigned supreme, now may be heard the song of the plowman, the ring of the anvil, the puff of the engine, the clanking of machinery and the rumble of trains on three distinct lines of railway. Cities and villages incorporated, and with busy, flourishing marts of traffic; a dense populatian of enterprising people. Yes, today may be heard the jubilant and mirthful voices of a happy people, mingling with the chimes and peals of school, church and college bells, while luxury is being rocked in the cradle of affluence and ease.

"But alas, those early pioneers! Where are they! Few survive to tell the tales of those primitive but eventful days. Old, wrinkled, gray, and tottering on the verge of the border-land, soon to bid adieu to you who are younger, and who are permitted to live and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Will you, my younger friends, allow this society to die with the pioneers? I trust you will come to the rescue, and fill up the gaps that death is making in our ranks. Keep alive the early reminiscences of the county, at your annual pioneer meetings, that they may be handed down and rehearsed by generations yet unborn, like the legends of the Rhine."

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Several other interesting and profitable meetings of the pioneers have been held, but for good and sufficient reasons detailed mention is impracticable at this time. The people that we have known as "old pioneers of Gratiot" are mainly but memories now; but their places are constantly being taken by others in the rapid flight of time. So the same reasoning that inspired the formation of the Pioneer Society in the first place, will doubtless be effectual in continuing it even unto the remotest generations.

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## CIRCUIT COURT IN GRATIOT.

### Official Record from 1858 to 1913, Including List of Judges.

The first four terms of circuit court ever held in Gratiot County were held in the Township of Pine River, within the limits of the surveyed plat of Alma Village. The reason for holding court there is to be found in the legislative act providing for the organization of the county, approved February 3, 1855. Section 4 of that act provided that, "The sheriff, clerk and treasurer of said county to be elected as provided by this Act shall designate a suitable place in the Township of Pine River for holding the circuit court in said county, * * * and the place thus designated shall be the place of holding the circuit court and county offices until the board of supervisors shall establish the county seat," etc.

Acting under this provision of the legislative act, the county officers mentioned—or a majority of them—selected Alma as the place for holding

the sessions of the circuit court. Though their action was the cause of considerable wrangling on the board of supervisors, as is chronicled in this volume under the heading of "Important Doings of the Board of Supervisors," their action stood.

The circuit court journal shows that the first session of court held in the county was a special session, held at the "court house" in the Village of Alma, September 15, 1858. The term "court house" is used probably in the sense that the building in which court is held must be a court house. But the session was really held in the school house. Gratiot County at that time constituted a part of the 10th judicial circuit. The circuit had been organized by the legislature by act of January 29, 1858, and took in the following territory: Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, Iosco, Alpena, and the unorganized territory now comprising the Counties of Arenac, Gladwin, Clare, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Alcona, Crawford, Otsego, Montmorency and Presque Isle. At the election of April, 1858, Wilbur F. Woodworth was elected judge of the circuit. By an order issued from Midland City, July 22, 1858, Judge Woodworth called "a special term of the Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot on the third Wednesday of September, 1858." The special session was duly held, as stated, at Alma, Sept. 15, 1858. For some reason Judge Woodworth was not present, the session being presided over by Josiah Turner, of Owosso, judge of the 7th circuit. At that first term Israel B. Coats was (acting) prosecuting attorney, and Dr. Joseph A. Guthrie was clerk of the court. The first case was entitled "James Dewitt vs. Ralph Ely," and was a case of assumpsit. It was tried without a jury and the plaintiff got a judgment for $262.50.

In the course of the two days' session there were five cases disposed of, and Wm. A. Hewitt was admitted to the bar.

What was designated as a "general term" was begun at the school house in Alma January 18, 1859, and Judge W. F. Woodworth presided. The record goes on to say that a "grand jury" was drawn. It seems probable that the "grand" was a slip of the pen or of the imagination of the county clerk—Emery Crosby—who was present and acted as court clerk. The names of this "grand" jury is here given, as many of them are well-known as belonging to men who were among the best-known of the pioneers: Henry Boyer, Samuel Boyer, Briggs J. Bentley, Lorenzo Badgeley, Geo. W. Brooks, Jas. B. Curtis, Wilbur Coon, Elijah Curtis, Sether Dean, John Franklin, Roman Fyler, Orange Hopkins, Thos. J. Huntington, Erastus Kidder, Michael Nichols, Samuel T. Roe, Joseph B. Stafford, Wm. Wooley, Abraham Woodin.

At this session of court Gilbert E. Pratt and John R. Hickox were admitted to the bar. The first-named was located at St. Louis and was elected to the legislature in 1860. The term was adjourned to February, 1859, at which time D. M. R. Wilson was admitted to practice in the courts. A criminal case was tried by a jury composed as follows: Peter Keene, Jo. Abbott, Reuben Coffin, Jo. Crockford, Marshall F. Runyan, Benj. Ridenour, Michael Steffey, Calvin B. Fisher, John Cook, Elijah B. Rice, John S. Gardner, Andrew Call.

Court adjourned to July 22, 1859, at which time, among other business, was a trial for a violation of the liquor laws. The first jury drawn was made up of the following pioneers: Hiram Burgess, Oramel Burt, John Bailey, John Vanderbeek, Adam P. Robinson, John Mecomber, Wm. Howe, Horace S. Burr, Jo. Rockafellow, E. J. Medler, John Knight, Whitman Hall. The whole panel was challenged on the ground that it had been illegally drawn. Challenge allowed, and the jury discharged.

The new jury drawn was made up as follows: John M. Glover, Wm. Howe, Jo. Rockafellow, Sidney S. Hastings, Jas. Wood, Adam P. Robinson, John N. Adams, Ralph Ely, Geo. W. McHenry, Flavius Ely, Moses B. Spiller, Thos. J. Huntington.

The next term of court was held at Ithaca, opening January 17, 1860, Judge Woodworth presiding, in the old log court house located in the east part of town, about where the residence of Geo. Richardson now stands, near the M. E. Church. This was brought about by the board of supervisors, by resolutions adopted at its session which convened on the first Monday of that month, a full synopsis of which is given in the department devoted to the important doings of that board. Since that time all of the terms of court have been held at Ithaca, for some years in the old structure mentioned, and in after years in Howd's Hall, the second story of a store building located about where the W. H. Beasley building now stands. On the completion of the new court house (that of 1870) court was provided with fine quarters which served for a period of thirty years—till the completion of the present county court house.

At this term of court—January, 1860—Judge Woodworth issued an order for calling a grand jury; but for what particular purpose the record does not state. A list of those called is given, however, as follows: W. W. Palmer, Malcom Sherwood, Addison Mack, Joel Rowley, Hi. Burgess, John Knight, Geo. Luce, John Baker, Henry P. Howd, Emanuel Wiles, J. A. Guthrie, Luther C. Smith, Elijah Porter, W. C. B. Sherwood, Chas. Sherwood, Homer Burns. Henry P. Howd was foreman of the jury. No record or person has been found to throw any light on what the jury did after it was drawn.

Early in the year 1861 Judge Woodworth resigned as judge of the 10th circuit, and James Birney of Bay City was appointed to the position by the governor.

At the judicial election in April, 1863, Judge Birney was defeated for judge in the 10th district, by Jabez G. Sutherland, of Saginaw. The 10th had been reorganized, and consisted of the Counties of Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw, Bay, Isabella, Iosco and Alpena.

Judge Sutherland was re-elected without opposition in 1869.

In 1871 the judicial circuits were again overhauled, Gratiot being still in the 10th which was made up of Saginaw, Midland, Clare, Isabella and Gratiot.

In November, 1870, Judge Sutherland was elected to congress from the 6th congressional district. Judge Josiah Turner, of Owosso, who had held the first circuit court in Gratiot, was commissioned by Gov. Baldwin to hold court in Gratiot and Isabella Counties until a new judge could be elected at the spring election, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Sutherland.

At the April election, 1871, John Moore, of Saginaw, was chosen judge, and held his first term in Gratiot in July, 1871. At the close of the term of January, 1874, Judge Moore resigned as judge of the 10th circuit, after about three years' service, and to fill the vacancy thus created, Gov. Bagley appointed Wm. S. Tennant of Saginaw. At the following April election—1874—Judge Tennant was chosen to succeed himself.

In March, 1875, the legislature again re-organized the circuits, and Gratiot became a member of the group of counties constituting the 21st district which was made up of Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Midland, Roscommon and Gladwin. This re-arrangement necessitated the election of a new judge. At the election of April, 1875, Henry Hart, of Midland, was elected judge

of the new circuit, defeating Andrew J. Utly, a Gratiot citizen. Judge Hart was re-elected in April, 1881, and again in April, 1887, in the latter year defeating Chas. J. Willett, another Gratiot County attorney.

In June, 1889, the legislature made another change in the judicial circuits; a change that united Gratiot and Clinton Counties, forming a circuit designated as the 29th. This combination has remained in force to the present time.

This last re-arrangement, left Gratiot and Clinton without a judge, after Judge Hart had held his last term in Gratiot— the term of July, 1889. The new judge for the new circuit was Sherman B. Daboll, a Clinton County attorney. He was appointed in August, 1889, by Gov. Luce, to hold until the spring election of 1891. At that election S. B. Daboll won the election over Chas. J. Willett, Fusion candidate. At the regular judicial election of April, 1893, Judge Daboll was re-elected without opposition.

In the spring of 1899 Judge Daboll was a candidate for renomination at the Republican convention. Kelly S. Searl, of Gratiot, also was a candidate. The two counties had an equal representation in the convention, and a deadlock resulted, each county standing firm for its own candidate. After a long contest the convention adjourned without making a nomination. The Democratic nominee—Geo. P. Stone, of Gratiot County, was elected without opposition.

In the spring of 1905 Judge Stone was renominated by his party, and Kelly S. Searl received the Republican nomination, and was elected. He was re-elected in April, 1911, Geo. P. Stone again being his competitor. Judge Searl's present term will last till January, 1918, unless in the meantime the make-up of the circuit shall be changed by the legislature.

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The following is a recapitulation of judges presiding regularly, by election or appointment, in the Gratiot County circuit courts, but not including, or taking into account those who have officiated merely in the trial of special cases. The dates indicate the time of the commencement of their terms of service:

Josiah Turner, September, 1858.
Wilbur F. Woodworth, January, 1859.
James Birney, July, 1861.
Jabez G. Sutherland, January, 1864.
Josiah Turner, January, 1871.
John Moore, July, 1871.
Wm. S. Tennant, May, 1874.
Henry Hart, July, 1875.
Sherman B. Daboll, August, 1889.
George P. Stone, January, 1900.
Kelly S. Searl, January, 1906.

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## TWO POPULAR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES.

Judges Henry Hart, of Midland, and Sherman B. Daboll, of St. Johns, both now deceased, whose combined terms of service as judges presiding in the Gratiot circuit court aggregated about twenty-five years, though not residents of this county, are considered worthy of especial mention in this volume, not only on account of their long terms of service, but also for the reason that they stood well in their official capacities as judges and were especially popular with all classes of citizens. It is believed that their biographical sketches, which follow, together with their portraits, will be deemed appropriate in this connection by many who remember them well.

### Judge Henry Hart.

Judge Henry Hart, a former resident of the City of Midland, Mich., and for many years judge of the 21st judicial circuit, of which Gratiot County formed a part, was born in the Township of China, St. Clair County, Mich.,

May 23, 1840. His line of descent was purely American, his ancestors having been natives of the State of New York. His parents came to this state in its early territorial days, and settled in St. Clair County. They were among the pioneer element whose labors established the prosperity of one of the best sections of Michigan.



JUDGE HENRY HART.

At the age of fifteen years Henry Hart went to Mt. Clemens and became a member of the household of R. K. Eldredge, attorney at law, where his time was divided between labor and study, for about twenty months, when, having determined upon the law as his chosen profession, he commenced his legal studies under the direction of Mr. Eldredge. In the fall of 1863 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, and graduated therefrom in the spring of 1865, with the degree of L. L. B. In July following he fixed his residence at Midland, Mich., where he entered upon his career as an attorney, and where, in a brief time, he secured a substantial practice and a firm hold on the confidence of the community to which he proved a valuable accession.

Judge Hart was married February 4, 1869, to Maria Parsons, at China, St. Clair County. Two children—Ray Hart, now practicing attorney at Midland, and who has also served several terms as prosecuting attorney for his home county, and Mary (Hart) Anderson, constitute the issue of the marriage.

After holding several of the county offices, Judge Hart was in the year 1874 elected a respresentative to the state legislature, and took a prominent part in the session of 1875. In the spring of that year he resigned the position, and was elected circuit judge for the circuit composed of the Counties of Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Roscommon and Midland—the 21st judicial circuit. He was re-elected in 1881 and again in 1887. By a reorganization of circuits by the legislature of 1889, Gratiot County was dropped from the 21st circuit. Judge Hart held his last term in Gratiot in July, 1889. Judge Hart's term expired January 1, 1894. His health began to fail in the summer of 1898 and he finally passed away January 25, 1899.

Judge Henry Hart was a man of very pleasing personality; of kindly disposition though of dignified bearing; of good ability, and entirely above suspicion as a judge. No judge ever occupied the bench in Gratiot County

who held the respect and confidence of the people in greater degree. At the close of his services in Gratiot—July, 1889—the Gratiot County bar adopted eulogistic resolutions, and also presented the retiring judge with an elegant gold watch and chain, as a token of love and respect.

### Judge Sherman B. Daboll.

Judge Sherman B. Daboll was born May 18, 1844, in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, N. Y., the third and last child of Geo. W. and Lydia (James) Daboll. The ancestry on both sides was distinctly American, and both parents came from Revolutionary stock.



JUDGE SHERMAN B. DABOLL.

When the subject of this sketch was nine years old his home was broken up by the permanent and increasing ill-health of his mother. From that time he made his own way in the world, working on farms during the summer, and in winter doing chores for his board and attending the district school. When fourteen years of age he went to live at Brookfield, N. Y., where he was similarly engaged until his enlistment for service in the Civil War, July 18, 1862, as a member of Company G, 117th N. Y. Vol. Infantry. He served in the Army of the Potomac and in the Army of the James until the close of the war. He was at Charleston Harbor during the siege of Forts Wagner and Sumpter; participated in the campaign of Cold Harbor and the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond. He was at Drury's Bluff and Bermuda Hundred, and went on both expeditions to Fort Fisher, the first, under Gen. B. F. Butler, being unsuccessful. The second, under Gen. Alfred S. Terry. His regiment, attached to the First Brigade, Second Division of the Tenth Army Corps, led the assault on the fort on Sunday, January 15, 1865, which resulted in its capture after seven hours' hard fighting inside the fort. His company—G—went in with twenty-four men and came out with twelve.

After the close of the war Mr. Daboll was discharged June 8, 1865. He was wounded in the right forearm July 4, 1864, while asleep in the trenches during the siege of Petersburg, by a piece of shell from the enemy's batteries. His arm was saved only by his obstinate refusal to have it amputated; but it never afterward was a good arm.

After the close of the war Mr. Daboll took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar at Binghamton, N. Y. He located for practice at Brook-

field, Madison County, where he remained until 1878. In 1874 he was elected district attorney of Madison County for a term of three years. In the spring of 1879 he commenced the practice of law at St. Johns, Mich., in company with Anthony Cook. In January, 1886, he was appointed Quartermaster General of the Mich. State Troops, by Gov. Cyrus G. Luce, and was re-appointed in 1888.

In August, 1889, he was appointed by Gov. Luce, judge of the new 29th judicial circuit, composed of Gratiot and Clinton Counties, and in the spring of 1891 he was elected to the same office to serve until the regular judicial election of 1893, at which time he was re-elected for the term of six years. He thus served ten and one-half years as circuit judge, and consequently became a familiar personage to the people of Gratiot County. At the close of his term as judge of the circuit court—term of December, 1899—the Gratiot County bar presented him with a valuable diamond scarf pin, accompanied by appropriate resolutions of respect.

A dead-lock in the Republican convention in the spring of 1899 prevented a nomination. Judge Daboll's term expired January 1, 1900, and on the 15th of the following May he was appointed special agent in the U. S. postal service, in which he continued till his death which occurred at his home in St. Johns, March 3, 1910.

August 19, 1869, Judge Daboll was married to Miss Elizabeth Campbell at New Berlin, N. Y., who, together with a daughter—Winifred C.—survives him.

This sketch and portrait of Judge Daboll will be welcomed by many Gratiot County people who held him in high esteem.

## GRATIOT COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

From the date of its organization in 1856 Gratiot County has been favored with about 75 attorneys to attend to her legal business, besides a few score of outsiders who have been imported from time to time on special occasions. The county clerk's register purports to show their names from first to last, but I notice the absence of two names—those of Charles E. Williams, who was prosecuting attorney, elected in 1874, and James Clarke, elected prosecuting attorney in 1890. Possibly there are others missing. The first eleven names are those of the earliest on the ground and have been written in the record by an early county clerk. The other names are all in the handwriting of the respective attorneys. The full list follows:

Franklin Miller.
Gilbert E. Pratt.
Israel B. Coats.
J. Wilson Caldwell.
Oscar F. Wisner.
Andrew J. Utley.
J. S. Andrews.
F. C. Cummings
(Should be Cummins).
Marcus L. Anderson.
Jerry B. Chandler.
W. R. Freeman.

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William E. Winton.
John H. Winton.
James Paddock.
Samuel J. Scott.
Elisha McCall.
Byron H. Sawyer.
Luke B. Sawyer.
Marcus Pollasky.
Truman W. Whitney.
Giles T. Brown.
Bert Hays.
William A. Bahlke.
Clyde O. Trask.
Rodman H. Lanphere.
George D. Reeves.
Kelly S. Searl.
E. A. Whitney.
G. H. Wright.
Hiram U. Woodin.
John T. Mathews.
Newel Smith.
Marvin R. Salter.
Archie McCall.
George S. Aldrich.
Wesley G. Clark.
Perry A. Shanor.
Julius B. Kirby.
Amelia C. Leet.
Ray McCall.
James G. Kress.
John R. Wilson.
Fred D. Yale.
O. C. Garrett.
E. J. Moinett.
Earl G. Torrey.

George P. Stone.
James L. Clark.
John D. Spinney.
Edward L. Walbridge.
Francis Palmer.
James K. Wright.
Charles W. Giddings.
Edwin H. Ashley.
Charles J. Willett.
John H. Norton.
Arthur R. Garbutt.
John G. Scott.
William A. Leet.
K. Rolla Peet.
James P. Langley.
Thomas W. Sines.
Newell Leonard.
Henry Walbridge.
Roy J. Covert.
D. Lloyd Johnson.
John W. Myers.
Warren J. Shaver.
Frank R. Monfort.
Ebin Wilson.
John C. Watson.
Frank Edward Knapp.
Charles W. Atchley.

About eight of the foregoing—Lanphere, G. H. Wright, Sines, Shanor, Yale, Barrett, Knapp and Atchley—will hardly be recognized as having been Gratiot County attorneys. Some of them were merely admitted to the bar here, and, after signing the register have not been heard from since in this county, but they may have attained eminence elsewhere.

## GRATIOT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.

As the name implies, the Gratiot County Bar Association is a fraternal organization made up of the lawyers of the county. Of course it is exclusive in its make-up and its objects, being composed exclusively of lawyers, with their welfare and pleasure the only or principal object. The association was organized September 1, 1909, and is incorporated under the state laws.

At the first meeting held on the date mentioned, a charter was adopted and a set of officers was elected as follows: President—George P. Stone, of Ithaca; vice-president—Charles W. Giddings, of St. Louis; secretary—John T. Matthews, of Ithaca; treasurer—William A. Bahlke, of Alma. The charter calls for an annual meeting to be held on the fourth Friday in February. The same officers have been re-elected each year and are the present incumbents. The association has an occasional banquet or other social function, an outing as occasion or desire dictates, and on the death or removal from the county of a member a meeting is in order and resolutions are adopted setting forth how the members feel about it. All as it should be, and all calculated to make the life of a lawyer worth living, and his death or removal a circumstance officially noticed, and a matter of record and regrets.

The names of the members and the order in which they have signed the articles are as follows:

John T. Mathews.
John C. Watson.
Ray McCall.
William A. Bahlke.
Charles H. Goggin.
John D. Spinney.
George P. Stone.
L. B. Sawyer.
O. G. Tuttle.
J. Lee Potts.
J. M. Everden.
A. McCall.
J. W. Myers.
M. R. Salter.
K. S. Searl.
D. L. Johnson.
James G. Kress.
Ezra L. Smith.
T. W. Whitney.
Newel Smith.
J. K. Wright.
C. W. Giddings.
George S. Aldrich.
John M. Dunham.

Since its organization the association has lost John C. Watson by removal from the county, and Truman W. Whitney by death.

## CARE OF THE POOR.

### County Home And Its Managers, Also County Superintendents.

It may well be presumed that the task of writing up anything like a satisfactory history of county poor matters is a difficult one. Anything like a connected and complete history is entirely out of the question. The records in the early days were kept in about the same fashion that the business was transacted—that is to say, spasmodically, and without that system that prevailed later on when the business increased and became more important and facilities increased proportionately. This is said with no idea of belittling or censuring the efforts of the early timers, for they probably did the best they knew, and the best they could with the chance they had. A lack of the old records, and the incompleteness of those that are in existence and obtainable is a great handicap in the preparation of a pioneer history.

In the matter of obtaining data for this poor farm department, some satisfaction was obtainable from the proceedings of the boards of supervisors. Some pointers were extracted from old newspaper files and stray copies picked up miscellaneously. And it may be well to mention here that some interesting scraps of information concerning poor farm matters are incorporated in the supervisors' doing in this volume; matters that seemed to belong in that department rather than in this.

Up to and including 1858, each township, at its annual spring election, elected two overseers, or directors of the poor. As no mention is made of such office or officers after 1858, it is presumed that the legislature of 1859 abolished the office. It hardly seemed worth while to investigate the matter further, as it is of no serious consequence so far as this history is concerned.

The supervisors began to interest themselves in the welfare of the poor at an early day. At a special session of the board held February 12, 1856, the first board of superintendents of the poor was created. It consisted of Chester Townsend, Isaiah Allen and Geo. E. Gifford.

At the January session of the board in 1857, E. W. Kellogg, John Jeffery and John W. Howd were appointed superintendents of the poor. The first-named failed to qualify, so at a special meeting held May 27, 1857, the board filled the vacancy by the appointment of Wm. W. Comstock.

At the session of the supervisors held May 27, 1857, the superintendents of the poor were instructed to inquire as to the best location for a poor farm for the county, of whom it could be bought and at what price. At the October session, 1857, the superintendents reported on six different locations—one of 200 acres on the west side of section 24, Newark, owned by John Jeffery; totally wild, at $4 per acre. The next was 200 acres on section 13, Newark; 26 acres chopped and 10 cleared, for $1,800. Owned by Walter Howd and John Jeffery. One of 160 acres on section 14, Washington, 20 acres improved; $1,400. Owned by Jas. M. Foote. One of 225 acres on section 18, North Star; 53 acres improved; $2,245; John W. Howd. One of 160 acres on sections 17 and 20, Washington; 80 acres chopped and 40 cleared and fenced; house 18 by 20 and a barn. Owned by W. W. Comstock; $2,000. The northwest quarter of section 8, Lafayette; all wild; owned by E. M. Monroe; $800. A committee of the board of supervisors, consisting of Bennett, of New Haven; Everden, of Emerson, and Worthing, of Sumner, was appointed to investigate the several offers and report. The committee recommended the Comstock place, on sections 17 and 20, Washington. Their report was adopted and that tract became the county poor farm.

At the session of the board of supervisors, October, 1858, J. B. Smith, of Washington; Ralph Ely, of Arcada, and John Jeffery, of Ithaca, were appointed superintendents of the poor. Smith and Ely declining to serve, Geo. Luce, of St. Louis, and E. C. Cook, of North Star, were substituted.

At the January, 1859, session of the supervisors, the superintendents reported the prevalence of great destitution in the county. They say: "Having taken considerable pains to converse with the different supervisors in relation to the destitution in their respective townships, we are assured that nearly one-third of the inhabitants of the county are in destitute circumstances." Afterward on motion of Supervisor Coffin, of Emerson, the board voted an appropriation of $500 "to meet the present imperative necessities of the county."

Joseph Vosburg, of Washington, was appointed superintendent of the poor in place of E. C. Cook, resigned, May 14, 1858.

The superintendents reported to the session of the board of supervisors, October 14, 1859, recommending that the county farm be exchanged for one more centrally located. Following this recommendation the supervisors began a search for a place more suitable for the needs of the county, resulting in the acquisition of the present well-located county farm. It so happened that W. W. Comstock was the owner, and a satisfactory bargain was made with him for the exchange.

Jas. B. Allen, of Pine River; Joseph Vosburg, of Washington, and John W. Howd, of North Star, were appointed superintendents of the poor. Afterward J. C. Hurlbut was appointed in place of Allen, who failed to qualify.

October, 1860, John W. Howd, W. W. Comstock and John Jeffery were appointed superintendents of the poor.

January 7, 1861, Elijah Beard and J. C. Hurlbut were appointed in place of Jeffery and Comstock who declined.

At the supervisors' session in October, 1861, the board voted to dispense with the superintendents of the poor, evidently having got discouraged. But at the January session following they seemed to have regained their nerve and rescinded their action. Then they appointed Clement Naldrett, Wm. Long and Joseph Backus as the new superintendents.

October, 1862, the board appointed an entire new set of superintendents as follows: Edward A. Chase, Joseph A. Guthrie and Emery Crosby.

Up to this time the entire board of superintendents of the poor had been changed every year. At the session of the supervisors, October, 1863, the new law took effect requiring the appointment to hold three years. So a new set of superintendents was appointed with their terms fixed as follows, one new superintendent to be appointed each year thereafter: Emery Crosby, three years; E. A. Chase, two years; W. E. Winton, one year

October, 1864, W. S. Everest was elected superintendent to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Emery Crosby, and John W. Howd was elected for the full term.

October, 1865, E. A. Chase was appointed superintendent of the poor. At this session steps were taken to exchange part of the county farm for other land lying on the state road. The exchange was made and the county thus secured the land whereon the present county house is located.

At the session of the supervisors, October, 1866, Emery Crosby was appointed superintendent of the poor. The superintendents reported that they had erected a house on the county farm at a cost of $1,500. The supervisors made the necessary appropriation to cover the balance remaining due for the erection of the building.

In January, 1867, Giles T. Brown took the place of E. Crosby as superintendent, the latter having resigned. In the following October John W. Howd was appointed superintendent.

October, 1868, E. A. Chase was appointed superintendent to succeed himself.

October, 1869, superintendents were appointed as follows: Giles T. Brown, Ithaca, three years; Elias W. Smith, St. Louis, two years; Wm. E. Winton, Ithaca, one year. The following January Henry P. Howd was appointed in place of Giles T. Brown, who had resigned.

October, 1870, A. W. Russell, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent. The superintendents reported that they had engaged Zachariah Hoag as poor house keeper for a term of two years. He to furnish everything and have everything, including what labor he could get out of the inmates.

January, 1871, Wm. Marlow, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent vice H. P. Howd, resigned.

At the January, 1872, session of the supervisors the superintendents of the poor reported that D. F. Muscott had been engaged to conduct the county farm; he to pay all the expenses and have the labor of the inmates and all he could raise on the farm, and a salary of $1,100 for the year. If the number of inmates exceeded 10 he was to have $1.50 per week each for the excess, and would deduct $1.50 a week each, for all under 10. He to board, clothe and furnish medical attendance. The superintendents were A. W. Russell, Wm. Marlow and Geo. W. Helt.

At the October session of 1872 the superintendents recommended the erection of an addition to the county house, at a cost not to exceed $800. The supervisors appropriated accordingly. Wm. Marlow was appointed superintendent to succeed himself.

The proposed addition to the county house was built during the season of 1873. It was 22 by 50 feet on the ground and two stories high. In October of that year A. W. Russell was re-elected superintendent, by a unanimous vote.

October, 1874, S. C. Crossman, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent.

October, 1875, Wm. Marlow was re-elected superintendent.

In November, 1875 the superintendents of the poor renewed their contract with D. F. Muscott as keeper of the county farm, with the same terms as in the former contract.

October, 1876, A. W. Russell was re-elected superintendent. At the June session, 1877, Henry W. Shaw, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent vice Crossman, removed from the county. In October session 1877, Floyd E. Martin, of St. Louis, succeeded H. W. Shaw, deceased. October, 1878, Wm. Marlow was appointed superintendent to succeed himself.

In October, 1877 the superintendents contracted with Rev. Stephen Dodge, of St. Louis, to keep the county farm, for a term of three years beginning January 1, 1878, at $91.66 per month, for 10 paupers, and $1.50 per week, each, for all over 10, and a deduction of $1.50 per week, each, for less than 10; he to have all of the avails of the farm and the benefit of the labor of the inmates. D. F. Muscott, who preceded Dodge, held the position six years.

The appointment of Rev. Dodge as keeper of the poor farm and its inmates, proved his undoing. He fell; and sometime along in the summer of 1878, only a few short months after his appointment, ran away with a frail female inmate of his institution. After his flight, the superintendents served notice upon his family that he must get out. Then they turned around and

contracted with Daniel C. Dodge, son of the Rev. Stephen. Dan. and his wife had been connected with the management of the farm, and the superintendents thought well of them. They proved to be good keepers, giving very good satisfaction, both to the superintendents and to the inmates. After being absent about a year and a half the old man seemed to think better of it—or worse—and returned.

In October, 1879, Parmer R. Phillips, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent. In October, 1880, John Shelt, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent.

In January, 1881, the superintendents renewed the contract with Dan Dodge for three years more, at $[illegible]00 per year; he to have the avails of the farm and the benefit of the paupers' labor, the county to pay for medical attendance.

October, 1881, Wm. Marlow was appointed superintendent. Ervin H. Ewell, of St. Louis, was appointed superintendent in place of John Shelt, removed.

P. R. Phillips was appointed to succeed himself as superintendent, October, 1882.

A. N. Martin, of St. Louis, was made superintendent October, 1883.

At the session of the board in October, 1883, Dan. Dodge tendered his resignaton as keeper of the poor farm, to take effect January 1, 1884. The superintendents then advertised for bids for the position of keeper. Twenty bidders responded as follows: C. B. Willoughby, O. Bentley, J. C. Barrus, A. L. Shaver, Andrew Gibbs, H. Gable, J. C. Plank, J. B. Willoughby, Frank M. Peet, Wm. Strand, H. Kaufman, W. J. Watson, Jerry Davis, Frank Allen, H. W. Hughes, E. Pettey, C. S. Cushman, P. W. La Clear I. B. Canfield, Lyman Clark. The contract was given to Jerry Davis at $900 per year with other conditions about as heretofore. Davis had been keeper of the county farm in Midland County seven years, which fact doubtless gave him some advantage over the other bidders. He held the position 17 consecutive years in Gratiot County.

October, 1884, Chas. E. Webster, of Ithaca, was appointed superintendent; October, 1885, P. R. Phillips; October, 1886, A. N. Martin; October, 1887, C. E. Webster; October, 1888, P. R. Phillips; 1889, A. N Martin; 1890, C. E. Webster; 1891, Ira W. Montague, Ithaca; 1892, N. Scott Baldwin, St. Louis; 1893, T. A. Ely, Alma; vacancy, A. S. McIntyre. St. Louis; 1894, Jesse Pepple, Ithaca; 1895, A. S. McIntyre; 1896, T. A. Ely; 1897, Jesse Pepple; 1898, A. S. McIntyre; 1899, Lester H. Hayt, Alma; 1900, Gaylord Helms, Ithaca; 1901, David Duncan, Ashley; 1902, T. A. Ely; 1903, Jesse Pepple; 1904, R. E. Hughes, St. Louis; vacancy, D. L. Sharrar, Alma; April, 1905, vacancy, Geo. E. Sharrar, Alma; October, 1905, Geo. E. Sharrar; 1906, G. Helms; January, 1907, vacancy, Ezekiel Arnold, St. Louis; October, 1907, Ezekiel Arnold; 1908, John T. Swigart. Alma; 1909, J. P. Whitman, Ithaca; 1910, vacancy, Henry J. Dodge; 1910, Ezekiel Arnold.

A committee of the board of supervisors, consisting of Supervisors C. E. Webster, A. W. Russell and Wm. Brice, had charge of the building of a brick addition to the county house in the summer of 1885. The addition was 32 by 45 feet on the ground and two stories in height, and the cost was $2,472.77. Fred Kinkerter, of Ithaca, had the job.

The system of letting the medical treatment of the poor of the county to the lowest responsible bidder was inaugurated in the fall of 1886, by resolution of the board of supervisors. The practice was continued three years and was then abandoned. The system was never popular with the people at large, being repugnant to the finer sensibilities, from a humani-

tarian standpoint. The result of the first letting is here given: The aggregate for the 17 townships and the county house was $693. Dr. W. D. Scott, of Ithaca, got Elba, $23; Washington, $50; North Star, $25; North Shade, $50. Dr. I. N. Monfort, Ithaca, got Ithaca, $23. Dr. C. L. Barber, Ithaca, got New Haven, $45; Newark, $34; county house, $59; Hamilton $43; Fulton, $17. Dr. E. Franks, St. Louis, took Emerson, $25. Dr. J. R. Baldwin, St. Louis, secured Wheeler, $40; Bethany, $49; Arcada, $40; Seville, $30; Lafayette, $25; Pine River, $75; Sumner, $40.

As above stated, Jerry Davis retained the position of overseer of the poor farm for a period of 17 years, being reappointed from year to year regardless of the political affiliations of the superintendents. Mr. Davis was a Republican in politics, and the superintendents had been of that faith up to 1879, when the rule was broken and a Democrat appointed. Mr. Davis was reappointed many times when the Democrats had a majority of the superintendents. At length, however, the superintendents decided that a change of keeper for the county farm would be desirable, and accordingly, early in January, 1901, they contracted with Frank L. Pressley as keeper. It is but fair to say that at this time the board of superintendents was Democratic, and also that their new man, Mr. Pressley, was a Democrat. The superintendents were L. H. Hayt, G. Helms and A. S. McIntyre. Whether or not politics had anything to do with the change of keeper—and without doubt it had something to do with it—the fact remains that Mr. Davis' term had been so unusually long, that neither he nor his friends had any reason to complain if those in authority thought it best to have a change.

Mr. Pressley retained his position two years, and then—in January, 1903—the superintendents, with a Republican majority by this time, ousted Mr. Pressley and re-employed Mr. Davis, his term to commence the first of April following. The superintendents were T. A. Ely, David Duncan and G. Helms. Wm. A. Seamon and J. O. Pettit were also candidates for the appointment when the superintendents selected Mr. Davis.

Following the appointment of Mr. Davis a good deal of dissatisfaction manifested itself in one way and another. Mr. Pressley, in the two years of his incumbency, had given excellent satisfaction, and was popular with the inmates. A good many people, regardless of party, felt that he had not been fairly treated by the superintendents; that Jerry Davis' appointment was no improvement, and that it was too rank an exhibition of partisanship anyway. Then followed a sensation that has hardly ever been equalled in the county. Talk, gossip and rumors of bad management by Davis when he was in before, were followed by serious and startling charges by the inmates, as to his treatment of the county's wards. Affidavits by some of the female inmates disclosed a shocking course of immoralities on the part of the keeper, if they were true. In short, the superintendents had no other recourse but to institute an investigation. If the charges were true, Mr. Davis was no fit man for the place. If they were not true, or were not substantiated, it was due to Mr. Davis and all concerned, to have that fact established.

The investigation was held in the supervisors' room at the court house, and was held behind closed doors, before the superintendents of the poor. The result was, nominally, an acquittal of Mr. Davis on the heinous charges made, the three superintendents being substantially agreed as to that. Mr. Helms considered that the charges of gross immorality had not been proven, but thought that the fact of cruel and harsh treatment had been established, and that, therefore, Mr. Davis was not a suitable person to have charge of the home. Mr. Ely thought that the charges had not

been sustained, and that on general principles Mr. Davis would be a suitable person for the place. But, inasmuch as the charges and the investigation had produced so much excitement, and so much ill-feeling and adverse comment, he considered that it would be unwise to put Mr. Davis back into the position of keeper. He urged Mr. Davis to withdraw voluntarily. Mr. Duncan not only did not consider the charges substantiated, but he was in favor of retaining Mr. Davis and putting him in charge of the home, forthwith.

Pending the investigation, which came to an end April 21st, the superintendents installed Alanson J. Brown, of Ithaca, as keeper, to act from the expiration of Mr. Pressley's term—April 1st—until the matter was definitely settled. After the superintendents arrived at the conclusion to not retain Mr. Davis, although he did not resign, they contracted with Mr. Brown to remain a year.

This episode in the history of the county, only the high places of which have been touched upon, was regretable for various reasons. It caused a good deal of ill-feeling and left unpleasant memories in the minds of many. Mr. Davis never became reconciled to what he considered very bad usage. As he viewed it—and it would be difficult to show that his view was not plausible—he contracted for the position in good faith; then he was investigated on serious charges and was exonerated, only to be kicked out of his position by those who had exonerated him. Doubtless the interests of the county were better served by his dismissal, but from the personal point of view of Mr. Davis and his friends, it was in the nature of a horrid blow below the belt.

At the end of his term—April 1, 1904—Mr. Brown was succeeded by W. A. Seamon, of Ithaca. Mr. Brown was a popular keeper.

Mr. Seamon served as keeper three years, and gave quite general satisfaction. In April, 1907, he was succeeded by Frank L. Pressley, who has continued in the position until the present time.

Along toward the close of Mr. Seamon's administration the superintendents of the poor were guilty of a very unwise and unpopular act, just the "high spots" of which will here be noticed: In December, 1906, Mr. Seamon resigned as keeper. The superintendents accepted his resignation, and then proceeded to re-appoint him, giving him the contract for two years with the privilege of four years if he so desired. This looked like a strange proceeding; the financial aspect of the matter also looked strange. When Mr. Seamon first took the place his compensation was $65 per month, with other conditions and considerations agreed upon, as was the custom. Later on the compensation was raised to $75 per month—$900 a year.

That raise was nothing to criticise seriously; it was probably worth it. But when the new bargain was made for two years with the privilege of four the contract price was raised to $100 per month—$1,200 a year. Wasn't it a strange proceeding! When this all became known a good many people didn't like it any too well; and they began to figure out the reason for the peculiar and expensive act of the superintendents. And this is what they found: They found that the superintendents of the poor were all of one political party—Republican—Jesse Pepple, Richard E. Hughes and Geo. E. Sharrar. They found that the board of supervisors was Democratic, and that at the recent October session they had appointed a Democrat—G. Helms—to succeed Mr. Pepple January 1st; that R. E. Hughes had been elected county clerk and would take his office January 1st, leaving a vacancy in the board of superintendents, which would be filled by the

Democratic supervisors at their January session, and the appointee would, of course, be a Democrat. That would make two Democrats to one Republican on the board of poor superintendents; and that would mean the ousting of Keeper Seamon and the appointment of a Democrat. They also found that the guileless Democrats—some of them—had this all figured out and had it "cooked up", to have Frank L. Pressley returned as keeper of the farm when Mr. Seamon walked out about April 1st. When all these conditions were considered and understood, people began to realize what a nervy transaction it was that the superintendents had indulged in.

The board of supervisors, at its January session, appointed Ezekiel Arnold, Democrat, of St. Louis, superintendent of the poor to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of R. E. Hughes. The superintendents, a majority of whom now were Democrats and backed by the Democratic board of supervisors, and also backed by public sentiment, appointed Frank L. Pressley keeper; and when the time came—April 1st—a demand was made for Mr. Seamon to vacate. This he declined to do at first, but after some argument and some compromise, and with the prospect of a tedious and expensive sourse of litigation before him he decided to vacate the position, which he did, and Mr. Pressley took possession about the middle of April.

The amicable settlement of the mix-up saved a lot of costs for both parties to the controversy, and, as Mr. Pressley took the place for $65 per month, it was a saving to the county of $35 per month—$420 a year, and probably with no sacrifice in efficiency.

During the summer of 1906 the old wooden part of the county house was torn away and was replaced by a brick structure 32 by 44 feet in size, and built to correspond and harmonize with the brick part previously built, the whole, as finished, making a commodious and comfortable home for the county's unfortunate wards.

In the summer of 1905 a large barn that had been erected in 1903, was struck by lightning and consumed by fire, together with much of the contents. Another took its place, though on another site, in 1906. The farm



COUNTY HOUSE.

as well provided with barns and other farm buildings, and the premises are kept in splendid condition by Mr. Pressley, his family and assistants. The house is heated with a hot water system, the works being located in the basement. Two years ago a system of water works was installed, a system which supplies water from a well a hundred feet in depth, to every part of the house, and with appliances for fighting fire wherever it might be located in house or out-buildings. It is an air-pressure system, the motive power being a gasoline engine, and all installed in a building centrally located, but apart from the other buildings. This improvement was instituted at a cost of about $1,000. Mr. Pressley says that they now have all the conveniences and necessities that could be desired excepting an electric lighting plant and a steam laundry.

The farm now consists of 160 acres, and it seems to meet all of the requirements that could reasonably be asked for. Mr. Pressley estimates the principal items of production for 1913 as follows: Hay, 15 tons; oats, 1,400 bushels; corn, 3,000 bushels; beans 150 bushels—half a crop on account of the work of the new pest. The principal live stock items are 28 head of cattle, 60 sheep, five horses, 15 hogs.

The number of inmates averaged about 50 for the summer of 1913. The home has accommodations for about 50 inmates, if necessity required that it be put to its full capacity.

Taken all together it seems to be the general opinion that the Gratiot County Home is one of the best of its kind in the state, and it has the reputation of being conducted to the general satisfaction of the county and of the county's dependent wards.

## GRATIOT IN THE WAR.

### How They Did Their Duty in the Time That Tried Their Souls.

That Gratiot County did its full share in the great work of putting down the Rebellion, has probably never been and never will be seriously questioned. All records, reminiscences and recollections go to prove that the people lacked nothing in patriotism; that they stepped forth as manfully, and, in proportion to their numbers, as numerously, in response to their country's call, as did the citizens of any other locality in the state. And they had more discouragements, and were compelled to make greater sacrifices than the people of the older and wealthier sections of the state. This is easily shown by a mere mention of a fact or two in connection with the situation. In the first place the people were extremely poor, as a whole. This statement needs no elaboration when it is remembered that when the war broke out the county was only about two years out of the period when donations from the benevolent "outside" were thankfully received. Being poor, it not only took patriotism, but it required grit and faith and perhaps several other qualities and attributes to induce a man to leave his family in what was still comparatively a wilderness and go forth to the far-away enemy's country to be shot at for the munificent salary of $13 per month; to say nothing of the many other chances for meeting an untimely death.

Furthermore, as time passed and the calls for "300,000 more" came along and were repeated at intervals, the older and wealthier localities had a habit of offering liberal bounties for volunteers to fill their respective quotas. Gratiot County also offered bounties, but it was hard to compete with the older counties, and a man who was leaving his large family in straightened circumstances in the wilderness and giving his time, and quite likely his life

to his country's cause, could hardly be blamed if he placed his "credit" where it would do the most good to his family.

Yes, those who went to war had a serious proposition before them; and it was far from being an unbroken holiday for those who remained at home. Quotas had to be filled; and they were filled almost entirely by volunteers.

The bounties were not the only large items of expense that the stay at homes had to provide for. The soldiers' family relief fund was a heavy draft on the treasury, the records showing that nearly $9,000 was appropriated to this fund during the war, by the supervisors. Without getting down to positive figures in dollars and cents, it seems a safe estimate to put the expenditures from the county treasury for bounties and family relief, during the war, at $16,000. But be that as it may, the requirements were all met, and in the minds of all, the end justified the means, and also the expense.

I have been told that some townships of the county were so thoroughly drained of their able bodied men by enlistments and drafts—and with the few added who went to visit their uncles in Canada—that there was not an able-bodied man left, under the age of 45 years. Old men, invalids, cripples and war-widows made up the greater part of the adult population.

In this connection the words of a writer, penned in 1876—a writer whose life and experiences formed a considerable part of Gratiot's early history—will fit in, and aid in verifying the contention that the citizens of Gratiot made sacrifices equal to any in the state during the Civil War period. He says: "Nearly all of the able-bodied men in the county either enlisted or were drafted into the army. In many instances proprietors of large farms enlisted and left their wives sole managers, and in some instances, sole laborers of the farm. The wives, with patriotic zeal, bade their husbands and sons 'God speed', and bent to the tasks before them with astonishing cheerfulness and success; winning for themselves at home what their husbands did on the battle field—imperishable laurels. Ladies, whose accomplishments fitted them for the drawing room or for any high position in society, could have been seen driving their oxen or wielding the hoe at ordinary farm labor. All honor to the memory of these noble women!"

Gratiot County was represented in more than twenty Michigan regiments. Two entire companies were made up of Gratiot County men, to wit: Company C, 8th Infantry, and Company D, 20th Infantry. The 21st Infantry, the 23rd Infantry and the Engineers and Mechanics also had a large number from this county. The county was well represented in the 2nd and 4th Cavalry, also.

### The 8th Mich. Infantry.

In July, 1861, Ralph Ely of Alma was authorized by Gov. Blair to raise a company in Gratiot County for service in the 8th Infantry. Mr. Ely went at the work with his usual energy, the company—designated as Company C—was recruited in a very few weeks, the most of the men being mustered in on August 12, 1861. The regiment rendezvoused at Grand Rapids, was mustered into the United States service September 23rd, and left the state September 26th, under command of Col. Wm. M. Fenton.

Company C was officered as follows: Captain—Ralph Ely; First Lieutenant—Geo. S. Gordon; Second Lieutenant—Chas. B. Holiday; Sergeants—Fred. M. Badger, Henry F. Waymire, James H. Sweeting, Nathan Church, Wilbur Nelson; Corporals—Simon McLaughlin, Charles Trevoy, Garwood E. Kress, John W. Doane, Davis M. Waite, Lucius C. Knapp, Ephraim Brown, Dorr Gould.

Enlistments to the company were as follows:

Ralph Ely, Aug. 12, 1861.
Geo. S. Gordon, " " "
Chas. B. Holiday, " " "
Fred. M. Badger, " " "
Henry F. Waymire, " " "
Nathan Church, " " "
Wilbur Nelson, " " "
John W. Doane, " " "
Jacob B. Ellison, " " "
Jas. H. Sweeting, " " "
Garwood E. Kress, " " "
Davis M. Waite, " " "
Hinsdale S. Hart, " " "
Lucius C. Knapp, " " "
Ephraim Brown, " " "
Jas. M. Hines, " " "
Geo. Hull, " " "
Norman B. Husted, " " "
Wm. I. Hildreth, " " "
Edwin D. Willetts, " " "
Stephen Young, " " "
John R. Burwell, " " "
Dorr Gould, " " "
Emery Adams, " " "
Ephraim L. Adams, " " "
Israel Boyer, " " "
Eli S. Brooke, " " "
Phares Bell, " " "
Jas. Buic, " " "
Clarkson Burgess, " " "
Isaac H. Clymer, " " "
Cyrenius Cronk, " " "
Martin W. Cramer, " " "
Amasa Clark, " " "
Daniel Chaffin, " " "
Jas. Dickinson, " " "
Alonzo Eastman, " " "
Geo. W. Feaster, " " "
Henry Flanigan, " " "
Jonathan K. George, " " "
Wm. B. Harris, " " "
Zachariah Hickman, " " "
Clement Hickman, " " "
Alonzo Jack, " " "
Enos H. Kimmel, " " "
Franklin Moore, " " "
Joseph Mecomber, " " "
Edwin E. Mull, " " "
Fred. W. Minica, " " "
Jas. B. Parker, " " "
Lewis Piper, " " "

Orin Phelps, Aug. 12, 1861.
Elmer Y. Packard, " " "
Martin R. Parker, " " "
Joel A. Pegg, " " "
Joseph C. Rockafellow, " " "
Jacob C. Ring, " " "
Joel Rowley, " " "
Chas. Rooks, " " "
Michael K. Strayer, " " "
Nathaniel Strayer, " " "
Wm. H. Strayer, " " "
Constantine Schlappi, " " "
John C. Scott, " " "
Albert Smith, " " "
Silas Turner, " " "
P. S. Thornton, " " "
Chas. F. Trevoy, " " "
Harrison Vanderbeek, " " "
Wm. Vanderbeek, " " "
Alfred Van Leuven, " " "
Henry C. Weaver, " " "
Jefferson M. Williams, " " "
Benjamin L. Walker, " " "
Chester Walker, " " "
Alex. Wurts, " " "
Welcome Waldron, " " "
Solomon Wolfe, " " "
Henry C. Ferris, Jan. 9, 1862.
Azro Train, " " "
Burr Turner, " " "
David M. Thornton, " " "
Edgar Loomis, Aug. 23, 1861.
Wm. Holmes, Aug. 21, 1862.
John Q. Hamp, Aug. 25, 1862.
W. E. Ward, Aug. 17, 1862.
Chas. H. Pritchard, Aug. 17, 1862.
Robert Lowery, Aug. 14, 1862.
Erastus Halstead, Dec. 30, 1863.
Lionel W. Harris, " " "
Lyman A. Andrews, Jan. 9, 1862.
John W. Barnes, " " "
Samuel S. Brady, " " "
Lorenzo Evans, " " "
A. J. Harrington, Mar. 14, 1862.
Wm. B. Huntington, Aug. 12, 1862.
Napoleon B. Hamp, Feb. 1, 1862.
Wm. N. Rogers,
Ira Amsbury, Oct. 1864.
Townsend A. Ely, Feb. 1865.
Alex. M. Wiley, Oct. 1863.

### The 26th Mich. Infantry.

Company D of this regiment was composed entirely of Gratiot County's pioneer citizens. The company was recruited mainly in July and August, 1862, under the direction of Lafayette Church of Arcada Township. Mr. Church was a pioneer of the county and a prominent citizen. The regiment was ordered to rendezvous at Jackson. It left the state Dec. 13, 1862, under command of its Colonel Judson S. Farrar. Dr. Chas. W. Marvin of Ithaca was assistant surgeon of the regiment from June, 1864, until the close of the war.

Following were the officers of Company D: Captain—Lafayette Church; First Lieut.—Nathan Church; Second Lieut.—Wm. S. Turck; Sergeants—Theo. Nelson, Luther C. Smith, Wm. M. Barstow, Jas. T. Rooks, Wm. D. Towner; Corporals—Zadock P. Freeman, Geo. W. Rooks, Wm. M. Howk, Moses Sanborn, Lafayette Sweatland, J. R. Van Leuven, Sether Dean, Jr., Myron R. Holmes.

Following are the names of the other members of the company, with the dates of enlistment:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wm. Barton, | Aug. | 12, | 1862. | Elisha Husted, | Aug. | 5, | 1862. |
| Isaiah Allen, | " | 4, | " | Peter Hoffman, | " | 13, | " |
| Jason G. Adams, | " | 14, | " | David Johnson, | " | 5, | " |
| Fred. S. Kelly, | " | 12, | " | Isaiah Kinney, | " | 12, | " |
| Herbert Sanborn, | " | 5, | " | Wm. Kinsel, | " | 15, | " |
| Jas. Gladstone, | " | 13, | " | Edward Lake, | " | 7, | " |
| Joseph Greer, | " | 5, | " | John W. Lake, | " | 2, | " |
| Reuben Finch, | " | 7, | " | Ira Livingston, | " | 9, | " |
| Wm. Dean, | " | 9, | " | Martin V. Munson, | " | " | " |
| John Deeler, | " | 11, | " | Jacob H. Mellinger, | " | 5, | " |
| Daniel C. Dodge, | " | 2, | " | John McLaughlin, | " | " | " |
| Thos. A. Carr, | " | 15, | " | Wm. J. Marshall, | " | 9, | " |
| Isaac N. Coleman, | July | 30, | " | Aaron Sloan, | " | 14, | " |
| John Cunningham, | Aug. | 5, | " | Lewis Sloan, | " | " | " |
| John G. Chase, | " | 6, | " | Henry Shults, | " | 9, | " |
| Joseph Crockford, | " | 15, | " | Aaron Staunton, | " | " | " |
| Wm. Crockford, | " | " | " | Joseph Osworth, | " | 14, | " |
| Thompson P. Curtis, | " | " | " | Anthony Ogden, | July | 30, | " |
| Abraham Boyer, | " | 11, | " | Wm. J. Pendell, | Aug. | 12, | " |
| Nathan Boyer, | " | 7, | " | Wm. Preston, | " | 4, | " |
| Fred. Boyer, | " | 5, | " | John S. Rowland, | " | 8, | " |
| Jacob T. Boyer, | " | 11, | " | Daniel Rowland, | " | " | " |
| Fred. Beck, | " | 5, | " | Robert Reed, | July | 26, | " |
| Elijah Barrett, | " | 14, | " | Thos. Reed, | " | 30, | " |
| Chauncey Barber, | " | 12, | " | Henry N. Rogers, | Aug. | 7, | " |
| Francis K. Hickman, | " | 15, | " | Albion Pickett, | " | 8, | " |
| Michael Hickman, | " | " | " | Wm. Partee, | " | " | " |
| Geo. Hahn, | " | 14, | " | Sidney Phippeny, | " | 12, | " |
| Geo. Healy, | " | " | " | Geo. Phippeny, | " | 15, | " |
| Alyran Hall, | July | 28, | " | John Parks, | " | " | " |
| David H. Hamp, | Aug. | 15, | " | John H. Shaffer, | " | 12, | " |
| Enoch Mudge, | " | 14, | " | Alex. H. Snyder, | " | 9, | " |
| Jeremiah McPherson, | " | 9, | " | Albert Shaver, | " | 13, | " |
| Chas. E. McBride, | " | " | " | Ransom P. Finney, | Dec. | 4, | " |
| Nehemiah Lamb, | " | 12, | " | Butler J. Finney, | Nov. | 26, | " |
| Joseph J. Lovell, | " | " | " | John Zimmerman, | Aug. | 12, | " |

David Zimmerman, Aug. 15, 1862.
Andrew Tinklepaugh, " 11, "
Jas. V. Vleit, " 8, "
John W. Warner, " 12, "
Henry Wiseman, " 5, "
Lysander M. White, " 12, "
W. J. Wood, " 9, "
Adam M. Marvin, Dec. 22, 1863.
Geo. Hunt, " 23, "
Seneca Curtis, " " "
Adam H. Holmes, " 26, "
Lafayette F. Hall, " 29, "
Albro Curtis, " " "
Wm. Joslin, " 30, "

**In the 2nd Infantry.**

Frederick G. Hall, April 25, 1861.
Francis W. Hall, " " "
John Mull, Mar. 1864.

**In the 3rd Infantry.**

Chas. H. Hoag, May 13, 1861.
Moses H. Hollister, " " "
Geo. W. Phillips, May 13, 1861.
Wm. Wright, " " "

**In the 4th Infantry.**

Wm. Anderson, Oct. 1864.

**In the 5th Infantry.**

Elbridge Franklin, Aug. 14, 1861.
Luther Franklin, " " "
Thos. Bigelow, " 7, "
Samuel Healy, " 12, "
Oscar Smock, June 19, 1861.
Chas. Sweatland, Aug. 9, "
Wm. I. Tracey, " 15, "
Jesse P. Wheaton, " 7, "

**In the 7th Infantry.**

Geo. Tate, Aug. 3, 1861.
Elon Moyer, " 8, "
Edwin Kingsley, Dec. 13, "
Wm. H. Ring, Dec. 13, 1861.
J. C. Schoonover, June 24, "
Wm. Moyer, " " "

**In the 9th Infantry.**

David Wells, Aug. 20, 1861.

**In the 10th Infantry.**

Jonathan Courter, Nov. 1864.
Gaylord Helms, 1864.

**In the 13th Infantry.**

Thos. Franklin, Oct. 4, 1861.
Jas. I. Lash, " 21, "
Thos. Crofford, Nov. 4, "
Elbert C. Brink, Nov. 5, 1861.
Abel Bigelow, Dec. 25, "

**In the 14th Infantry.**

Geo. Leoffler, Feb. 8, 1862.
Jas. G. Brady, Dec. 29, 1861.
Russell Phillips, " 21, "
Wm. Weed, 1864.
James Weed, "

**In the 16th Infantry.**

Nelson Bullock, Aug. 6, 1861.

**In the 17th Infantry.**

Robert Lowery, July 14, 1862.
Jonas P. Jewett, " 27, "
Arthur L. Buchanan, " 27, "
Lawrence Eagan, July 5, "
Lester Slocum, Aug. 1, "
Horace Peck, June 21, 1862.
John Kortine, July 5, "
Chad. Herrington, Aug. 1, "
Joseph W. Grace, July 8, "

### In the 21st Infantry.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albert D. Loucks, | Aug. | 22, | 1862. | Chas. W. Miller, | Dec. | 26, | 1863. |
| Darius E. Dean, | " | 13, | " | Austin C. Jacobs, | " | " | " |
| Nathaniel Crosby, | " | 14, | " | Richard E. Marlett, | " | " | " |
| Ebenezer E. Bigelow, | " | 12, | " | Hiram Cuykendol, | " | " | " |
| Wm. Burt, | " | " | " | Carlisle Miller, | " | " | " |
| Ebenezer Ferris, | " | " | " | Chas. E. Going, | " | " | " |
| John H. Tibbitts, | " | " | " | Zadoc Bigelow, | " | " | " |
| John Wilson, | " | " | " | Levi Colwell, | " | " | " |
| Sheldon Clarkson, | " | 7, | " | Marvin A. Colwell, | " | " | " |
| Chas. Johnson, | Dec. | 29, | 1863. | Geo. D. Reeves, | " | " | " |
| Bradbury G. Spiller, | " | 26, | " | Job. C. Wolford, | Mar. | | 1864. |

### In the 23rd Infantry.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albert Bovee, | June | 30, | 1862. | Melvin Stanley, | Aug. | 11, | 1862. |
| Jewett Bentley, | Aug. | 8, | " | Wm. H. Steadman, | " | 8, | " |
| Jas. Bentley, | July | 30, | " | Devillo West, | " | " | " |
| Wm. A. Carr, | Aug. | 6, | " | Timothy Smith, | " | 11, | " |
| Jas. V. Carr, | " | " | " | Obed Stoddard, | July | 30, | " |
| David Duncan, | " | " | " | Allen Keen, | " | 24, | " |
| Leonard C. Waldo, | " | 12, | " | Geo. Steadman, | June | 18, | 1863. |
| Wm. H. Sheldon, | " | 11, | " | Henry Simmon, | | | |
| Rufus Sheldon, | " | 12, | " | John H. Jessup, | Oct. | | 1864. |
| Reuben R. Smith, | " | 15, | " | John McCuaig, | | | " |
| Chas. W. Hewett, | " | 9, | " | Edward A. Chase, | | | |
| Henry Oberlin, | " | 11, | " | Joseph Harlock, | Oct. | | 1864. |
| Richard W. Bunce, | " | " | " | Wm. H. Laycock, | Sept. | | " |
| Wilson Stanley, | " | " | " | Alex. McCuaig. | | | 1864. |

### In the 27th Infantry.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John M. Trask, | | | 1863. | Robert Gladstone, | | | 1863. |
| John E. Densmore, | Jan. | | 1864. | David Dolliver, | | | |
| Gilbert E. Hall, | " | | " | | | | |

### In the 29th Infantry.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| David Muffly, | | | 1864. | John Walker, | | | |
| Jacob J. Muffly, | | | " | John S. Wright, | Sept. | | 1864. |

### In the Engineers and Mechanics.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geo. A. Richmond, | June | 28, | 1863. | Henry Bassett, | | | 1863. |
| Norton Rice, | " | 29, | " | Ezra Keene, | | | " |
| Levi Atwell, | July | 10, | " | Hiram Norton, | | | " |
| Chas. H. Waggoner, | " | 11 | " | Inman N. Cowdrey, | | | " |
| Adelbert Kentfield, | " | 13, | " | John T. Swigart, | Oct. | | " |
| Wm. Reed, | " | " | " | Andrew S. Jolly, | | | " |
| Albert A. Lawrence, | " | 20, | " | Culwell Martin, | Aug. | 31, | " |
| Henry Otto, | " | " | " | Alonzo Lawrence, | Sept. | 1, | " |
| Solomon Creasinger, | Aug. | 1, | " | Henry J. Norton, | " | 13, | " |
| Andrew J. Wardwell, | " | " | " | Theo. O. Daniels, | " | 14, | " |
| Wm. R. Pratt, | " | " | " | Amasa G. Otto, | " | " | " |
| Geo. Gray, | | | " | Simeon Howe, | Oct. | 6, | " |
| Edward Bassett, | | | " | Isaac W. Jackson, | Dec. | 26, | " |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wm. Lepley, | | 1863. | Wm. Ogden, | | 1863. |
| John W. Lepley, | | " | Reuben Ogden, | | " |
| Wm. J. Tracy, | | " | Lewis Dickerson, | | " |
| Hiram Hilliker, | | " | Geo. Wells, | | " |
| John W. Wilkinson, | | " | Jas. Payne, | | " |
| Robert Fulton, | | " | Birdsey Eldred, | | " |
| Jas. Fulton, | | " | John Brown, | | " |
| John Underhill, | | " | | | |

**In the 1st Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jas. W. Howd, | Aug. | 1861. | | | |

**In the 2nd Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jas. Hawkins, | Oct. | 28, 1863. | Hiram Tubbs, | Oct. | 28, 1863. |
| Philo Taylor, | " | " " | Lewis Wheelock, | " | " " |
| Absalom L. Ward, | " | " " | Willard Powell, | " | " " |
| Andrew Call, | | " | Patrick Brewer, | " | " " |
| Chas. Henry, | " | " " | Thos. Hunt, | " | 29, " |
| D. D. Wooley, | " | " " | Samuel Willard, | " | " " |
| Geo. N. Schlappi, | " | " " | Norman D. Vincent, | " | " " |
| Henry Davison, | " | " " | Samuel A. Vliet, | Dec. | 30, " |

**In the 3rd Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson Page, | Sept. | 8, 1861. | Harvey Mull, | Sept. | 9, 1861. |
| Geo. Page, | " | 10, " | Wm. Waterbury, | Oct. | 9, " |
| John J. Shook, | Aug. | 28, " | Hiero B. Fox, | " | 10, " |

**In the 4th Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Van Hollen, | June | 18, 1863. | David Cunningham, | Dec. | 28, 1863. |
| Jas. B. Carpenter, | Dec. | 11, " | Stephen Cunningham, | " | " " |
| Stephen M. Boyle, | " | " " | Amos Lake, | " | 29, " |
| Thos. R. Paine, | " | 17, " | Daniel Graham, | " | " " |
| Albert B. Paine, | " | " " | Jacob Ream, | " | " " |
| Joshua F. Harter, | " | 21, " | Emerson Crosby, | " | 31, " |
| Wm. R. Stevens, | " | 26, " | Perry D. Pettit, | | 1863. |

**In the 5th Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| David Bussey, | Aug. | 14, 1862. | Wesley Howell, | Aug. | 18, 1862. |
| Jacob Grubaugh, | " | 15, " | Almon Jolls, | " | 20, " |
| Willett Reynolds, | " | " " | Jas. Griffith, | " | " |
| John Bennett, | " | " " | | | |

**In the 6th Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Geo. W. Aldrich, | Sept. | 1862. | | | |

**In the 10th Cavalry.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Franklin Woodman, | Aug. | 10, 1863. | Lewis H. McDowell, | Oct. | 1, 1863. |
| Daniel C. Cronk, | " | 24, " | John W. McDowell, | " | 3, " |
| Jewett B. Bentley, | Sept. | 24, " | Luther J. Brink. | | |

**In the 1st Sharp Shooters.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Giley, | July | 9, 1863. | Chas. Harris, | July | 17, 1863. |

**In the 6th Sharp Shooters.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jas. Mathews, | Jan. | 7, 1862. | John Maxwell, | Jan. | 18, 1862. |
| Jerome Luce, | " | 12, " | Abial S. Loomis, | " | 20, " |
| Israel Tyler, | " | 13, " | Thos. Campbell, | " | " " |

**In the 3rd Battery.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Johnson, | Jan. | 6, 1862. | John McCue, | Jan. 16, | 1862. |
| Christian Shaffer, | " | " " | Peter J. Desnoyer, | " 25, | " |
| John Chardon, | " | 12, " | Conrad Levi, | Feb. 16, | " |
| Geo. C. Dickerson, | " | " " | | | |

A long list of patriots to go at their country's call, from a county only seven or eight years old. How many gave their lives to the cause it is impossible to state here, but the number was large.

### Subscriptions for Soldiers' Bounties.

Mrs. S. S. Hastings furnishes a relic of the Civil War in the shape of a subscription paper gotten up for the purpose of paying a bounty to volunteers from the Township of Pine River, so as to obviate the necessity for a draft:

"We, the undersigned, hereby pledge ourselves to pay the amounts set opposite our names in support of a bounty to be raised in the Township of Pine River, to be paid to those who volunteer in said township in the service of the government of the United States, to be paid on or before the 5th day of January, 1864, to those authorized to receive the same and to be paid to those who volunteer and are sworn in and accepted by the government, provided the whole quota is filled:

Luther Smith, $30; Mitchell Packer, $15; Gordis Smith, $25; Henry Smith, $25; David S. Packer, $25; J. A. McKibben, $25; J. B. Smith, $10; Jas. Cummings, $20; A. Porter, $20; Moses Tompkins, $20; M. Smart, $5; Hiram Burgess, $25; E. M. Stevens, $15; L. M. Clark, $5; Samuel Johnson, $10; Jas. Gargett, $25; W. B. Humbert, $25; Orson Briggs, $25; Helen Drake, $2; Mary A. Brooks, $2; Mary E. Rowley, $1; Hannah Dodge, $1; Martin Vanderbeck, $10; Elias Sias, $10; Geo. Insley $10; G. W. McHenry, $10; W. B. Chase, $5; S. S. Hastings, $15; Z. P. Thornton, $25; E. R. Hoyt, $10; Valmore Hoyt, $10; Isaac Church, $10; L. W. Kyes, $10; Fred. Wright, $10; Chas. Wright, $5; Jas. Livingston, $10; Silas Moody, $25; Joseph Doane, $25; Edward White, $10; J. Holmes, $10; Ellen Moody, $10; Amassa Packard, $25; Thos. Gallagher, $10; John A. Thomas, $5; Geo. Fogelsong, $3.50; David Waters, $.50; John W. Fogelsong, $.50; Isaac Shipman, $.50; C. Holmes, $.50; M. Holmes, $.50; Alfred Holmes, $5; Mary M. Moody, $5; Jas. B. Allen, $10; Amassa A. White, $.50.

## MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS.

Rev. Theodore Nelson, one of Gratiot County's most honored citizens, and himself an old soldier, delivered the following address at East Saginaw, on Memorial Day, 1875:

"Today we have come to this 'city of the dead', to strew flowers on the graves of those who fell in the war of the great rebellion. This memorial observance is beautiful, touching, even pathetic in its significance. It is the sweetest possible tribute of a nations gratitude. Flowers, coming as they do, from the hand of God, seem to embody those finer sentiments which words cannot convey; they fitly voice the tenderest feelings of the soul. Their beauty symbolizes the deeper, grander beauty of a life sacrificed for others. Their fragrance speaks of fragrant deeds—not evanescent as the fragrance of flowers, but deeds that shall live forever in the memory of man. Yes, these dead were the choicest flowers plucked from our hearts and homes.

"Two thousand years ago, Pericles pronounced a splendid oration over the graves of those Athenians who had fallen in the Peloponesian War, and in that oration he said, 'for of illustrious men the whole earth is the sepulcher'. All over the sunny South are thousands of graves upon which no flowers will be strewn. They hold the dust of those who were 'missing in action', or the dust of those who were hurriedly buried without head-board or mound to mark their resting place. I will not call them illustrious men, for even their names are forgotten save in the narrow circle where once they moved, save by the few loving hearts which hold them in everlasting remembrance. But I will say that they were the authors of illustrious deeds; and of these men 'the whole earth is the sepulcher'.

"Oh, Earth! Earth! Thou art reeking and red with the gore of the noble slain! Not alone the few graves in this cemetery; but the graves of all our fallen heroes we decorate today.

"It seems but yesterday; but many years have come and gone since then. They have been years of transition in our personal history, and years of transition in our national life. Some of us have passed from boyhood to the prime of manhood; and some from the prime of manhood to the 'sere and yellow leaf' of old age. Events have moved on with astonishing rapidity. Governments have been created, empires have been overthrown and dynasties have passed away. These years have been the human focal point of the ages. Toward this point the whole history of the human race has seemed to converge.

"I do not suppose that our fathers ever dreamed of the greatness of the empire which they were founding. Each of the thirteen colonies had a peculiar history of its own; each had an individual life; each stood out separate and distinct from the rest, and each was jealous of its prerogatives. It was difficult, therefore, to establish such a union as to secure all the advantages of a consolidated, centralized government without the loss of individual or colonial rights. Our fathers did the best they could under the circumstances. The colonies were united, but not assimilated. It was this idea of colonial independence which afterward re-appeared in the fatal doctrine of 'states rights', and this doctrine pressed to a finality precipitated the rebellion.

"It was the old contest between freedom and slavery. Institutions so hopelessly antagonistic could not long subsist under the same government. Never had men a better cause than ours. Rarely had there been a question that had but one side. A great historian has observed that it often happens to nations to be compelled 'either to forego the blessings of order that they may secure liberty, or to surrender liberty rather than imperil the existence of order'. But we were compelled to choose between the maintenance of liberty and order on the one side, or, on the other, the overthrow of order and the destruction of liberty. Long ago wise men said that this struggle must eventuate in war; and they were right. The tempest broke at last with terrible fury.

"The day that Sumpter fell the telegraphic wires thrilled with the mingled emotions of a nations sorrow and wrath. Men were bewildered with excitement. Never before had they realized how their individual happiness was interlocked with the well-being of their country; how personal liberty, the rights of conscience and the institutions of religion would be

imperiled by the overthrow of that government which our fathers had bequeathed us.

"Out of the black war-cloud which gathered its dense and wrathful folds in the face of the southern sky; out of the sullen roar of cannon and the smoke of the far-off battlefield, the voice of God called them to arms. That call was answered with a shout which echoed from the rugged hill-tops of New England to the fertile valleys of the West. Those men who said it would be an easy task to conquor the South had made a grand mistake. Almost from the beginning the war assumed gigantic proportions, and it became apparent that the struggle must be fierce and long. Our first experience chastened our pride, humbled us before God and taught this nation to do right.

"War at best is a direful scourge; and fratricidal war is an unspeakable calamity. War, to those who, through injustice or violence, force such an issue, is a crime against humanity and a sin against God. Oh, those days of anxious waiting and awful solicitude! Oh, those days when every breeze was burdened with tidings of the slain; when the voice of mourning filled the land!

"And now a decade of years have gone. Ten times the seasons have made their cycles since the rebellion was crushed. Ten times the flowers have bloomed and faded above the last made martyr's grave. But who can ever forget that the half-million of men who laid down their lives in this conflict belonged to this generation! Yes, fellow citizens, some of them were your fathers, or brothers, or husbands, or sons. Ah, that great army of the dead! Methinks they go trooping before us now. Today they stretch forth their shadowy hands to greet us, and mingle with our songs their mysterious voices.

"Every great cause has had its martyrs. 'The blood of the martyrs has been the seed of the Church'; and the Church will never forget her martyrs. First of all she emblazons on her banners the name of Jesus. The apostles creed records his martyrdom in these words: 'Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified; dead and buried'. The world's greatest artists—Raphael and Angelo and Titian—have employed their grandest skill to portray and celebrate this event; have painted it on canvas, or carved it in wood, or sculptured it in marble, or wrought it in brass, or silver, or gold.

"Today—at every hour of the day—in some part of Christendom, the gilded cross glitters in the beams of the rising sun. And that cross is the world-wide symbol of Christ's martyrdom.

"Now I hold that the patriotic sentiment is next to the religious sentiment; that first of all, under God, man owes allegiance and love to his country. As an eminent American said at the breaking out of the rebellion, 'We will nail our country's flag just beneath the cross of Christ'. Love of country embraces love of home; love of kindred and friends; in short, it embraces every object and interest dear to the heart in this life. And when—as is the case with ours—a country represents an idea supreme in its moral ascendency over the political theories which obtain among nations in general; when it recognizes the absolute sovereignty of the people, and is set for the defense of the civil and religious rights of all classes of citizens, it is especially entitled to the affection and service of all who enjoy its previleges, or claim its protection. I pity that American—native or foreign-born — whose soul is never thrilled with emotions of patriotism.

"Now, if the institutions of our country are of such priceless value, we cannot afford to forget those men by whose death these institutions have been purchased and preserved. We cannot afford to forget this nation's martyrs.

"On the 19th of April last, at Concord and Lexington, was celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the first battle of the Revolution. Battle we call it, though nothing but a skirmish. Yet, in many respects, it was the most famous event in our history.

'By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
Here, once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard 'round the world'.

"An eloquent writer has said: 'As the fleets and armies of England went forth to consolidate arbitrary power, the sound of war everywhere else on the earth died away. Kings sat still, in awe, and nations turned to watch the issue. And the issue was **Liberty!**

"With the memory of those who died in that struggle we wreathe the fame of our fallen in these later years; for, alike with them, they are martyrs of the Republic. And what shall I say of them! They heed not eulogy, and they need it not. A nation bedews their memory with her tears. Many of them sleep in unknown, but not in unhonored, graves. Soldiers sleep on! If noble achievements do earn us rest, you well may sleep. Rest, heroes, rest! Ask no prouder rehearsal of your deeds than this: 'Killed in action'; or 'Died of wounds'; or, 'Died of disease contracted in the line of duty'.

'Whether on the scaffold high,
Or in the battle's van,
The fittest place for man to die,
Is where he dies a man'.

"And now, as we honor the memory of our dead, let us not be unmindful of the duty which we owe to the living. While we cherish with pride the achievements of our soldiers, let us bury in oblivion the bitterness engendered by the conflict. Oh, that the mantle of him, who fell, jaded and worn by excessive toil, and by burdens no mortal, unaided, could ever bear; fell as the watchman who waiteth for the morn, just as he beheld the rising day; fell, the last and greatest of the nation's martyrs; Oh, that the mantle of Abraham Lincoln might rest on all the people; that all might be imbued with his spirit of 'malice toward none, but charity to all'. Then we should learn not alone how to demand rights for ourselves, but also how to concede rights to others. Then we should learn that true liberty is not lawlessness or license, not freedom from personal restraint in wrong-doing, but in a much better sense; the liberty of good citizenship and noble manhood."

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### Sketch of Rev. Theodore Nelson.

This sketch chronicles, briefly, the prominent facts in the life of one who, with more plausibility and truth than can be said of any other, was Gratiot County's favorite son.

Theodore Nelson was born in Madison, Lenawee County, Mich., February 11, 1841. He removed with his father, Francis Nelson, (judge of probate later on) to Gratiot County, in 1854, settling in Arcada Township. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, 26th Mich. Vol. Infantry, and was made orderly sergeant. He was afterward promoted through the grades to captain, and was acting adjutant of the regiment for some time. He was a gallant and popular soldier, serving in many battles, and was mustered out at the close of the war.



REV. THEODORE NELSON.

After the war Mr. Nelson studied for the ministry, attaching himself to the Baptist denomination. He served as pastor of the Churches at St. Louis, Ithaca and Alma at different times. In the fall of 1866 he was elected register of deeds of Gratiot County, and was re-elected in 1868. In the spring of 1885 he was appointed state superintendent of public instruction by Gov. Alger, to fill vacancy. From October, 1873, to March, 1882, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church at East Saginaw, and in 1883-4 he was acting president of Kalamazoo college.

In 1878 Mr. Nelson was given a leave of absence by the Saginaw Church, to make a tour of Europe for his health, and he took another similar trip in 1882. In 1884 he was appointed to the chair of English literature in the Ypsilanti Normal School. In 1887 he aided in founding Alma College, and for some time held the chair of English literature in that institution. In 1889 he accepted the pastorate of the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church in Saginaw, continuing in that capacity two years, when he was called to the presidency of Kalamazoo College, a position which he occupied until his death, which occurred at Alma, May 1, 1892. His health, never really robust, became greatly impaired in late life, and his death, though finally a great shock to all, was not unexpected. He was buried in Brady Hill Cemetery, Saginaw.

Dr. Nelson was twice married. His first wife who was Frances A. Church, daughter of Rev. Lafayette Church, the pioneer Baptist minister. She died September 15, 1865, about a year after her marriage. May 25, 1867, he was married to Laura A. Cheesman, daughter of Dr. John R. Cheesman,

pioneer of Hamilton Township, later of St. Louis. To this latter union seven children were born—five daughters and two sons. The five daughters were taken away in their youth by a scourge of diphtheria while the family resided in Saginaw. The two sons, together with their mother, survive. The mother is a resident of Saginaw.

Wilbur, the older of the two sons is a Baptist minister, now serving the First Baptist Church at Connellsville, Penn. He was five years pastor of the First Baptist Church at Saginaw, the charge occupied by his father for nine years. Theodore, the second son, is a lawyer by profession, now practicing in New York City.

Dr. Nelson belonged to the Masonic fraternity, a member of Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., and of Ithaca Chapter No. 70, R. A. M.

Sympathetic and kind in his nature, mild, earnest and sincere in manner, firm in his stand for truth and justice, Dr. Nelson won the respect, confidence and affection of all with whom he came in contact. If it could be said of any man that "he had no enemies", Rev. Theodore Nelson was surely entitled to that distinction. And as a public speaker for occasions calling for serious and deep thought, feeling and sympathy, associated and combined with exalted and ecstatic sentiment and expression, Dr. Nelson had few equals and no superiors. Though dead twenty years his memory still lingers; and it is a pleasure to be able to perpetuate that memory in this permanent way.

## FOR THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

### Gratiot County's Warriors Showed Up Numerously.

The spring and summer of 1898 showed great activity in "military circles", in Gratiot County. The Spanish-American conflict was impending, and the patriotic sons of Gratiot were just as ready and anxious to fight, and if necessary, die for their country as anybody, and right nobly did they come forward and offer their services.

Acting under an inspiration, and by authority granted by the G. A. R., Department of Michigan, Comrade Wm. H. Beasley, of Ithaca, opened a recruiting office in April, and took in the names of such as desired to offer themselves for the conflict when it should come. In the course of a couple of months Mr. Beasley and others gathered in the names of about 90 prospective warriors. About the first of July Dr. O. P. Barber, of Saginaw, who had been appointed surgeon of the 35th Mich. Infantry, the regiment into which the Gratiot recruits were to be put, came on as first aid to the government in selecting candidates for the service.

The doctor passed about 40 of the boys and they were ordered to report at Orchard Lake, the place designated for the rendezvous of the Michigan recruits. Afterward others were added, and the final sifting process was enacted at the encampment, and those accepted were assigned —or the most of them—as members of Company H, of the 35th Regiment, J. L. Thornborn, captain of the company.

The adjutant general's records in Lansing show that there were 41 sworn into the service from Gratiot County. The list of names, with postoffice addresses as they were at that time, is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Raymond H. Bangs, | Alma. | John E. Shirely, | Ithaca. |
| Wm. J. Carrel, | " | Enos Lewis, | " |
| Geo. A. Spicer, | " | Clarence E. Clymer, | " |
| Fred Stoutenburg, | " | Ralph M. Knickerbocker, | Edgewood. |
| Chas. O. Ward, | " | Thos. E. Lobdell, | Rathbone. |
| Harry H. Johnson, | St. Louis. | Bird Allen, | Perrinton. |
| Jas. McGregor, | " | Wilber S. Tuttle, | Middleton. |
| Ray Broadhead, | " | Jas. H. Payne, | " |
| S. B. Brott, | " | Zach. D. Rule, | " |
| Walter C. McLean, | " | Chas. A. Percell, | " |
| John D. Throop, | " | Elmer W. McDonald, | N. H. Center. |
| Harry R. Ball, | " | Guy Rosekrans, | North Star. |
| Harry H. Johnson, | " | Geo. P. Robertson, | " |
| Sidney E. Dalrymple, | Ithaca. | Wm. C. Hollinger, | " |
| Stephen A. Clymer, | " | Timothy Kirwin, | Riverdale. |
| Alfred Saleno, | " | Myron Murgittroyd, | Breckenridge. |
| Albert H. Webster, | " | Clyde Armstrong, | Bannister. |
| Glenn E., Baney, | " | Frank J. Newsom, | " |
| Frank M. Shroyer, | " | John D. Roberts, | " |
| John M. Bauders, | " | Fred D. Lewis, | Ashley. |
| Chas. C. Critchfield, | " | | |

As those who offered themselves and were excused for one cause or another showed their good intentions as well as those who were accepted, it seems no more than fair to give them credit for their commendable efforts to get to the front. They are as follows, as I have been able to get them:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chas. W. Riley. | Frank Baker. | W. A. Frisbie. |
| Sanford Ringle. | Chas. R. Giddings. | Claude B. Moore. |
| Pitt De Bar. | Adolph J. Glinke. | Ralph E. Alvord. |
| Frank Gwinner. | Seth J. Curtis. | Floyd Woodward. |
| Edgar N. Church. | Melvin Yerian. | Jas. H. Rogers. |
| Fred Rogers. | Walter A. Whitcomb. | Eugene DeLong. |
| Joseph R. McCoy. | Geo. Feaster. | J. E. Fafty. |
| John Clingersmith. | Jas. W. Bowers. | Herbert M. Churchill. |
| Volney J. Hendershott. | Guy H. Davis. | Eugene Delaney. |
| Daniel F. Duffey. | Frank Meeker. | Clyde Thompson. |
| John Brown. | Lewis McDonald. | Oscar J. Bright. |
| W. J. Dean. | W. D. Coss. | Fred L. Delavan. |
| Arthur A. Mikesell. | Floyd Drayer. | Thos. Bishop. |
| Alvah Hattadis. | Cal. S. Pratt. | Edward Winn. |
| Chas. F. Wood. | Thos. Holland. | Ray Panney. |
| Pliny W. Rogers. | G. W. Eldredge. | Edward Burch. |
| Eugene M. Becker. | Clark E. Beckwith. | David R. Shaw. |
| Jas. A. Putnam. | Fletcher G. Booth. | |

## THE GRATIOT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This association has, without doubt, been of great benefit to the county. Certainly it has been and still is, of much interest to the people, its annual exhibitions beng looked forward to with high expectations, and enjoyed by throngs of people from all parts of the county. It is one of the few county agricultural societies of the state that has retained the confidence of its patrons without a break from its first organization, 45 years ago, to the present time. There have been years when the exhibitions have not been quite up to the standard, and a few times when the premiums could not

be paid in full. But for the past 10 years it has seemed to take on new life and vigor, and each annual fair seems to outclass that of the previous years.

The society was organized June 13, 1866, at Ithaca, and a fair was held the following fall. Nathan Church was president and Emery Crosby secretary. The public square, at that time a new and rough proposition, surrounded by a rail fence, was utilized for the purpose. A temporary structure was erected for a floral hall, and the farmers corraled their stock about the grounds as best they could. An improvised race track around two or three village blocks, well patronized by Gratiot's "plugs" furnished a lot of amusement for those with sporty notions. The records of this first fair and of many subsequent ones have been destroyed or lost, if there ever were any, so it is impossible to give anything like a connected account of the doings of the society.

At the session of the board of supervisors in October, 1866, the society asked the board for an appropriation in aid of its purposes and efforts. The request was signed by Francis Nelson as president of the society and Wm. E. Winton as secretary, and was in part in the following words: "We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the inhabitants of Gratiot County did, on the 13th day of June, A. D. 1866, organize and establish a society for the encouragement and advancement of agriculture, manufactures and the mechanic acts in said county, and that there has been raised by said society over $100 for the promotion of the aforesaid object. And you are requested to assess and levy a tax for the benefit of said object, according to the statute in such case made and provided." These things were sworn to before W. C. Beckwith, a notary public.

The board took kindly to the request and levied a tax of one-tenth of a mill on the dollar. The amount realized was $92.35.



FAIR GROUNDS, 1911.

At an early date the society secured suitable grounds for its exhibitions. These have been improved and added to until the "fair grounds" now consist of 35 acres, with buildings, pens, stables and sheds, commodious and

well located, and with ample space for all the usual attractions, necessary and desirable.

Coming to a mention of the half-mile track, it is conceded that the society has one of the best in the state. Probably there is none better, and none better patronized by the racing and sporting fraternity, particularly during the past eight or ten years.

It is regretable that the records have not been better preserved. A connected history of the exhibitions, giving in brief the prominent features of each, including many of a humorous nature, together with the names of the principal officers, would make an interesting and valuable chapter.

Officers elected October, 1873 for the ensuing year: Pres.—Wm. S. Turck. Sec.—R. Smith. Treas.—W. Nelson. Ex. Com.—F. S. Kelly, Newark; J. H. Lewis, Roswell Jones, Fulton; E. W. Kellogg, Newark; L. Church, Arcada.

At the election of October, 1874, officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Pres.—J. W. Doane, Pine River; Vice-Pres.—Wm. A. Krom, Elba; Henry Maed, Hamilton; C. C. Foote, Lafayette; C. H. Howd, Wheeler; N. B. Fraker, Washington; D. Ingalsbe, North Star; Ransom Allen, Emerson; Elias W. Smith, Bethany; G. W. Clark, Fulton; E. W. Kellogg, Newark; G. S. Ward, Arcada; Aaron Wessels, Pine River; Wm. Brice, North Shade; C. H. Morse, New Haven; John Medler, Sumner; Wm. Medler, Seville. Secretary—Emery Crosby, Lafayette. Treas.—Wilbur Nelson, Ithaca. Ex. Com.—Wm. M. Barstow, North Star; W. S. Turck, Arcada; Wm. Long, Washington; Wm. E. Winton, R. Smith, Ithaca.

A newspaper account of a strength contest at the 1876 fair is at hand and will interest the old settlers, recalling as it does a lot of names of the sturdy yoemany of a generation ago. A contest of strength was arranged to take place between North Star and Newark Townships, a dozen men from each township to try titles on a rope. The picked twelve from North Star were—D. J. Bodine, Moses Johnson, J. E. Mills, D. Kimmel, Geo. Houseman, Sanford Ringle, A. B. Clafflin, Clark Whitmore, J. Lewis, Spaul. Elliott, Elisha Franklin and Wallace Hill. Newark produced the following to uphold her honor: Francis Kellogg, Jacob Smith, B. Hibner, Jo. Strouse, E. P. Parker, G. W. Wideman, Ben. Parker, John Wideman, H. J. Bentley, I. L. Altenburg, Jo. Austin and Wm. Wideman.

After a long and exciting pull North Star won, securing a fine flag, the prize offered by Col. N. Church. An oyster supper at the Comstock House to the whole bunch of 24 contestants was thrown in by the Col. for good measure, so to speak. The North Star 12 weighed 2,220 pounds; the Newarks were a good second at 2,150.

This contest seemed to awaken the ambition of the heavy-weights of the county, so the next day a contest was arranged to take place between the east and west sides of the county for a prize of $15. C. E. McBride was captain of the eastsiders and chose as his helpmeets—Jacob Lewis, Moses Johnson, John E. Mills, Elisha Franklin, Wallace Hill, S. Ringle, David Kostenbader, D. Kimmel, Geo. Houseman, J. Morton, R. Gladstone, P. Lewis, Parks Allen, A. B. Clafflin and Perry D. Pettit. For the west side Captain Francis Kellogg selected for the pull—Tom. Crofford, John Maxwell, Jas. Razor, W. W. Jackson, T. A. Johnson, J. W. Doane, Silas Moody, Wm. Wideman, Cornelius Deline, Jacob Smith, E. L. White, David Cunningham, Henry W. Kinsel, G. W. Wideman, Theo. H. Foland. There were 16 on a side this time. After a terrific struggle the east side succeeded in pulling their opponents over the line.

The ravages of 35 years have laid low much more than one-half of those muscular contestants. Are there more than 10 of them still living? A wedding on the grand stand was another of the attractions at this fair. The brave and happy couple got a parlor stove for their reward; a prize offered by Gilbert C. Smith. A prize of $5 offered by W. B. Scattergood for the homeliest baby was won by Mrs. John Fuller, of North Star. Must have been "Jess", but it hardly seems possible. A prize of $5, offered by Dr. W. D. Scott, for the handsomest baby, was carried off by Mrs. John Price of Fulton. A prize of $2, offered by Dr. C. W. Marvin, for the heaviest baby under one year old, was divided, one dollar each to the babies of Byron Nevins, of Arcada, and Frank Helms, of Fulton; the former weighing 25 pounds at six months old; the latter weighing 22 pounds at five months old.

"Childrens' Day" was for several years one of the most popular features of the annual fairs, the day being devoted to the business of entertaining the school children of the county, who came from all parts, loaded on specially constructed vehicles decorated and embellished with flags and evergreens, and drawn by farm horses bedecked with flowers and shrubbery and flags. Prizes were given for the largest reputation from the schools, and for the largest loads.

In the earlier days of the fair the Ithaca school, with parades and songs and miscellaneous maneuvers, and all under the leadership of "Pat", (H. R. Pattengill, for ten years or so at the head of the Ithaca schools), was a great factor in making the fair a popular holiday occasion for the people. Some of the songs evolved on those occasions have come echoing down the many years, even unto the present time, and a sample or two are here guaranteed immortality by being given space in this write-up. Here is one entitled, "A Jolly Fair Song", that was let loose at the fair of 1878, to the great edification of the receptive and enthusiastic multitude:

A song! Hurrah! my jolly friends,
Let's make our country ring;
True hearts will echo everywhere
The merry lay we sing.

Let men and women, boys and girls,
And peddlers with us too,
Lift high their tuneful voices,
A merry, happy crew.

Chorus — Hurrah for our county, three cheers for our county,
Hurrah for "Starving Gratiot," the county of the state.

We've laid aside our toils and cares,
And gathered here today
To see the fair of county fairs,
And have a holiday.

We want to hear the chickens sing,
The calves and oxen squeal,
And either ride round in the swing,
Or dance the rustic reel.—Cho.

Oh, what a monstrous tree it took
To bear that mammoth beet,
And how it makes dear Susan look
To hear John talk so sweet.

The cabbage bush did very well,
That hill of apples, too,
The turnip vines must put in hard
To furnish such a crew.—Cho.

The bedquilts, fruit and candy stands
Must all receive our care,
Oh, won't the handsomest schoolma'am blush,
The homeliest man will swear.

If babies squall, or women jaw,
Or folks step on your toes,
Don't let your angry passions rise
And don't turn up your nose.—Cho.

Now there stand John and Susan,
With John's arm out of place,
See Susan beam with happiness,
See John's sunshiny face.

They're taking in the county fair,
And having lots of fun;
Enjoy yourselves for all that's out,
Be sorry when it's done.—Cho.

Let's all be Johns and Susans,
We don't mean with our arms,
And we'll go home the happier,
To workshops and to farms.

And when next autumn rolls around,
Once more we'll all be here,
We'll have a jolly, happy time
As we celebrate the year.—Cho.

A mere reference to one other song, given by the Ithaca school at the fair of 1877. Too long to be given here in full, so the first stanza and the chorus will have to do. Imagine a couple of hundred youngsters led by the enthusiastic "Pat", rending the air with this, to the tune of "Co-ca-che-lunk":

When the golden-hued October
Tells us we have time to spare,
We'll just yoke up Buck and Brindle,
And whoa-haw-gee to the fair.

Chorus — Co-ca-che-lunk-che-lunk-che-la-ly
Co-ca-che-lunk-che-lunk-che-lay,
Co-ca-che-lunk-che-lunk-che-la-ly,
Hi! Oh! chick-a-che-lunk-che-lay.

We will take our squash and chickens,
And our bed-quilts and our pigs
Etc., Etc.—

Nothing extremely instructive, to be sure, but it all helped to make life merrier; and merriment beats gloom, and formality, and frost, "all to death".

For the fair of 1882, officers were elected as follows: Pres.—Wm. M. Barstow; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—J. W. Lewis; Ex. Com.—S. Moody, G. W. Clark, Henry Baldwin, K. P. Peet, Philip Fritz.

**1883:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—Wilbur Nelson.

**1884:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—H. R. Pattengill; Treas.—W. Nelson; Ex. Com.—G. W. Clark, O. F. Jackson, R. A. Peet, Laf. Sweatland, Ransom Allen.

**1886:** Pres.—O. F. Jackson; Sec.—K. P. Peet; Treas.—W. F. Thompson; Ex. Com.—C. E. Webster, T. S. Barnes, Nat. Walker, Laf. Sweatland, S. Moody.

**1887:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—T. S. Barnes; (resigned, June, 1887, and O. F. Jackson appointed); Treas.—W. F. Thompson.

**1888:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—W. Nelson.

**1889:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—K. P. Peet.

**1890:** Pres.—C. E. Webster; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—K. P. Peet.

**1891:** Pres.—C. E. Webster; Sec.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—Wm. B. Scattergood.

**1892:** Same as 1900. Sept., 1902, Jackson resigned and J. T. Mathews was appointed secretary.

**1893:** Same as 1891.

**1894:** Pres.—S. Moody; Sec.—Jas. Moore; Treas.—W. B. Scattergood. January, 1894, Moody resigned and R. C. Lake was appointed president. July, 1894, Lake resigned and K. P. Peet was appointed president.

**1895, '96, '97:** Pres.—Jotham Allen; Sec.—I. N. Cowdrey; Treas.—Ransom J. Fraker.

**1898, '99, '00, '01:** Pres.—D. L. Sharrar; Sec.—I. N. Cowdrey; Treas.—C. A. Price.

**1902, '03:** Pres.—Edward Drayer; Sec.—I. N. Cowdrey; Treas.—C. A. Price.

**1904, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09:** Pres.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; Sec.—Archie McCall; Treas.—H. C. Barstow.

**1910, '11, '12, '13:** Pres.—K. P. Peet; Sec.—A. McCall; Treas.—C. A. Price.

Besides the officers named, the society is equipped with an executive committee or board of directors, composed of members from different parts of the county, one-half of whom are elected at each annual election in October.

The association has had varied degrees of success in its annual exhibitions. During its earlier years, say during the '70s and '80s, interest in the work and objects of the society was well maintained. Along in the '90s there was a falling off in enthusiasm. It was a time when many of the county agricultural organizations throughout the state suspended operations. Gratiot's agricultural society continued to do business, however, and though it was up-hill work, and business was done at a loss, there were no skips made in the annual exhibitions.

Along in the early years of this century it was seen that heroic measures would have to be adopted to attract and regain the popular interest that seemed to have in a measure outgrown the plans and specifications of the old-fashioned country vegetable show, and had gone off after the more exciting amusements that had come into existence in late years. The officers determined to see what a more extended and diversified racing program

would do toward stimulating interest. It proved successful from the start, and since about 1904 interest and attendance have wonderfully increased, and as a matter of course revenue receipts have increased accordingly.

The increased receipts have enabled the managers to make many improvements to the grounds in the way of clearing out some portions that remained in a state of nature—draining and filling up the waste places. Fences have been built, buildings repaired and new ones erected, including a house for a care-taker that has been employed and put in charge. The grand stand has been doubled in capacity, capable now of holding more than 1,000 people and still much too small to accommodate the patrons.

It has to be stated, though with regret, that as an agricultural show the fairs have not kept pace in value with the sporting and amusement features of the exhibitions. This is partially accounted for, however, by the fact



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that the fair dates have in late years been set back, it now being the practice to have the fair during the last week in August. This is manifestly too early to get the benefit of the season's crops of fruit, vegetables and grain in full measure. The earlier date seems to be essential, however, to get best results under the system in vogue; a system which, while not commending itself to the hearty approval of some, has the merit of bringing the hosts, and financial results that insure the payment of the bills and the inherited debts.

The officers take great pains and go to large expense to get novel attractions for each recurring exhibition, so as to more than meet the expectations of the patrons.

The Gratiot County Fair furnishes a holiday week for the people of the entire county, not equaled in that respect by any other institution or enterprise. And it is due to the management to say that while the exhibitions run largely to amusements, great care is taken to keep excellent order, and to protect the people from the frauds and impositions that are too apt to seek and find their victims where the multitudes gather.

## MICHIGAN CENTRAL UNION FAIR ASSOCIATION.

Here was a project that promised great things; and for a time it fulfilled its promises. In the summer of 1875 various and sundry leading men in the northern part of the county conceived the idea that there was a promising field for the organization and maintenance of a great district fair association, with its central point of interest and activity so placed as to more particularly aid and foster the well-being and future prospects of St. Louis and Alma, and incidentally to advertise and boom the adjacent territory for many miles around. Just who had the first vision that suggested the idea is hard to say at this time, but it is more than likely that Wm. A. McOmber, of St. Louis, was the man, for he was somewhat given to seeing visions and dreaming dreams along various lines—financial, political and industrial. But be that as it may, there were plenty of others ready to take hold of the matter when once suggested, and to aid it along at least till the novelty wore off.

Meetings were held, committees appointed, preliminaries looked up, and finally an organization, named as shown in the heading to this. First officers were elected as follows: President—Dr. John R. Cheesman, St. Louis; secretary—Wm. A. McOmber, St. Louis; treasurer—Daniel R. Sullivan, Alma. The board of directors were chosen from the two villages and the surrounding country. A tract of 70 acres of land was bought lying midway between Alma and St. Louis, on the south side of the angling road. The work of fencing, building a large floral hall, sheds and pens, and grading a mile track was rushed along with great dispatch and much enthusiasm. The fair was duly held and proved quite successful, though rain came and interfered very materially. The entries footed up over 1500, which in those days was considered a very wonderful figure. The articles of association took in Gratiot, Clinton, Montcalm, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw Counties, and the entries came from all parts of the district. The attendance was very large, and taken all together the fair was pronounced very satisfactory.

The second set of officers was made up as follows: President—Darius Reid, of Arcada; secretary—Chas. J. Willett, of St. Louis, (afterward resigned and the board of directors appointed W. D. Tucker in his place); treasurer—D. R. Sullivan, of Alma. The third set, elected in January, 1877, was composed as follows: President—J. R. Cheesman; secretary—E. F. Quinn; treasurer—D. R. Sullivan. Directors were Marshall S. Depue, Jasper, Midland County; James Gargett, Alma; Marquis H. Tuttle, St. Louis; Horace S. Taylor, Arcada; P. H. Estee, Lincoln, Isabella County; Sam. Gordon, St. Louis; W. J. Moffett, Seville. Cheesman declined to serve and L. Saviers, of St. Louis, was appointed president by the board of directors.

During the next few years the association met with varied degrees of success with its fairs, some being exceptionally good, and with fast horses from all over the country. Various causes, however, combined to lessen interest, the most prominent being the debt for the original purchase price of the land; the fact also that the Gratiot County Agricultural Society already had a good foothold, and with just claims on the support of the people of the county, had its proper weight. The other counties, also, had their own local fairs which claimed attention and patronage. All these reasons and perhaps others worked against the interests of the M. C. U. F. A., and though fairs were held up to and including 1886, they were not successful, and the end came at that time.

## ABOUT SURVEYS, MERIDIANS AND BASE LINES.

The public surveys of the region including Michigan were begun in 1815 and practically completed in 1857. And right here is a good time and place to give some more or less valuable information relative to surveys—the terms used and the way and manner of dividing and subdividing territory; also the manner of establishing a base of operations so as to secure accuracy, and also proper and reliable data for record and for subsequent operations.

I suppose that not more than one in five of the people of Gratiot County can tell where the "principal meridian" for Michigan is located, with reference to Gratiot County; nor in what direction it runs; nor yet in what part of a township to commence in the numbering of sections.

Possibly not one in ten can tell anything about "base lines" or "correction lines," or have much of an idea relative to "towns" and "ranges" in land descriptions.

Perhaps it would be presumptuous to guess that not one in twenty can tell why the north line of any definite and regular subdivision of land is shorter than the south line; or even whether or not it is shorter.

Without presuming to give lessons in surveying, I believe that a page or two devoted to the points and matters above referred to will be valuable to many and interesting to nearly all readers of this volume. In the main I quote, for the very good reason that the facts quoted may come nearer to accuracy than would a re-hash; and besides it's easier.

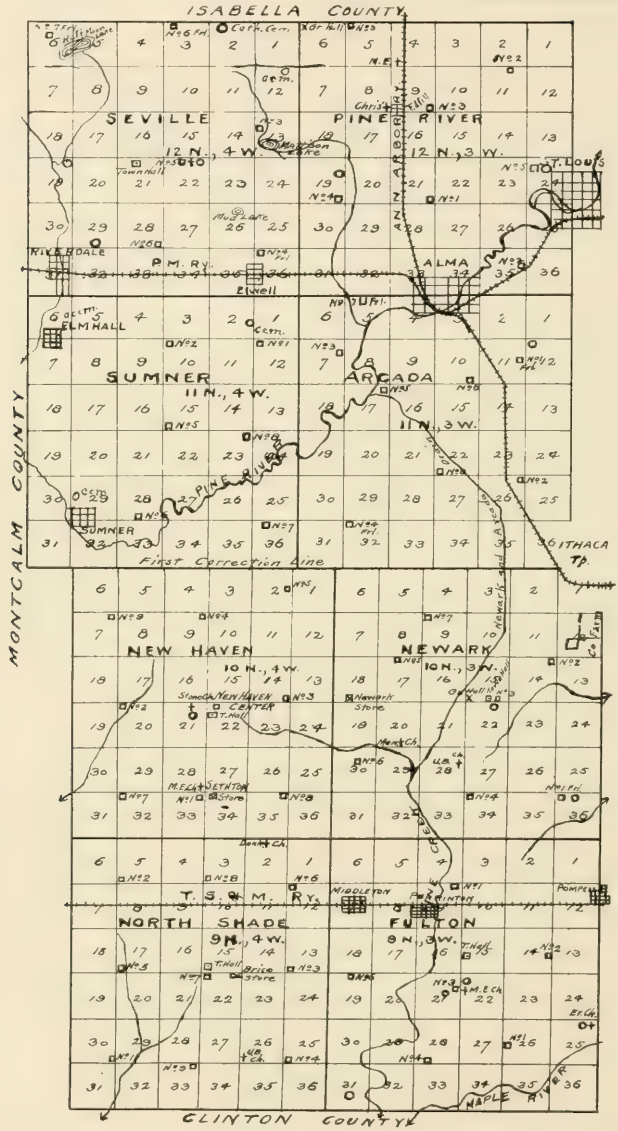
In starting in to survey a new country, such as Michigan was a hundred years ago, in order to have a starting point and something to reckon from and operate from, a "principal meridian" line, so-called, is established. These lines run north and south, usually from the mouth of a noted river or from some prominent and permanent object. To distinguish them from each other they are numbered in regular order. The principal meridian for Michigan is an established line running north from the mouth of the Au Glaize, a branch of the Maumee, in Ohio. It forms the eastern boundary of Hillsdale County, runs through the center of Jackson and Ingham Counties, thence north on the eastern boundary of Clinton and Gratiot Counties, and on north through the center of Midland and Gladwin Counties, and on due north to the northern boundary of Michigan.

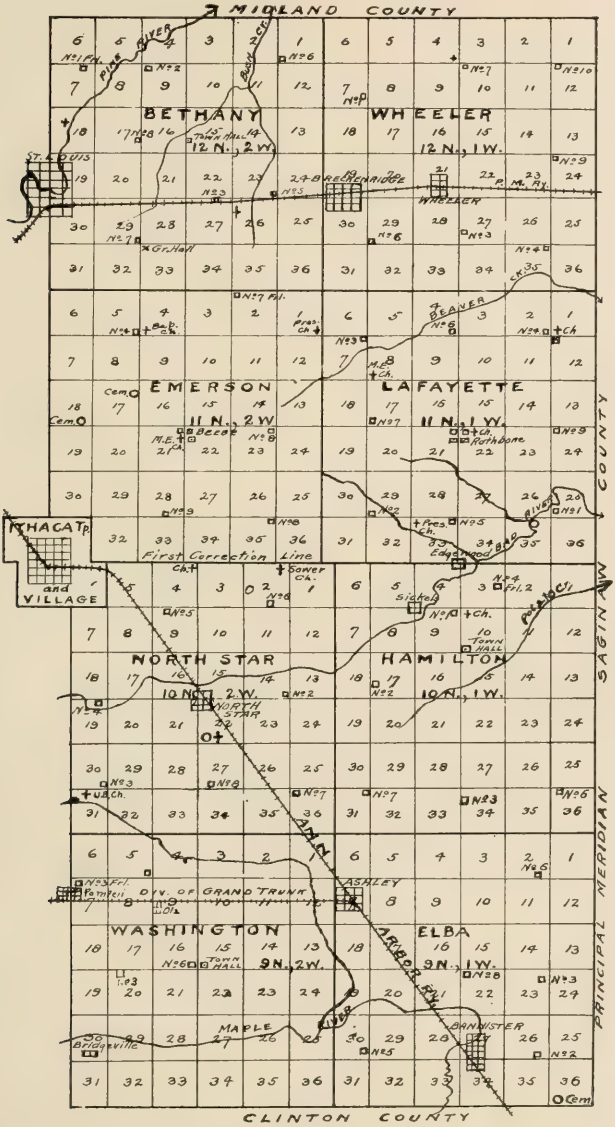
Throughout the West, at irregular intervals, the prrincipal meridians are intersected at right angles by east and west lines called "base lines". The location of base lines is not determined by any fixed rule, the primary object being to establish an accurate east and west line as the base of operations, in connection with the meridian lines, in making new surveys, or in locating and designating lands already surveyed.

The base line for Michigan is along the north boundary of Wayne County, and thence along the northern boundary lines of Washtenaw, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties.

Now with the principal meridian established, north and south, and the base line established, east and west, the townships are numbered east and west from the principal meridian, and north and south from the base line; and thus the designation and location of any township is easily and lucidly established.

No two lines running exactly north and south can be exactly parallel, because both are running toward the same identical point—the north pole—and if continued far enough would come together at that point. So, it is easily seen that the north side of a township must be narrower than the south side. In other words, the north line is shorter than the south line.


ISABELLA COUNTY
SEVILLE
PINE RIVER
12 N., 4 W.
12 N., 3 W.
ELM HALL
SUMNER
ARCADA
11 N., 4 W.
11 N., 3 W.
ALMA
ST. LOUIS
MILLERSDALE
P. M. RY.
PINE RIVER
First Correction Line
MONTCALM COUNTY
NEW HAVEN
NEWARK
10 N., 4 W.
10 N., 3 W.
NORTH SHADE
FULTON
9 N., 4 W.
9 N., 3 W.
T. S. & M. RY.
CLINTON COUNTY


MIDLAND COUNTY
BETHANY
12 N., 2 W.
WHEELER
12 N., 1 W.
EMERSON
11 N., 2 W.
LAFAYETTE
11 N., 1 W.
NORTH STAR
10 N., 2 W.
HAMILTON
10 N., 1 W.
WASHINGTON
9 N., 2 W.
ELBA
9 N., 1 W.
First Correction Line
ITHACA Tp. and VILLAGE
ST. LOUIS
GREENBRIER
WHEELER
BEAVER
ASHLEY
BANNISTER
MAPLE
Bridgeville
Pine River
Bad River
Flat River
Fish Creek
Coe Creek
Sidney
Edgewood
Ruthbone
Town Hall
Gr. Hall
Pres. Ch.
M.E. Ch.
Sower Ch.
Bap. Ch.
Cem.
Fish Hatchery
Depot
D.V. of GRAND TRUNK R.R.
Tobacco R.
Chippewa R.
Coe Creek
SAGINAW COUNTY
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
CLINTON COUNTY

This difference don't amount to much in crossing one township, but by the time the surveyor has run across a dozen townships the difference is considerable, and ought to be corrected before it gets any worse, as of course the convergence of the lines necessarily reduces the area of the townships. In order, therefore, to have the townships as nearly uniform in size as possible "correction lines" are established every sixty miles, with fresh measurements from the principal meridian, starting in anew with the townships exactly six miles along their southern lines. This results in producing offsets or jogs along the correction line, the north and south lines not "jibing" along that line. The first correction line runs through the center of Gratiot County, east and west, and doubtless a large share of the readers of this have noticed how the north and south highways on the township lines mismatch along that line. Six miles east of Ithaca the difference is considerable. At Ithaca the difference seems to be about a quarter of a mile; and as the variations are added together as you go westward the difference is much more by the time you strike the west county line. In fact the variation is just about half a mile at the west line.

In surveying any township, any differences, however originating, are carried to the north and west, and therefore the southwesterly section of any township is always wider east and west than the northwesterly section.

Putting the above facts together, the reader will readily be able to account for the insertion of the terms "frational" and "more or less" in so many descriptions of land. On the west side of the townships the terms often come in rightfully and plausibly, as explained.

It is often the case that lands are surveyed in isolated tracts, and when the lands between are surveyed and the lines are closed, it is found that the lines of the different surveys do not agree; there is often an excess or deficiency in the amount of land required for a standard township or section, and this is always thrown on the north and west sides of the last survey; and this fact, with the attempt sometimes made to harmonize surveys made by different persons at various times, together with the ignorance, carelessness and dishonesty of many surveyors, the imperfections of the instruments used, and a variety of influences and magnetic attractions, such as the presence of deposits of minerals, and the influence of magnetic currents, will account for irregularities in surveyed lines.

In making the government survey, after the principal meridian and the base line have been established, "range lines", so-called, running north and south, are run at regular intervals of six miles, reckoning from the principal meridian, and these range lines are intersected at right angles every six miles by east and west lines which run parallel with the base line, thus forming townships. The townships are designated by numbers in regular order, commencing at the base line and numbering northward and southward; and commencing at the principal meridian and numbering east and west.

So, apply these conditions to Gratiot County: The numbering commences at the base line on the north boundary of Jackson County; thence north along the meridian, passing eight townships—48 miles—and you strike the southeast corner of Gratiot County, the first township—Elba—being number nine. So Elba is designated as "Town 9 North", and as that township adjoins the meridian on the west, it is designated as "Range 1 West". Thus it is easily understood that the designation or description, "Town 9 North, Range 1 West," accurately locates the Township of Elba.

As the county is four townships square, so to speak, it is readily seen that the townships along the meridian would be numbered from nine to twelve inclusive; and the ranges west would number from one to four in-

clusive, for each of those townships. Town 9 North, Range 1 West, or 9—1 for short, is Elba; 10—1 is Hamilton; 9—2 is Washington; 10—2 is North Star, etc.

The division of townships into sections and smaller subdivisions need not be referred to probably; but in order to find a place to stop I mention that each township is divided into 36 "sections" which should be a mile square each, and each section should contain 640 acres, and would contain that area, (in Gratiot County), but for the limitations and shortages above elucidated. And, oh yes! The numbering of those sections! The numbering commences at the northeast corner of the township and runs west from 1 to 6, then back eastward to 12, and so on alternately westward and eastward till the southeast corner is reached, which would naturally be section 36.



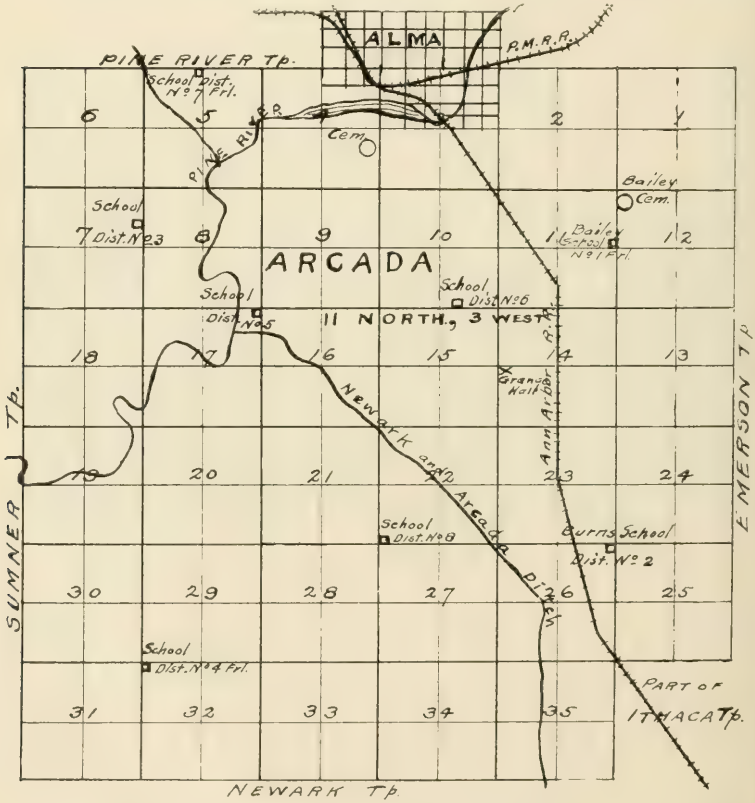
LUMBERING SCENE

# BY TOWNSHIPS—LOCAL MATTERS.

## Settlement, Elections, Biographies, Etc.

### ARCADA TOWNSHIP.

In listing the townships of Gratiot County it is the usual practice to place them in alphabetical order, and for that reason Arcada is the first to be considered in this connection. The township is technically known as town 11 north, range 3 west, and reference to the accompanying outline map herewith presented, and the county map to be found in another place, it will readily be seen how it is bounded and the place it occupies in the county scheme; centrally located, and in close proximity to the three large towns of



the county. Pine River, flowing through the township from the west or southwest and escaping to the northeast by way of Pine River and Bethany Townships, carries a portion of the surplus water of the township to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Saginaw, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers. A portion of the surplus water only. The other portion seeks a level by way of the Newark and Arcada Drain, which, traversing what was formerly known as the "Big Swamp" of Arcada and Newark, finds a way to the Atlantic through Pine Creek, Maple and Grand Rivers, Mackinaw Straits, St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, etc.

I am informed by a well-known Gratiot County surveyor, that the exact spot where the waters are undecided as to which route they will take in their projected trip to the sea, is on section 26 about fourteen rods north of the section line between sections 26 and 35. There the waters divide, gravity taking a portion to the north and west about five miles to the Pine, the same force taking the rest southward to the Maple, about fifteen miles away.

The farms of Arcada are among the best in the county. The face of the country varies from moderately rolling to moderately level, and through the south center, where once was located the big swamp which is rapidly being converted into fertile fields there are several sections that are as level as could be desired. And there is no trouble with the soil; it is all good, in slightly varying degrees. There is a limited stretch along the eastern border of the township, hilly and not quite up to standard; but it may be only fair to state that the tract is an out-cropping from a more extensive tract lying over the line in Emerson Township. Emerson people will kindly overlook this seeming affront of "blaming it" on to their township when they stop to consider their score or more of sections which constitute one of the garden-spots of the county.

The spirit of enterprise along the line of good road building has manifested itself in this township as in the other townships during the past few years, and the result is a credit to the township and its officials. The Ann Arbor Railroad traverses the eastern part, and the Pere Marquette is but a half-mile beyond its borders on the north. There is not a farm in the township more than seven miles from a railroad and a good market.

In other departments of this work already perused by the reader, the names of those who were earliest on the ground in Arcada, together with their experiences, labors, trials and privations, have been given full prominence, and need not be referred to in detail, excepting as they may appear incidentally in the official and statistical matter following.

## ARCADA ELECTIONS.

The first election in Arcada Township was held at the house of Lucius C. Knapp, one and a half miles north of Ithaca, April 2, 1855; held in accordance with a special act of the state legislature of February 10, 1855. The election board was created by those in attendance choosing Lafayette Church, Francis Nelson, Russell Burgess and Lemuel C. Cole to act as such. Lafayette Church was made chairman and Lemuel C. Cole, clerk.

There were 38 votes cast, and they were cast for the following ticket:

**April, 1855:** Supervisor — Francis Nelson; Clerk — Lemuel C. Cole; Treasurer—Lafayette Church; Highway Commissioners—John M. Glover, Francis Nelson, Alanson Todd; Justices of the Peace—Lafayette Church, Isaac Preston, Alanson Todd, Frederick Gould; School Inspectors—Ralph Ely, Lafayette Church; Overseers of the Poor—Ralph Ely, Russell Burgess; Constables—Lucius C. Knapp, Alfred Glover, Horace A. M. Dunbar, Simeon Adams.

May 14, 1855, the highway commissioners met and organized or established four road districts, appointing pathmasters as follows: Ralph Ely, Samuel Keefer, Fred Gould and Russell Burgess. At this meeting David Courter appears to have been one of the highway commissioners, but just how it happened the record fails to state.

**1856:** "The board met at John Keefer's and organized, and then adjourned to Oscar Morse's and opened the polls at 9 o'clock a. m. It was voted to raise $250 for road taxes to be equally distributed about the town, and $150 for incidental expenses. It was also resolved to hold the next town meeting at the same place."

There were 52 votes cast, and they were distributed as follows:

Sup.—Francis Nelson 33, Emery Adams 19; Clk.—Lafayette Church, 51; Treas.—David P. George 28, John M. Glover 24; J. P.—Wm. C. Beals 51; vacancies, L. C. Cole 36; Laf. Church 32, David Courter 17, Fred Gould 11, Russell Burgess 2; H. C.—Nathaniel Bailey Sr. 52; vacancy, Wm. S. Davis 39, Alanson Todd 12; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole 46, Anson Arnold 1; Overseers of Poor—Ralph Ely 35, David Courter 35; Const.—W. S. Frary 51, Lemrock I. Flower 49, Alfred Glover 48, I. K. George 30, Wm. Brown 19.

**1857:** Sup.—Anson R. Arnold; Clk.—Ralph Ely; Treas.—Emery Adams; H. C.—Russell Burgess; J. P.—Fred Gould; vacancies, Derwin Ely, Luther C. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Anson R. Arnold; O. of Poor—Emery Adams, Wm. Davis.

**1858:** Sup.—R. Ely; Clk.—John Keefer; Treas.—Emery Adams; H. C.—Wm. Davis; J. P.—Wm. Moyer; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole; O. of Poor—R. Ely, Emery Adams.

**1859:** Sup.—Ralph Ely; Clk.—Joseph Backus; Treas.—Emery Adams; H. C.—Geo. Chandler; vancancy, David P. George; J. P.—Joshua C. Hulburt; vacancy, Lorton Holiday; Sch. Insp.—Wm. S. Nelson.

**1860:** Sup.—Luther C. Smith; Clk.—Geo. S. Gordon; Treas.—Wm. S. Nelson; H. C.—Lewis K. Baker; J. P.—Anson R. Arnold; vacancy, Luther C. Smith; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Geo. S. Gordon; Clk.—Joseph Backus; Treas.—Wm. S. Nelson; H. C.—John Keefer; J. P.—Geo. W. Jennings; Sch. Insp.—Jacob C. Schoonover.

At the October session of the board of supervisors, Geo. W. Jennings represented Arcada as supervisor, and nothing to show what became of Supervisor Gordon until 1864, when he was again elected supervisor.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Wm. S. Nelson; Clk.—Lewis S. Brooke; Treas.—Joseph Backus; H. C.—Simeon Corbitt; vacancy, Russell Burgess; J. P.—Alonzo E. Kingsley; Sch. Insp.—A. R. Arnold; vacancy, L. C. Cole.

August 11, 1862, Wm. S. Nelson resigned as supervisor and the board appointed Alonzo E. Kingsley to the position.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Wm. Moyer; Clk.—Lewis S. Brooke; Treas.—Nathaniel Bailey; H. C.—Wm. S. Hall; J. P.—L. C. Knapp; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole.

Sept. 24, '63, the board appointed Geo. Chandler treasurer vice Nathaniel Bailey, deceased.

A special township election was held June 23, 1864, to vote on the question of raising a bounty of $400 each for soldiers. Yes, 30; no, 10.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Geo. S. Gordon; Clk.—L. S. Brooke; Treas.—Geo. Chandler; H. C.—Samuel Keefer; J. P.—Nicholas P. Watts; vacancy, Luther C. Smith 39, Wm. Moyer 39—Moyer winning by lot. Sch. Insp.—Jacob C. Schoonover.

Oct. 7, '64, the board appointed Theron A. Johnson supervisor in place of Geo. S. Gordon, resigned.

Dec. 12, '64, board appointed T. A. Ely clerk, vice L. S. Brooke, resigned.

March 2, '65, board appointed Michael Pollasky clerk vice T. A. Ely, resigned.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Theron A. Johnson; Clk.—M. Pollasky; Treas.—Geo. Chandler; H. C.—Whitman Hall; 2 ys, L. C. Cole; 1 yr, Wm. S. Nelson; J. P.—Geo. W. Jennings; vacancy, Francis Nelson; Sch. Insp.—D. C. Chapin; vacancy, L. C. Cole.

May 15, '65, L. A. George was appointed highway commissioner in place of Wm. S. Nelson, resigned.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—Dewitt C. Chapin; Treas.—Geo. Chandler; H. C.—Townsend A. Ely; J. P.—Wm. Moyer; Sch. Insp.—Geo. S. Gordon.

Dec. 14, '66, Nicholas P. Watts was appointed supervisor vice Wm. S. Turck, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Wm. Moyer; Clk.—D. C. Chapin; Treas.—Geo. Chandler; H. C.—Calvin W. Courter; vacancy, Geo. W. Jennings; J. P.—Jas. W. Howd; Sch. Insp.—Julius C. Bowen.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Geo. Chandler; Clk.—Geo. W. Helt; Treas.—Townsend A. Ely; H. C.—T. A. Ely; J. P.—Lorton Holiday; Sch. Insp.—Anson G. Sherwood.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Ralph Ely; Clk.—G. W. Helt; Treas.—T. A. Ely; H. C.—Wm. Moyer; vacancy, Lewis K. Baker; J. P.—Geo. Chandler; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Howe.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Ralph Ely; Clk.—G. W. Helt; Treas.—T. A. Ely; H. C.—C. W. Courter; vacancy, Jas. W. Howd; J. P.—A. R. Arnold; vacancy, Cortez C. Clark; Sch. Insp.—D. C. Chapin.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—Jas. T. Hall; Clk.—Geo. W. Helt; Treas.—Gilbert C. Smith; H. C.—Wm. M. Smith; J. P.—Thos. Bamborough; vacancy, N. P. Watts; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Howe; Dr. Com.—R. Ely.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Jas. T. Hall; Clk.—Geo. W. Helt; Treas.—G. C. Smith; H. C.—Nat. Bailey; vacancy, A. S. Moyer; J. P.—Geo. W. Jennings; vacancy, Jas. W. Howd; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole; Dr. Com.—Reuben Finch.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—G. W. Helt; Treas.—Gerritt S. Ward; H. C.—Geo. O'Donnell; vacancy, L. S. Spencer; J. P.—Jas. T. Hall; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Howe.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—Jas. T. Hall; Clk.—Thos. Bamborough; Treas.—Gerritt S. Ward; H. C.—Wm. S. Turck; vacancy, Seth R. Cole; J. P.—Jas. W. Howd; Sch. Insp.—L. C. Cole.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—Wm. Howe; Treas.—G. S. Ward; H. C.—Nat. Bailey; J. P.—Thos. Bamborough; vacancies, Seth R. Cole, Jas. T. Hall; Supt. Sch.—Horace S. Taylor; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo Hood.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—Wm. Howe; Treas.—G. S. Ward; H. C.—Alonzo Bailey; J. P.—Geo. W. Mead; Supt. Sch.—Darius Reid; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo Hood.

Dec., 1876, board appointed Nicholas P. Watts, supervisor vice Turck, elected representative in state legislature.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Jas. T. Tall; Clk.—Wm. Howe; Treas.—David Leach; H. C.—Edwin Adams; J. P.—Seth R. Cole; vacancy, Almon Yerington; Supt. Sch.—Edgar J. Wiley; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo Hood.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Edson P. Spink; Clk.—J. Adelbert Abbott; Treas.—Derwin Ely; H. C.—Geo. Willard; J. P.—Henry E. Kingsley; vacancy, C. W. Courter; Supt. Sch.—C. Leitch Downie; Sch. Insp.—C. W. Courter; Dr. Com.—David Castor.

May 24, '78, board appointed Nat. Bailey drain commissioner vice David Castor, resigned.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—Alonzo Hood; Treas.—Chas. Todd; H. C.—Geo. Willard; J. P.—Jas. W. Howd; vacancy, Joel Snyder; Supt. Sch.—H. R. Pattengill; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Howe; Dr. Com.—Ambrose B. Angell.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Wm. S. Turck; Clk.—Alonzo Hood; Treas.—Geo. G. Holiday; H. C.—A. B. Angell; J. P.—A. Yerington; vacancy, N. P. Watts; Supt. Sch.—H. R. Pattengill; Sch. Insp.—Christian C. Gerber; Dr. Com.—Samuel F. Anderson.

**April, 1881:** Sup. Darius Reid; Clk.—A. Hood; Treas.—Geo. G. Holiday; H. C.—Wm. Adams; J. P.—Albert E. Woodward; vacancy, John F. Lewis; Supt. Sch.—Orlando J. Stilwell; Sch. Insp.—C. C. Gerber.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Geo. G. Holiday; Clk.—Chas. H. Coates; Treas.—Wm. O. Watson; H. C.—A. Hood; J. P.—N. P. Watts; Sch. Insp.—Marcus Pollasky; vacancy, D. L. Sharrar; Dr. Com.—Wm. Adams.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—M. J. Bogardus; Clk.—Chas. H. Coates; Treas.—Wm. O. Watson; H. C.—N. Bailey; J. P.—Ephraim Osborn; Sch. Insp.—Bert Hayes; Dr. Com.—Jas. P. King.

April 23, '83, M. J. Bogardus resigned as supervisor and Darius Reid was appointed to the vacancy.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—C. H. Coates; Treas.—Edwin Adams; H. C.—Jas. P. King; J. P.—A. Yerington; vacancies, Geo. W. Jennings, John F. Innes; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Abbott; Dr. Com.—Daniel W. Altenburg.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—Nathan N. Nevins; Treas.—Edwin Adams; H. C.—W. S. Bangs; J. P.—Adney Dobson; Sch. Insp.—Bert Hayes; vacancy, Jacob A. Voorheis; Dr. Com.—Ephraim Osborn.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—Nathan N. Nevins; Treas.—Edwin Moyer; H. C.—Wm. A. Thomas; J. P.—John F. Innes; vacancies, A. B. Angell, Edwin Adams; Sch. Insp.—Fred Church; Dr. Com.—Dan. W. Altenburg.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—N. N. Nevins; Treas.—A. S. Moyer; H. C.—Albinus Pierce; J. P.—Albert E. Woodward; Sch. Insp.—D. L. Sharrar; vacancy, W. S. Bangs.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—John D. Spinney; Treas.—Fred D. Ely; H. C.—Geo. Willard; J. P.—A. Yerington; Sch. Insp.—Dan. H. Adams; Dr. Com.—W. S. Bangs.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—D. Reid; Clk.—J. D. Spinney; Treas.—Ferd. Montigel; H. C.—Geo. Willard; J. P.—Francis Palmer; vacancy, John Dunham; Sch. Insp.—John W. Ferguson; Dr. Com.—D. W. Altenburg.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Isaac Russell; Clk.—J. D. Spinney; Treas.—Ferd. Montigel; H. C.—Edwin Adams; J. P.—J. F. Innes; vacancy, Geo. W. Brown; Sch. Insp.—C. C. Gerber; Dr. Com.—D. W. Altenburg; Review—Geo. W. Pulfrey, Jas. P. King.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Daniel L. Sharrar; Clk.—J. D. Spinney; Treas.—Nelson J. McCullough; H. C.—Edwin Adams; J. P.—John Dunham; Sch. Insp.—Amos W. Beckner; vacancy, Jerome Travis; Dr. Com.—D. W. Altenburg; Review—Perley M. Smith, D. Reid.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—Benj. F. Cline; Treas.—Benj. C. Button; H. C.—John Rush; J. P.—D. Reid; Sch. Insp.—Ephraim Osborn; Dr. Com.—Orin Eddy.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—B. F. Cline; Treas.—Ferd. Montigel; H. C.—John Rush; J. P.—Luman Gee; vacancy, D. Reid; Sch. Insp.—Ralph C. Ely; Dr. Com.—Alfred S. Wilson; Review—Jas. B. Tubbs.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—Robert D. Leman; Treas.—Ferd. Montigel; H. C.—John Rush; J. P.—John F. Innes; Sch. Insp.—E. Osborn; Dr. Com.—Martin Montigel; Review—Adney Dobson, Jas. B. Tubbs.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—R. D. Leman; Treas.—Christian Rush; H. C.—Edwin Adams; J. P.—John Dunham; Sch. Insp.—Wm. A. Howe; Review—Jas. B. Tubbs.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—Chas. L. Delavan; Treas.—Christian Rush; H. C.—Edwin Adams; J. P.—Francis Palmer; Sch. Insp.—John T. Ewing; Review—Adney Dobson.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—C. L. Delavan; Treas.—John F. Schwartz; H. C.—Chris. F. Renner; J. P.—Rollin A. Wood; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Northen; Dr. Com.—H. C. Worden; Review—Edward Hannah.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—R. D. Leman; Treas.—J. F. Schwartz; H. C.—C. F. Renner; J. P.—Levi Keefer; Sch. Insp.—Ralph C. Ely; vacancy, A. W. Beckner; Review—H. J. Hyde.

Dec., 1898, Chas. L. Delavan was appointed supervisor in place of D. L. Sharrar, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Chas. L. Delavan; Clk.—R. D. Leman; Treas.—Levi Keefer; H. C.—C. F. Renner; J. P.—John Dunham; Sch. Insp.—Fred Fullerton; Review—Wm. Kuhlman.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Chas. L. Delavan; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—Levi Keefer; H. C.—T. A. Ely; J. P.—Edwin N. Chadwick; vacancy, Melvin Sharrar; Sch. Insp.—Willis E. Hanson; Review—Ferd. Montigel.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—C. L. Delavan; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—D. W. Adams; H. C.—T. A. Ely; J. P.—R. A. Wood.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—C. L. Delavan; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—D. W. Adams; H. C.—T. A. Ely; J. P.—M. Sharrar; vacancy, Adney Dobson.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—C. L. Delavan; Clk.—Ralph J. Goodenow; Treas.—Decatur Coleman; H. C.—T. A. Ely; J. P.—F. Palmer; 3 yrs., Wm. Kuhlman; 2 yrs, Joseph F. Sartor; Sch. Insp.—C. F. Renner; Review—D. L. Sharrar.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—C. L. Delavan; Clk.—Caris Brown; Treas.—D. Coleman; J. P.—E. N. Chadwick; vacancy, John D. Spinney; Sch. Insp.—A. F. Rockwell; Review—John W. Holmes.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—D. L. Sharrar; Clk.—P. J. Adams; Treas.—Hal Bancroft; H. C.—Fred Church; vacancies, Joseph F. Sartor, Azum Roberts; Review—Adney Dobson, D. C. Gibbs.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—Philetus Adams; Treas.—John J. Hackett; J. P.—Azum Roberts; vacancy, David J. Best; Sch. Insp.—John Rush; Review—D. C. Gibbs.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—Earl Kuhlman; Treas.—David J. Best; H. C.—Fred Church; J. P.—Guy Horton; Sch. Insp.—R. A. Wood; Review—Avolin Church, Adney Dobson.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—Earl Kuhlman; Treas.—D. J. Best; J. P.—Henry C. Clark; Sch. Insp.—John Rush; Review—Avolin Church.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—John Rush; Treas.—Geo. H. Kuhlman; H. C.—Hal Bancroft; J. P.—Henry Stadlberger; Review—Avolin Church.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—John Rush; Treas.—Geo. H. Kuhlman; H. C.—P. J. Adams; J. P.—R. A. Wood; Review—Adney Dodson.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—B. F. Cline; Treas.—Earl R. Kuhlman; J. P.—Guy Horton; Review—Avolin Church; H. C.—E. Newcomer; Com. of Roads—H. A. Bancroft; O. of H.—S. Husted.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—B. F. Cline; Treas.—E. R. Kuhlman; J. P.—Joseph Sartor; Review—Adney Dobson; H. C.—S. Husted; O. of H.—Burt Bailey.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Fred Bradford; Clk.—Benj. F. Cline; Treas.—H. B. Currence; Com. of Roads—Hal Bancroft; H. C.—Seymour Husted; O. of H.—Albert E. Udell; J. P.—Avolin Church; Review—Wm. Fitzgerald.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 49; no, 128.

County Road System: Yes, 54; no, 132.

### Supervisors.

Francis Nelson, 1855, '56.
Anson R. Arnold, 1857.
Ralph Ely, 1858, '59, '69, '70.
Luther C. Smith, 1860.
Geo. S. Gordon, 1861, '64.
Geo. W. Jennings, ap. summer of '61.
Wm. S. Nelson, 1862.
Alonzo E. Kingsley, ap. Aug. 11, '62.
Wm. Moyer, 1863, '67.
Theron A. Johnson, ap. Oct. 7, '64; '65.
Wm. S. Turck, 1866, '73, '75, '76, '79, '80.
Nicholas P. Watts, ap. Dec. 14, '66; ap. Dec., 1876.
Geo. Chandler, 1868.
Jas. T. Hall, 1871, '72, '74, '77.
Edson P. Spink, 1878.
Darius Reid, 1881; ap. April, '83; '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89.
Geo. G. Holiday, 1882.
M. J. Bogardus, 1883.
Isaac Russell, 1890.
Daniel L. Sharrar, 1891, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '05.
Chas. L. Delavan, ap. Dec., '98; '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04.
Fred Bradford, 1906, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Lemuel C. Cole, 1855.
Emery Adams, 1856.
Ralph Ely, 1857.
John Keefer, 1858.
Joseph Backus, 1859, '61.
Geo. S. Gordon, 1860.
Lewis S. Brooke, 1862, '63, '64.
Townsend A. Ely, ap. Dec. 12, '64.
Michael Pollasky, ap. March 2, '65; '65.
Dewitt C. Chapin, 1866, '67.
Geo. W. Helt, 1868, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73.
Thos. Bamborough, 1874.
Wm. Howe, 1875, '76, '77.
J. Adelbert Abbott, 1878.
Alonzo Hood, 1879, '80, '81.
Chas. H. Coates, 1882, '83, '84.
Nathan N. Nevins, 1885, '86, '87.
John D. Spinney, 1888, '89, '90, '91.
Benj. F. Cline, 1892, '93, '11, '12, '13.
Robert D. Leman, 1894, '95, '98, '99.
Chas. L. Delavan, 1896, '97.
Seth A. Tubbs, 1900, '01, '02.
Ralph J. Goodenow, 1903.
Caris Brown, 1904.
P. J. Adams, 1905, '06.
Earl Kuhlman, 1907, '08.
John Rush, 1909, '10.

### Treasurers.

Lafayette Church, 1855.
David P. George, 1856.
Emery Adams, 1857, '58, '59.
Wm. S. Nelson, 1860, '61.
Joseph Backus, 1862.
Nathaniel Bailey, 1863.
Geo. Chandler, ap. Sept. 24, '63; '64, '65, '66, '67.

Townsend A. Ely, 1868, '69, '70.
Gilbert C. Smith, 1871, '72.
Gerritt S. Ward, 1873, '74, '75, '76.
David Leach, 1877.
Derwin Ely, 1878.
Chas. Todd, 1879.
Geo. G. Holiday, 1880, '81.
Wm. O. Watson, 1882, '83.
Edwin Adams, 1884, '85.
Arthur S. Moyer, 1886, '87.
Fred D. Ely, 1888.
Ferd. Montigel, 1889, '90, '93, '94.
Nelson J. McCullough, 1891.
Benj. C. Button, 1892.
Christian Rush, 1895, '96.
John F. Schwartz, 1897, '98.
Levi Keefer, 1899, '00.
D. W. Adams, 1901, '02.
Decatur Coleman, 1903, '04.
Hal Bancroft, 1905.
John J. Hackett, 1906.
David J. Best, 1907, '08.
Geo. H. Kuhlman, 1909, '10.
Earl R. Kuhlman, 1911, '12.
H. B. Currence, '13.

## ARCADA BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### NELSON.

Francis Nelson, a prominent and popular pioneer of the county, was born in Otsego County, N. Y., July 15, 1808, the fifth in a family of eleven children. He was a son of Josiah and Lucy (Rice) Nelson. The former was born in Massachusetts, September 9, 1773, and died in Lockport, N. Y., December 4, 1847. The latter was born in Connecticut, September 22, 1778, and died in Mexico, N. Y., June 13, 1857. Francis Nelson was married in 1833 to Deborah Cotton, who was born in Batavia, N. Y., February 18, 1815, daughter of Lake Cotton.



FRANCIS NELSON.

Francis Nelson removed with his family to Michigan in 1835, first locating at Palmyra, Lenawee County, afterward moving to Madison, and still later to Medina, same county. In 1854 he came to Gratiot County and took up 160 acres in Arcada Township, removing his family to the new home in the woods, in October of that year. He contended with all of the disadvantages incident to life in Gratiot County in those early days, and succeeded in winning a home for his growing family.

Mr. Nelson took a leading part in the work of organizing the county, and was entrusted with many important positions in township and county, being the first supervisor of the township in the fall of 1855, and was re-elected the next spring. In November, 1856, he was elected judge of probate of the county, and was re-elected in 1860 and 1864, thus serving the county twelve years in that capacity, and always with ability and fidelity.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were the parents of four sons. The first-born died in infancy. The others—Wilbur, William S. and Theodore, grew up to be respected and influential citizens. Wilbur is the only one still living; still in active business at Ithaca. Mrs. Deborah Nelson, the mother, died at her home in Arcada, August 15, 1874, aged 62. In 1878 Mr. Nelson was married to Mrs. Ann Burgess, widow of Russell Burgess, of Arcada. Francis Nelson died March 10, 1897.

A just and proper view of the life and character of Francis Nelson will place him in the front rank of Gratiot County's most worthy pioneers; a man of superior intellect, and one who rightfully enjoyed the fullest confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

## RUSH.

John Rush, residing on the old Rush homestead, section 12, Arcada, the youngest son of Jacob and Sarah B. Rush who located there in 1854, was born in Arcada Township June 21, 1863. He was brought up a farmer and had the usual advantages and disadvantages of farmers' sons in a new country.

February 12, 1882, John Rush was married to Miss Mary B. Black, of Arcada Township. She was born January 26, 1861, in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, daughter of Rev. B. B. Black and Amorette M. (Mills) Black, who were married in Missouri October, 1855, Mr. Black being engaged in ministerial work, and Miss Mills engaged in teaching. They resided in Missouri three years, during which time—November 7, 1856, in Callaway County—a son, John B. Black, was born. On January 26, 1861, in Hempstead County, Arkansas, as previously stated, a daughter, Mary B. Black, was born; now the wife of John Rush. Soon after the war broke out Mr. Black offered his services as chaplain in the army, thinking to do good to the suffering and dying. While acting in that capacity he was seized with a fatal illness and died in Oklahoma, Miss., June 1, 1862, aged 32 years, six months and 18 days.

Mrs. A. M. Black's father was Thomas Mills, born in Sheldon, Vermont, March 10, 1790. Her mother, Mrs. Phoebe (Chappel) Mills, was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., March 7, 1800. Mrs. Black was one of a family of four brothers and four sisters.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Black taught a private school and gave music lessons; also taught drawing in one of the best colleges in the South. In 1865 she came with her children to Gratiot County to visit her mother, Mrs. Thomas Mills, who was seriously ill. She arrived too late to see her mother alive. She then engaged in teaching in Ithaca, continuing in the work for ten years, becoming well known as one of the most successful teachers in the county, endearing herself to both pupils and parents. She and her son John B., live on their farm on section 26, Arcada, where they have resided for many years. She is now 84 years of age, having been born May 18, 1829, in Colchester, Chittenden County, Vermont. She has been a faithful member of the Ithaca Baptist Church during all of her life in Gratiot.



MRS. AMORETTE M. BLACK.

John Rush, wife and family are properly classed among Arcada's most esteemed citizens. The children are — Tracey Rush, a farmer of Arcada, born June 29, 1884, married to Miss Jennie Krisher, May 4, 1910; Maude Rush, born July 6, 1887, died September 27, 1889; Blaine Rush, born March 18, 1890, married May 7, 1913, to Marie Lutz, of Alma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lutz; Daniel Rush, born September 23, 1893; Alice Rush, born August 13, 1896; Ellen Rush,

born December 20, 1898. The three last mentioned reside at the parental home.

Mrs. Samantha (Rush) Nevins resides on section 11, Arcada, with her husband, Byron R. Their daughter, Mrs. Nellie (Nevins) Hicks and her husband live with them. Their son, Floyd Nevins, is married and is living in Otsego, Mich.

The children of Christian I. Rush are Mrs. Irma (Rush) Hamlin, living near Carson City, Mich., and Claude Rush, of Seattle, Washington.

John Rush is a Republican in politics, and his townsmen have chosen him to serve in various responsible positions—school inspector several years; highway commissioner in 1892, '93 and '94; township clerk in 1909, '10. And he has many friends who have stood by him and supported him for the responsible office of sheriff of the county.

## CHURCH.

For many years covering the early history of Gratiot County there were few residents better or more favorably known than Rev. Lafayette Church. He was among those who sought the government lands of Gratiot in 1854, settling in Arcada Township. He was born in Wayne County, N. Y., July 16, 1816, son of Willard and Sally Church, natives of Connecticut. Willard Church served as a soldier in the Revoluntionary War, and was descended from Puritan ancestry.



REV. LAFAYETTE CHURCH.

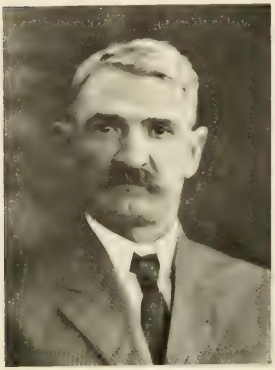
Lafayette Church was the youngest of nine children. His educational advantages were limited, and at the age of sixteen he left the parental roof and commenced work on his own account. In the fall of 1836 he came to Michigan, spending the first winter in Oakland County. The next spring he went to Ionia, then a small settlement. In 1840 he was married at Lyons, Mich., to Sophronia Benjamin, daughter of Nathan and Chloe (Tyler) Benjamin, natives of the State of New York. In the winter of 1854 they came to Gratiot County, and from that time forward were identified with its interests as long as they lived, and were among the county's most valued citizens. At the election of November, 1856—the second election held in the county—Mr. Church was elected county treasurer, and was re-elected in November, 1858. As treasurer of the county during the years of destitution he performed distinguished services in behalf of the county and in the interest of the sufferers.

In 1862 Mr. Church raised a company of soldiers for the Union army composed entirely of citizens of the county. They did valiant service as Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry, Mr. Church leading them as captain. After a few months he was made chaplain of the regiment, serving as such till the close of the war. He was an ordained minister of the Baptist Church, and was one of the earliest in the field in Church and Sunday school work.

Mr. and Mrs Church were the parents of ten children—Nathan, Cornelia, Frances, Susan, Marie, Avolin, Julia, Flora, Willard and Fred. Lafayette Church died January 2, 1907, at the home of his son Fred in Arcada. The wife and mother—Sophronia Church—died at the home of her son, Avolin, in Arcada, December 20, 1911, aged 88 years.

## BRADFORD.

Fred Bradford, who resides on section 9, Arcada, supervisor of the township now and for several years past, was born on a farm near Ionia, Mich., November 9, 1863. His father was John D. Bradford, born in 1832, at Plymouth, Mich. His mother was Sarah (Wilbur) Bradford, born in the State of New York in 1840.



FRED BRADFORD.

John D. Bradford moved with his father's family into Ionia County about the year 1844, settling near the village of the same name. In moving in they followed an Indian trail eight miles through the forests, a fact that gives an idea as to how new that county was at that time. They built a log house and had to go to Ionia to get sufficient help to raise it. The father of the family — Fred's grandfather—died after three years in the forest home, leaving a wife and seven children, of whom John D., Fred's father, was the oldest, and aged fourteen. They soon starved out and moved back to Plymouth, temporarily. After two years they returned to the farm home and resided there continuously until December, 1910, when they moved into the City of Ionia, where the father and mother both died February, 1911, Mrs. Bradford surviving her husband but a few days.

Besides Fred, there were two sons—Edwin, who resides on a farm near Ionia, and Frank, who lives in the City of Ionia.

There were many tales of hardships endured in the early days in Ionia County; also exciting stories of experiences. While hunting the cows one evening, Fred's father got lost and had to climb a tree and stay all night in the woods. Though his folks blew a horn all night, it did no good for he was too far away.



MRS. FRED BRADFORD.

Fred Bradford, our principal subject, helped on the farm, attending school in the winters, until fifteen years of age, after which he worked as a farm laborer for different ones until twenty-one years old, coming to Gratiot County in the year 1881. In 1884 he was married to Miss Metta E. Bogardus, daughter of Mathew J. and Huldah A. (Seymour) Bogardus, the former born in Medina County, Ohio, December 4, 1840, the latter in Sharon, Ohio, February 28, 1845. They now live in St. Johns, Oregon. Their other children are—Myrta L. Ward, born October 1, 1866, now living in Alma, and Philo, born April 13, 1872, now a resident of St. Johns, Oregon. Metta E. Bogardus, now the wife of Fred Bradford, was born in Medina County, Ohio, October 10, 1868. Two children have been born to this union—R D Bradford, born October 1, 1890, and Marie Mabel Bradford, born March 25, 1902. R D Bradford was

married to Bessie B. Smith, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Bates) Smith, in 1911. They have a daughter—Vera M. Bradford, born June 18, 1912. All are living at the Bradford home.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford lived one year in Alma, and then moved to the farm where they now live. By good management and hard work this farm has been transformed into a fine home with all the necessary buildings and appurtenances for convenience and comfort. Within the past year a large basement barn has been erected; a fine improvement, the basement being finished throughout with matched lumber and with cement floors. It also is fitted up with what is known as "King's Ventilating System." Mr. Bradford specializes in dairy stock, and has a fine herd of registered Guernseys, his favorite breed.

Relative to the rapid march of improvements during the past few years, Mr. Bradford says: "There have been wonderful changes in this county and in this township since 1884. Where we now have state award roads there was then nothing but mud holes. One mile that I have in mind, only a little way south of Alma, was a swamp that no person could get through. Arcada had one wooden bridge across Pine River outside of Alma; now it has three good steel bridges, and has as nice roads as any township in the county, if not in the state. The township has drawn to the limit of the law in state awards for the past eight years, and at this time has two miles made and waiting for the time when the awards will be available."

Mr. Bradford was never prominent officially till 1906, when he was elected supervisor of Arcada. He has since been re-elected every year, and is, therefore, now serving his eighth term. He has always served on the important committees, and is classed as one of the most trustworthy and painstaking members of the board. Last spring he was elected chairman of the board, a position which he still holds. All of which goes to show that in the official service of the people, as well as in farming, he is the right man in the right place, and is "making good." And it is a safe assertion that he has never sought office or asked for a vote.

Mr. Bradford says of his good wife that she is justly entitled to an equal share of the credit for all successes attained during their married life; a good counselor, a fast friend and a true helpmeet in every sense of the term, and under all circumstances.

## REID.

Darius Reid, now deceased, was born in Almont, Mich., July 28, 1841. His father, Hulbert Reid, located in Lapeer County in 1835, a frontier county at that time. Darius' opportunities for an education were limited, but by making good use of such as he had he acquired the principal rudiments and nature did the rest. Early in the Civil War he enlisted in Company L, 1st Mich. Cavalry and served three years. Later he took up telegraphy at a business college in Pittsburgh, and was employed as operator on the Baltimore & Ohio, and on the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee railroads. In 1872, he, with his brother, came to Gratiot, settling on section 18, Arcada Township, and from that time on was engaged in farming.

Mr. Reid was soon recognized as a suitable candidate for official honors, and he was chosen to many positions, including that of supervisor from 1881 to 1889 with the exception of one year—'82. He was officially connected with the Michigan Central Union Fair Association which operated on extensive grounds between Alma and St. Louis in the late '70s. He filled all positions with ability and honor. As president of the Gratiot and Isabella Fire Insurance Company for several years, he did much to increase its popularity and usefulness.

Mr. Reid was married in Shiawassee County, Mich., June 4, 1869, to Jennie, daughter of Edward and Isabella (Savage) Lawrence. Children born to them were—May Lillian, Adelia, Anna, Frank, and two who died in infancy. Mr. Reid died at his home in Arcada, May 10, 1898, at the early age of 57 years.

## RUSH.

Jacob Rush, a pioneer of Gratiot County and for nearly forty years a prominent and esteemed resident of Arcada Township, was born May 13, 1823 in the State of Maryland. When twelve years of age he moved with his parents to Ohio, where his father, Lewis Rush, died, leaving a wife and four children—Rachel, Wesley, Mary and Jacob. The mother afterward married John Rush, brother of her first husband, and to them two children were born—Elijah Rush and Almira J. Gilmore, both now residing in Marion, Ohio.



JACOB RUSH AND WIFE.

Jacob Rush was brought up a farmer. January 8, 1846, he was married to Miss Sarah B. Bailey, who was born in Morrow County, Ohio. In 1848 they moved to Lenawee County, Mich., bringing with them a little daughter, Samantha. There he resided until the fall of 1854, when he migrated with his family to Gratiot County, landing October 12th on the tract of land in Arcada that has since been the Rush homestead, and which is now occupied by John Rush. That other veteran pioneer, Francis Nelson, came at the same time, settling on an adjoining section. Mr. Rush's family lived in a tent until a log house could be erected. The family had all of the discouraging experiences incident to the pioneers of those days and the years following. The nearest grist mill was at Fish Creek, now called Matherton. It took three days with an ox team to make the trip. One of his misfortunes was the breaking of one of his legs below the knee, while hewing logs for a floor to John Nevins' house. This laid him up all winter. He was a great hunter, and so was able to supply the family with plenty of venison.

Mr. Rush had the first grist ground in a Gratiot County mill; the mill built by Ralph Ely at Elyton, now Alma.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rush were the parents of children born as follows: Samantha, born January 6, 1847; now the wife of B. R. Nevins, of Arcada. Margaret, born January 1, 1849, died August 26, 1865. Sophronia, born March 18, 1851; married to David Bartholomew, died January 26, 1873. Christian I., born March 15, 1853; married Lorinda Bugbee; now living at Oden, Mich. John, born June 21, 1863; living on the old homestead, Arcada.

Jacob Rush and wife were people of excellent principles, members of the United Brethren Church, and highly respected by all who knew them. Mr. Rush died April 22, 1892. Mrs. Rush survived nearly fourteen years, passing away at the home of her son John and family, on the old homestead, August 9, 1906.

## ROBERTS.

Azum Roberts was born in the Township of Nusted, Erie County, New York, October 25, 1841. He is the son of Julius O. and Polly (Avery) Roberts. He spent his youthful days in agricultural pursuits, working in his father's mills and in attendance at the district schools, according to the custom of farmers' sons in those days. In the early days of the Civil War—August 19, 1861—he enlisted in his country's service, connecting himself with the 44th N. Y. Vol. Infantry, popularly known as the Ellsworth Rangers, and served over three years, being honorably discharged October 11, 1864.



AZUM ROBERTS AND WIFE.

In November, 1873, Mr. Roberts migrated to Gratiot County, Michigan, and began life as a pioneer. April 18, 1883, he was married to Mrs. Wealthy J. Burgess, and soon thereafter settled on an eighty-acre tract described as the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 27, Arcada Township. The density of the forest at that time is aptly shown by Mr. Roberts' way of expressing it—"The only way you could see out was by looking up." The lapse of time, with persistency in hard work, has wrought a magical change in the conditions, and now Mr. Roberts can boast of as fine a farm as can be found anywhere in his vicinity. He has in recent years added to his possessions by the purchase of an adjoining forty acres—the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 34.

Mrs. Roberts, whose maiden name was Wealthy J. Lindsey, was born in the Township of Malahide, Elgin County, Canada, September 11, 1852, daughter of Charles and Maria (Tyrrell) Lindsey. She came to Gratiot County in May, 1865, with her mother, and on July 4, 1872, was married to John A. Burgess, of Arcada. He was the eldest son of William and Ruth Burgess and was born in Wood County, Ohio, May 15, 1850. To this union three daughters were born—Ethel, born October 1, 1873; Mattie, born October 7, 1875; Lottie, born July 30, 1878, died November 16, 1878. The father, John A. Burgess, died June 12, 1879. On the 17th of April, 1883, as stated above, Mrs. Burgess was married to Azum Roberts.

Azum Roberts and wife are the parents of two sons—Fred O., born January 18, 1884; Vincent A., born April 7, 1886. Fred O. was married July 25, 1907, to Mariette Gould, and resides in Isabella County. Vincent A. lives at the parental home.

Mr. Roberts and his estimable family are of the sturdy and substantial kind, justly respected and popular in the community, and are well worthy of their full share of prosperity. In politics Mr. Roberts is a Republican and has been favored by his party with various positions of trust, such as justice of the peace, and as school officer for about 15 years. He is a valued member of Moses Wisner Post, G. A. R., of Ithaca.

## BEVERLY.

William E. Beverly, for 25 years a resident of Arcada Township, but now residing in Alma, was born in Summit Township, Jackson County, Mich., December 26, 1863, son of Jesse Armony Beverly and Mary Jane (Fea) Beverly, the former born November 2, 1839, in South Jackson, Jackson County, Mich., and died February 7, 1869, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the latter born in England, October 6, 1841. They were married at South Jackson, Mich., March 26, 1863. Two children were born to them—William E., our principal subject, and Cora Inez, who was born April 27, 1867, in Ionia County Mich. After the death of Jesse A. Beverly, Mrs. Mary Jane Beverly, the wife and mother, was married to Michael McCann, of Ionia County. Their children were—Mary Jane, born in Ionia County, December 18, 1873; Florence Adelle, born in Jackson County in 1881; Harry, born in Jackson County in 1883. Mrs. McCann, the mother, died in Jackson County, December 16, 1898.

Cora Inez Beverly was married to Eugene Bagg, and lives in Jackson County. Mary Jane McCann married Bruce Huling and lives in Lansing. Florence Adelle McCann married Elmer N. Post, and lives at Forest Hill. Harry McCann married Emma Shaw, and lives in Jackson. Michael McCann, the father, died April, 1900.

William E. Beverly's paternal grandfather was Francis Head Beverly, born in Steuben County, N. Y., June 20, 1799, and died in Ionia County, Mich., July 16, 1883. He was married in Steuben County, N. Y., January 16, 1825, to Amy Page, who was born August 3, 1809, in Steuben County, N. Y., and died in Ionia County, Mich., March 8, 1866.

William E. Beverly was married in Alma, March 17, 1893, to Melissa A. Irish, daughter of George W. and Georgiana (Mallory) Irish. She was born September 18, 1870, in Riley Township, Clinton County, Mich. Her father, George W. Irish, was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1848. Her mother, Georgiana Irish, was born in Clinton County, Mich., in 1860. Other children of George W. Irish and wife were Eva, now wife of John S. Knoertzer, of Alma, and Ola May, who died April 26, 1901, at the age of 20 years.

William E. and Melissa A. Beverly were the parents of a son, Efford Armony Beverly, born June 7, 1894, in Arcada. He is a graduate of Alma High School, class of 1913. He has chosen the profession of medicine, and entered the Bennett Medical College, Chicago, in the fall of 1913. Mrs. Melissa A. Beverly died January 20, 1901. Mr. Beverly was married (second) at Alma, to Margaret Eleanor Perry, daughter of Frank and Margaret (Preston) Perry. She was born September 21, 1877, near Ottawa, Ont. To this union has come a son—Wycliffe Oakley Beverly—born December

5, 1906, in Arcada. Mrs. Beverly's father, Frank Perry, was born in Russell Township, Ont., October 24, 1848. Her mother, Margaret Perry, was born August 19, 1858, near Ottawa, Ont. They now live near St. Johns, Mich. Besides Mrs. Beverly, their children are—Thomas L., married Sadie Humphrey, and lives in Isabella County; Jessie Perry, married to Jesse Wolford and now lives at Marion, Mich.; Ernest G. Perry, lives in Toledo; Emma P. Perry, married William D. Freer and lives in Alma; Harvey R. died at the age of nine months, at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada; Pearl Perry lives in Utica, N. Y.; Russell H. Perry lives in Detroit; Nina Perry lives at Marion, Mich.; Dolly, Alma, Roy and Stanley E., live at the home of their parents, near St. Louis.

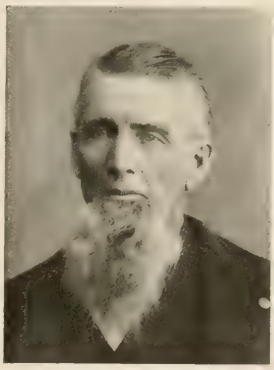
Mr. Beverly came to this county in January, 1887, purchasing an 80-acre farm on section 7, Arcada, and in 1908 purchasing 40 acres adjoining. There he resided till February, 1912, when he removed to Alma, where he bought two residences on Lincoln Avenue, in one of which he resides. He sold his Arcada farm in March, 1913.

Mr. Beverly and family are substantial citizens, highly regarded in their community.

## CLARK.

Among the prominent and progressive farmers of Arcada Township, Clarence S. Clark rightfully holds a leading position. His large, fertile and well-cultivated farm is located on sections 14, 15 and 23 of the township mentioned, and is well supplied with comfortable and commodious buildings, ample and fruitful orchards, and with the accessories that go to make up the stock in trade of the successful and prosperous husbandman. And it has all been acquired by hard and persistent work directed by good judgment and an ambition to succeed and make good in his chosen avocation.

Mr. Clark was born in Alma, this county, May 6, 1862. He is a son of William W. Clark who was one of the pioneers of Arcada, settling there with his family in 1858. The father, William W. Clark, was born in Johnstown, Ohio, August 10, 1830. The wife and mother's maiden name was Naomi Briggs. They were united in marriage September 15, 1854. Besides our subject—Clarence S.—their children were, Edwin, Erskine, Mary and Fred.



WILLIAM W. CLARK.

Edwin Clark, born August 21, 1854, married, (first) Ella Pope. After her decease he married, (second) Edna Rockwell. They live on section 21, Arcada.

Erskine Clark, born October 26, 1858, married Carrie F. Sherman. He is now deceased.

Mary Clark, born July 14, 1866, was married to M. I. Morton. She is deceased, and he lives at Stanwood, Wash.

Fred Clark, born December 12, 1878, married, (first) Ida Bailey, and (second) May Woodman. They live on a farm near Ashley.

William W. Clark and his wife, Naomi, are both deceased, the latter passing away December 6, 1898, the former August 10, 1907, at the home of his son, Clarence S.

Clarence S. Clark, the principal subject of this family record, was married to Frankie Louise Glover, February 26, 1896. She was born in Arcada Township, November 15, 1866, daughter of John M. and Lydia A. (Earl) Glover. John M. Glover was born in Brutus Township, Cayuga County, N. Y., July 20, 1821. His wife, Lydia A., was born in Essex County, N. Y., July 25, 1826. They were married December 31, 1846. Their children were—Rebecca J., born September 26, 1847, died at the age of 14 years; Rhoda A., born February 16, 1850, married David P. Castor. They reside in Ballingham, Wash.; Mary E., born April 29, 1859, married John F. Innes. She is deceased and he resides in Alma.



JOHN M. GLOVER.

John M. Glover died April 29, 1891. Mrs. Lydia A. Glover, his wife, died October 28, 1905.

Clarence S. Clark's fine farm—one of the very best in Arcada Township—consists of the John M. Glover homestead and of the Innes homestead, combined; 180 acres of well-tilled, fertile and productive land, in one of the best agricultural sections of the county, within three miles of that excellent town and market—Alma; and in a section of territory where the roads are as good as any part of the county affords. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., with a good standing in all its branches. He is also a member of the Grange and of the Gleaners. Mrs. Clark is a member of the Grange and of the Gleaners.

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**John M. Glover** settled in the woods of section 14, Arcada Township, in the fall of 1854, coming from Washtenaw County, this state. He was married in Waterloo, Jackson County, Mich., December 31, 1846, to Lydia A. Earl. A sketch of their new home in Arcada goes on to say: "They were in the midst of a forest so dense that they could only see daylight by looking upward. Their first house was of the rudest pattern, being of logs, with no floor and covered with shakes. The one door was also made of home-made lumber, but it was afterward replaced by a door made from the first lumber sawed in the county, produced by Francis Nelson and William Prouty, with an old-fashioned 'whip saw'. On settling here Mr. Glover's household effects would inventory about $100, and he had but $5 in cash. The first straw in their beds was hauled 21 miles. He cut the first road in his school district. The town meetings and elections were held in his house for seven consecutive years." Their children were—Rhoda A., Mary E., Frankie L. and Rebecca J. Mr. Glover died April 29, 1891, at the age of 70 years. Mrs. Glover died October 28, 1905, aged 79, her death resulting from a fall at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Clark. (See sketch of Clarence S. Clark.)

**Emery Adams** came with his family to section 5, Arcada Township, in February, 1854, from Liberty, Jackson County, this state, where they had lived seventeen years, having come to this state from the State of New York. He was married December 24, 1836, to Rachel M., daughter of John and Phebe (Case) Lewis. His own parents were Jason and Olive (Bears) Adams. As a resident of Gratiot County, Mr. Adams was familiar with all of the varied conditions of pioneer life. He lived to enjoy the results of

his hard toil. Early in the Civil War—August 12, 1861—Mr. Adams enlisted in Company C, 8th Mich. Infantry, and served a year and a half. He took an active interest in the welfare of his community, and was officially connected with township affairs as township clerk and treasurer, holding the latter responsible position three years. Mr. Adams died November 26, 1886, aged 76 years. His wife, Rachel M., died September 4, 1895, at the age of 77 years.

**David Bailey** came to Gratiot County in 1861, locating on section 12, Arcada Township. He was elected sheriff of Gratiot County in 1864 and again in 1866. He was a popular citizen. His death occurred July 1, 1903, when he had reached the age of 70 years. His wife, Mary A. Bailey, passed away February 19, 1898, at the age of 61 years.

**Daniel W. Altenburg** came to Gratiot in 1866, settling on section 17, Newark Township. He was a producer of large quantities of maple sugar for many years, his output amounting to from 3,000 to 5,000 pounds annually. In 1883 he removed to section 25, Arcada Township, and a few years later to Ithaca, where he died December 1, 1895, aged 61 years. He served as a soldier in the Civil War. By profession he was a surveyor as well as a farmer, and was chosen county surveyor of this county no less than ten terms, to-wit: 1870, '72, '74, '80, '82, '84, '88, '90, '92 and '94. A quiet, unassuming man with many friends. His wife, Sophia, died March 25, 1907, aged 69. Their children were Frank, F. Araminta, Henry I., Maria E., William L., Orville L. and Daniel T.

A few of Arcada's distinguished citizens—first and last—deserving of mention in this connection are here given: Joseph, Alonzo and Nathaniel Bailey; Reuben Finch; Homer Burns; William Moyer; Nicholas P. Watts; Lemuel C. Cole; Anson R. Arnold; Jacob Rush, (see sketch of John Rush); Russell and William Burgess; Lorton (Black Hawk) Holiday; William S. Nelson; John, Samuel and Levi Keefer; Alonzo E. Kingsley; John S., Byron S. and Nathan N. Nevins; Isaac Russell; Thomas Grover; George Chandler; William Bishop; William Clark, (see sketch of C. S. Clark); William S. Hall; P. C. Irish; Lucius C. Knapp; Lewis S. Brooke; Alonzo Hood; Calvin W. and David Courter; John Walker; Avolin and Fred Church; Geo. G. Holiday, supervisor in 1882, still active; Marcus Bancroft; Israel B. Wolf; Daniel L. Sharrar, (supervisor nine years and county treasurer in 1898 and 1900); Fred Bradford, serving seventh term as supervisor, see sketch; Decatur Coleman, Democratic candidate for county treasurer in 1906; Adney Dobson; Wm. O. Hutchinson; Hal Bancroft; George H., Wm. H. and Earl R. Kuhlman; Edson P. Spink, Greenback candidate for representative in 1878; Horace S. Taylor, Greenback candidate for representative in 1880; Alex. M. Wiley settled on section 5, Arcada, in 1855, a soldier and an active citizen.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Brewbaker, Eliza,** Aug. 22, 1872, aged 59.
**Burns, Mrs. Homer,** April 2, 1881, aged 57. Pioneers of the year 1854.
**Bamborough, Wm.,** June 14, 1875, aged 68.
**Burgess, Wm.** March 22, 1880, aged 61. Came here in 1854.
**Burgess, Mrs. Ruth,** widow of Wm. Burgess, January 28, 1890, at the age of 65 years.
**Bartholomew, John,** May 7, 1890, aged 82.
**Bishop, Wm.,** May 22, 1900, aged 71. An energetic and upright citizen.
**Bogart, John,** Dec. 17, 1901, aged 72.
**Bailey, Joseph,** at the home of his son-in-law, Wm. Stewart, Dec. 9, 1908, aged 77. He was one of Arcada's pioneers.

**Burgess, George B.,** Dec. 17, 1912, aged 57 years. He was born on the same farm on which he died, a son of William Burgess. He left a wife and five children, and was a man of good repute.

**Bowman, Edward D.,** March 30, 1910, aged 71.

**Cole, Joanna,** Aug. 18, 1870, aged 66.

**Cole, Lemuel C.,** February 21, 1877, aged 70. Was early on the ground, having been elected the first clerk of the township, and afterward held various positions—justice, school inspector and highway commissioner. A man of varied attainments and characteristics.

**Church, Mrs. Carrie,** wife of Avolin Church, Aug. 4, 1879, aged 19.

**Cline, Henry,** May 24, 1882. An early settler.

**Clark, James,** July 10, 1893, aged 87.

**Clark, Wm. W.,** at the home of his son Clarence, Aug. 10, 1907. One of the energetic and reliable first settlers.

**Courter, Calvin W.,** July 18, 1908, aged 79. A resident of the county 54 years, being one of the first in the township. Held the offices of highway commissioner, school inspector, etc.

**Counselor, Mrs.** wife of Benj. Counselor, February 1, 1909, aged 68. A pioneer.

**Clark, James Wallace,** January 7, 1903, aged 71.

**Clark, Mrs. Naomi,** wife of Wm. W. Clark, Dec. 6, 1898, aged 62.

**Church, Fred,** youngest son of Rev. Laf. Church, among the first settlers of Arcada, January 19, 1910, aged 47.

**Courter, Mrs. Clara N.,** widow of Calvin W. Courter, January 17, 1911, aged nearly 80 years.

**Corliss, Mrs. Julia,** at her home in California, Aug. 16, 1912. She was daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Burgess, the latter of whom was later the wife of Judge Francis Nelson. She was a teacher in the early days.

**De Bar, Jacob B.,** January 22, 1890, aged 82.

**Demory, George,** Sept. 24, 1897, aged 56.

**Downs, Geo. Dallas,** Sept. 13, 1892, aged 47. A soldier in the Civil War.

**Daymon, Justus,** May 14, 1909, aged 77. A pioneer, coming in the early '50s.

**Ellsworth, Alonzo,** March 26, 1909, aged 73. A pioneer.

**Farrow, George,** January 19, 1880, aged 55 years. At his death, which came suddenly, a good man passed away.

**Fuller, Reuben,** May 12, 1890, aged 76. An old settler.

**Finch Reuben,** Sept. 15, 1896, aged 75. Settled in Arcada in 1854, he and Homer Burns, his neighbor and friend, being among the first settlers. His friend met a violent death, the facts being detailed elsewhere.

**Finch, Mrs. Jane,** widow of Reuben Finch, March 22, 1901, aged nearly 77.

**Fisher, Peter,** May 17, 1907, aged 74. A resident here 49 years.

**Grover, Thomas,** Sept. 12, 1877, aged 67. An esteemed pioneer.

**Graham, John,** May 17, 1898, aged 81. A resident here 20 years.

**Halstead, Mrs. Phebe,** July 10, 1875, at the age of 83. Died at the home of her grand daughter, Mrs. Wm. S. Turck.

**Hall, Wm. S.,** May 31, 1887, aged 67. An old resident and widely known.

**Hall, Mrs.,** wife of Wm. S. Hall, Sept. 8, 1888, aged 65.

**Husted, David,** March 12, 1903, aged 73.

**Hollenbeck, Mrs. Lucy (Keefer),** wife of Samuel Hollenbeck, at her home in California, May, 1911, aged 53. Born in Arcada.

**Hatfield, Mrs. Julia Ann (Wideman),** wife of A. J. Hatfield, at her home two miles south of St. Louis, in Arcada Township, March 26, 1913, aged 77 years. Esteemed residents of the county for 52 years.

**Innes, Allen L.,** April 6, 1875, aged 70.

**Innes, Mrs. Mary E.,** wife of John F. Innes, and daughter of John M. Glover, January 27, 1886.

**Irish, P. C.,** May 8, 1895, at the home of his son, Geo. Irish, aged 75.

**Isham, Mrs.,** wife of Orin A. Isham, March 23, 1896, aged 49. Mr. Isham died in New Haven, Nov., 1906.

**Knapp, Theron L.,** at his home in St. Louis, February 13, 1911, aged 57. Many years an exemplary and popular resident of Arcada, son of Lucius C. Knapp, one of the first settlers in Gratiot County.

**Merchant, Thomas G.,** Dec. 6 1880, aged 58.

**Moyer, Mrs. Lois A.,** April 12, 1894, aged 72, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James W. Howd, Ithaca. Widow of Wm. Moyer, an early supervisor of Arcada.

**Monroe, Frank,** Sept. 2, 1905, aged 53.

**Marolf, Mrs.,** wife of John Marolf, May 27, 1908.

**Micham, Nathaniel,** February 24, 1911, aged 70.

**Morse, Oscar,** Dec. 11, 1912, at the age of 85 years. He came to this county in 1855, settling on section 15, Arcada, where he resided until his death. He and his wife, who survives him, were staunch and sturdy pioneers, enduring all of the hardships as well as the pleasures of life in the "backwoods." Their two children—daughters—died in early womanhood. "Hod" Morse, as he was known to his acquaintances, will long be remembered in the community in which he lived. His wife was Mary A. Keefer.

**Nevins, John S.,** at the home of his son, Nathan N., Ithaca, April 14, 1910, aged 88 years. Settled in Arcada in 1854 and saw many of the trials and pleasures of pioneer life.

**Nichols, Jonathan,** January 6, 1898, aged 56. He came here in 1881.

**Putnam, Israel,** Oct. 23, 1874, aged 46.

**Plowfield, Jacob,** June 18, 1880, aged 62.

**Plowfield, Christina,** March 5, 1881, aged 60.

**Parks, Benj.,** May 26, 1895. A veteran of the Civil War and of the Indian uprising in the West in 1862.

**Perkins, Mrs. Charity,** wife of Chester J. Perkins, May 6, 1902, aged 59.

**Russell, Mrs.,** estimable wife of Isaac Russell, Sept. 2, 1893.

**Rush, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of Jacob Rush, Aug. 10, 1905, aged 78. (See sketch of Jacob Rush.)

**Spayd, Mrs. Esther,** January 11, 1887, aged 75. An early settler.

**Spencer, Lewis Smith,** January 5, 1912, at St. Louis, aged 78. A carpenter who resided in Arcada 25 years.

**Sartor, Christian,** Oct. 12, 1912, aged 70 years. He was an early settler, an old soldier and a citizen of good standing in the community.

**Tyrrell, David,** March 2, 1871, at the age of 74.

**Tyrrell, Miles,** Aug. 28, 1879, aged 78.

**Tyrrell, Lorena,** July 16, 1878, aged 48.

**Taylor, Horace S.,** April 28, 1887, aged 70. Settled here in 1867; an active and energetic citizen. In 1880 he was the Greenback candidate for representative, but was defeated with the rest of the ticket.

**Taylor, Mrs. Maria,** wife of Horace S. Taylor, June 30, 1897, aged nearly 70.

**Walker, Salem H.,** January 14, 1887, aged 74. An early settler.

**Walker, Joshua C.,** Nov. 30, 1894, at his home in Ithaca, but was a long-time resident of Arcada. He was a deputy sheriff under Sheriff King, and was a much-respected citizen.

**Wolf, Israel B.,** Sept. 25, 1909, aged 70. He came here in 1855; a well-known and esteemed pioneer.

**Wagner, Samuel M.**, April 16, 1913, aged 67 years. He settled with his parents in Fulton in an early day, but had resided in Eastern Arcada about 30 years. He was an honorable citizen, with many friends.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1876, Feb. 19—The house of Daniel C. Hauver, Arcada, was burned with its contents. Loss, $500.

1881, March 30—The farm residence of J. B. Marolf, three miles south of St. Louis, burned with nearly all its contents.

1890, Jan. 20—Farm house of Darius Ingalsbe, one and a half miles north of Ithaca, burned with the most of its contents. Loss, $1,000; insurance, $575.

1890, April 29—Early in the morning Jas. P. King's residence was burned with most of the household goods. Loss, $750; insurance, $450.

1891, March 24—Ray Taylor lost his house by fire, morning of March 24.

1897, April 21—The residence of Ira Currier, three miles north of Ithaca, burned while the family was absent.

1904, Nov. 29—The house owned by Nathan N. Nevins and occupied by Mr. Cornell, burned with most of the household goods, and no insurance.

1910, March 8—N. W. Boody lost his house by fire Tuesday evening, March 8, with part of the contents; and no insurance.

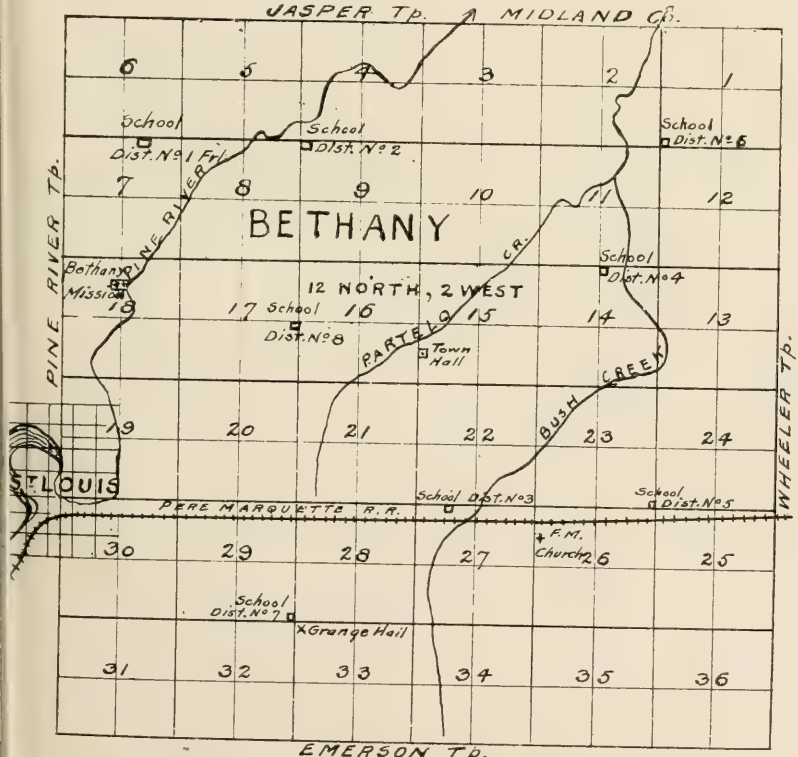
1910, March 25—Fire destroyed the residence of Leroy Whitman—the old L. H. Treat place—with most of the contents. Loss, $2,500; partially insured.

1911, Jan. 8—The house of Harlan Woodard, of Arcada, occupied by Arthur Harter and family, burned on the night of Jan. 8th, with the household goods. It took strenuous hustling to get Mrs. Harter and her young babe to neighbors and safety.



## BETHANY TOWNSHIP.

Organized as an independent township by the board of supervisors at the January session of 1858, Bethany had an appropriate name already selected for it. The name of "Bethany" was carried by the German-Lutheran Mission established in the township away back in 1848, and the adoption of the name for the territory previously only known as town 12 north, range 2 west, was plausible and poular. Up to this time the township had been an adjunct of Pine River Township, and, though it was destined to become, and has become, one of the leading townships of the county, in those early days it was not considered very valuable or desirable even as an adjunct. It was a heavily timbered tract with large stretches of low, flat land well covered with water quite a considerable portion of the year. The early settlers led lives that could hardly be deemed a continual pic-nic. But persistence has conquered, and the whole scene is so changed that it seems almost an impossibility to fully grasp the fact that the Bethany as we see it today is the same territory that was known by that name fifty-five or even thirty-five years ago.



Pine River takes its course through the township from southwest to northeast, making the principal outlet for the surplus water. Other water courses, all of them of minor importance and capacity, traverse the township to the northeast, Bush Creek being the principal one of this class. The township was one of the first to secure the benefits of a railroad, the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis road being built across the township about two miles north of its southern line, in the year 1872. This was in the nature of a boon, as it opened an outlet to the markets for the surplus timber, thus stimulating activity among the settlers, and incidentally as well as directly was a prime factor in the township's improvement and prosperity.

The experiences of the pioneers were similar to those of other parts of the county, and it would not be profitable to enter into details. After Bethany Mission, the first settlers came along in 1855, Martin and Harlow Cramer and Welcome J. Partelo being the first or among the first. The election statistics which follow, not only name nearly all of the first settlers, but also give prominence to leading citizens of the township even down to the present day.

## BETHANY ELECTIONS.

Bethany's first election, as an independent township, was held on the first Monday in April, 1858. Thirty-two votes were cast.

The Bethany Mission settlement contained quite a number of the red men of the forest, and about a dozen of their names help to make up the poll list on that occasion. The whole list is herewith given. Doubtless most readers, by close application, will be able to distinguish the Indian names. The list is as follows:

Fred D. Weller, E. Kibbee, Samuel Smith, Philip S. Mickel, Jas. F. Crawford, Jas. T. Rooks, John T. Sivals, O. A. Crosby, E. G. H. Meissler, Alfred Clark, Henry Chase, J. B. Howard, Martin W. Cramer, Jas. Gruett, John Bailey, Andrew Compo, John Gogaosen, Jev Me Augesic, Pare Anagee, Miechall, Abram Tawanerquet, Wabby Gumseum, Nowa Geeslick, Wm. Westbrook, Harmon Bush, Elias W. Smith, Hiero B. Fox, Vaba Naosrunk, Kego, Bernard Fox, Welcome J. Partelo, W. P. Partelo.

**April, 1858:** Sup.—Welcome J. Partelo; Clk.—Bernard Fox; Treas.—John Bailey; H. C.—Harmon Bush, Philip S. Mickel, Henry Chase; J. P.—Jas. Gruett, Fred D. Weller, John T. Sivalls, John Bailey; Sch. Insp.—Harmon Bush, Gustavus Meissler; Overseers of Poor—F. D. Weller, Bernard Fox; Const.—Hiero B. Fox, Harmon Bush, Jas. T. Rooks, Jas. F. Crawford.

The voters provided for a highway fund of $250, and a contingent fund of $50; the next election to be held at the school house, St. Louis.

Aug. 16, the board appointed W. P. Partelo highway commissioner vice Harmon Bush, who was not a resident of the township, "and on Nov. 13 Wheaton Goodwin was appointed constable in place of Jas. F. Crawford, who was not a resident of the township".

**April, 1859:** Sup.—Fred. D. Weller; Clk.—W. J. Partelo; Treas.—John Bailey; H. C.—W. J. Partelo; vacancy, L. M. Clark; J. P.—John Bailey; vacancy, Alfred Clark; Sch. Insp.—Wm. B. Harris; Const.—John Broadhead, Justus B. Howard, Oscar Clymer, Henry Chase.

Dec. 26, '59, the board appointed Alfred Clark treasurer vice Bailey, resigned.

**April, 1860:** There were 21 votes cast at this election. Sup.—F. D. Weller; Clk.—Harlow Cramer; Treas.—Alfred Clark; H. C.—Joseph Davison; J. P.—Welcome P. Partelo; vacancy, Horace Peck; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Davison.

Dec. 31, '60, the board appointed Bernard Fox supervisor in place of F. D. Weller, elected sheriff.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Bernard Fox 14, W. P. Partelo 12; Clk.—Chas. E. Going 15, Richard Eaton 14; Treas.—Alfred Clark 16, Elias W. Smith 13; H. C.—Henry Chase 27, Horace Peck 1; J. P.—R. Eaton 15, Wm. B. Harris 14; vacancy, R. Eaton 13, Chas. E. Going 11, Wm. B. Harris 2; Sch. Insp.—Ephraim Brown 14, H. Cramer 13.

Sept. 21, '61, the board appointed H. Cramer school inspector vice Eph. Brown, "gone to war".

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Edward L. Drake; Clk.—Jas. T. Rooks; Treas.—Alfred Clark; H. C.—W. P. Partelo; J. P.—David M. Rooks; Sch. Insp.—Jo. Davison, Ed. L. Drake.

It was voted to hold the next meeting "at the so-called Village of St. Louis".

July 5, '62, the board appointed Wm. B. Harris supervisor vice Drake, resigned; also appointed J. R. Salisbury school inspector vice Drake, resigned.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Alfred Clark; Clk.—Samuel C. Skinner; Treas.—Henry H. Partelo; H. C.—Wolcott L. Stebbins; J. P.—Jo.. Davison; vacancy, Wm. B. Harris; Sch. Insp.—W. L. Stebbins; vacancy, Royal J. Salisbury.

Feby. 17, '64, Welcome Phineas Partelo was appointed supervisor by the board in place of A. Clark, resigned. He served until the following April election.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Alfred Clark; Clk.—S. C. Skinner; Treas.—W. L. Stebbins; H. C.—John S. Nevins; J. P.—S. C. Skinner; 3 ys, W. L. Stebbins; 2 yrs, David P. Smith; Sch. Insp.—B. Fox.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Edward L. Drake; Clk.—Jas. S. Eager; Treas.—F. D. Weller; H. C.—Elery Foot; J. P.—Richard Eaton; vacancy, W. P. Partelo; Sch. Insp.—Martin W. Cramer.

S. C. Skinner, clerk, after recording the above, adds to it this laconic synopsis: "The whole Possi elected." Which, of course, made it solid.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Alfred Clark; Clk.—Elias W. Smith; Treas.—S. C. Skinner; H. C.—Norman D. Vincent; J. P.—Lewis Wheelock; Sch. Insp.—J. R. Salisbury.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Jonathan C. Giddings; Clk.—Alfred Clark; Treas.—S. C. Skinner; H. C.—Lewis Wheelock; J. P.—J. C. Giddings; vacancy, Lewis Wheelock; Sch. Insp.—Albert R. Hill; vacancy, Norman D. Vincent.

Delegate to the constitutional convention—D. W. Chapin, 43; N. Church, 26. County superintendent of schools—Giles T. Brown, 65; A. J. McKee, 8.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Geo. L. Patch; Treas.—S. C. Skinner; H. C.—L. Wheelock; vacancy, E. Shaw; J. P.—Wesley J. Miller; vacancy, David P. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Zachary V. Payne.

Adoption of new state constitution—yes, 71; No, 21.

Appropriation to build county jail—yes, none; no, 91.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Geo. L. Patch; Treas.—S. C. Skinner; H. C.—Aaron M. Wheeler; J. P.—B. Fox; Sch. Insp.—Albert R. Hill; vacancy, Nathaniel Wilson.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—F. D. Weller; Treas.—John G. Thompson; H. C.—Elias Shaw; vacancy, Edwin Phillips; Sch. Insp.—B. Fox.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Ira G. Dillon; Treas.—John G. Thompson; H. C.—David P. Smith; J. P.—J. C. Giddings; vacancy, Ephraim Pettey; Sch. Insp.—W. J. Miller; vacancy, Zach. V. Payne.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Silas C. Crossman; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; H. C.—Gilbert, B. Hasbrook; J. P.—W. J. Miller; Sch. Insp.—Z. V. Payne; Dr. Com.—Elias Shaw.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Newell Leonard; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; H. C.—David Eugene Welling; J. P.—Eph. Pettey; Sch. Insp.—Silas C. Crossman; Dr. Com.—Floyd E. Martin.

Oct. 2, '73, E. Shaw was appointed drain commissioner vice F. E. Martin, resigned.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—J. C. Giddings; Clk.—W. H. Ostrom; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; H. C.—E. Shaw; J. P.—Wm. C. Thompson; Sch. Insp.—Elias W. Smith; Dr. Com.—Nat. Wilson.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Jonathan W. Salsbury; Clk.—Levi O. Rowland; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; H. C.—Wm. J. Harris; J P.—John A. Wilcox; Supt. Sch.—Joseph T. Willett; Sch. Insp.—Wm. C. Garbutt; Dr. Com.—D. A. Lowell.

April 20, '75, the board appointed Floyd E. Martin, supervisor in place of J. W. Salsbury, who, on account of being away from the township, failed to qualify.

June 5, '75, E. Shaw was appointed drain commissioner vice D. A. Lowell, resigned.

Aug. 7, '75, the board appointed Seely D. Hicks highway commissioner vice Wm. J. Harris, resigned.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Seely D. Hicks; Clk.—L. O. Rowland; Treas.—Wm. C. Thompson; H. C.—J. S. Nevins; J. P.—Albert R. Hill; Supt Sch.—John A. Wilcox; Sch. Insp.—Sidney S. Hastings; Dr. Com.—E. Shaw.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Seely D. Hicks; Clk.—L. O. Rowland; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; J. P.—Ephraim Pettey; vacancy, W. J. Miller; Supt Sch.—J. A. Wilcox; Sch. Insp.—S. S. Hastings.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—S. D. Hicks; Clk.—J. Frank Suydam; Treas.—J. G. Thompson; H. C.—J. R. Salisbury; J. P.—Albert Holmes; Sch. Insp.—Henry Smalley; vacancy, Jesse H. Fleming; Dr. Com.—John Harrison.

Oct. 11, '78, Chas. Rooks was appointed drain commissioner vice J. Harrison, resigned.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—John G. Thompson; Clk.—Albert Holmes; Treas.—Newell M. Cook; H. C.—Lester L. Beebe; J. P.—Jonathan W. Salsbury; Supt. Sch.—Wm. C. Garbutt; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Wilcox; Dr. Com.—Frank J. Rowley.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Willard D. Tucker; Clk.—Henry Smalley; Treas.—Newell M. Cook; H. C.—Jas. M. Johnson; J. P.—Joseph E. Holton; vacancy, Edwin R. Landon; Supt. Sch.—Wm. C. Garbutt; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Wilcox; Dr. Com.—Wm. C. Thompson.

May 22, '80, E. G. Sechler was appointed drain commissioner to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of W. C. Thompson. Sechler declined, and on June 4, '80, Martin Kidder was appointed; and he stood up to the difficult job bravely.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Willard D. Tucker; Clk.—J. Marks; Treas.—Wm. C. Garbutt; H. C.—Jas. M. Johnson; J. P.—E. Pettey; Supt. Sch.—J. A. Wilcox; Sch. Insp.—Harlow Cramer.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Willard D. Tucker; Clk.—E. R. Landon; Treas.—Wm. C. Garbutt; H. C.—Jas. M. Johnson; J. P.—E. R. Landon; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Wilcox, Frank J. Lathrop; Dr. Com.—Frank J. Rowley; Review—Harlow Cramer, Jere. Marks.

April 19, '82, Frank J. Lathrop was appointed drain commissioner, Frank J. Rowley failing to qualify.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Mortimer Sharpsteen; Clk.—E. R. Landon; Treas.—N. M. Cook; H. C.—Gil. E. Hall; J. P.—Martin Kidder; Sch. Insp.—Willard D. Tucker; Review—J. W. Salsbury, W. J. Miller.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—M. Sharpsteen; Clk.—L. O. Rowland; Treas.—Newell M. Cook; H. C.—G. E. Hall; J. P.—W. J. Miller; Sch. Insp.—Wm. C. Calland; Dr. Com.—Martin Kidder.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Wesley J. Miller; Clk.—N. M. Cook; Treas.—J. W. Salsbury; H .C.—L. L. Beebe; J. P.—Thos. A. Porter; vacancy, F. D. Weller; vacancy, D. C. Stone; Sch. Insp.—Jas. W. Barnard.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Geo. W. Long; Treas.—J. W. Salsbury; H. C.—E. Shaw; J. P.—F. D. Weller; 3 yrs, Thos. Holton; Sch. Insp.—Wm. C. Calland; Dr. Com.—Thos. Holton.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Geo. W. Long; Treas.—Jas. A. Templar; H. C.—E. Shaw; J. P.—Wm. Culver; Sch. Insp.—John M. Brickan.

Local option election Feby 13, 1888—for local option, 237; against, 71.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—F. D. Weller; Treas.—Jas. A. Templar; H. C.—E. Shaw; J. P.—W. J. Miller; Sch. Insp.—Chas. H. Bard; Dr. Com.—John D. McCrimmon.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—F. D. Weller; Treas.—Samuel Gordon; H. C.—E. Shaw; J. P.—Chas. H. Bard; Sch. Insp.—John M. Brickan.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Frank W. Hastings; Treas.—Jas. A. Templar; H. C.—E. G. Sechler; J. P.—F. D. Weller; Sch. Insp.—Lucia Ludwig; Dr. Com.—Philip D. Bordine; Review—Eliphalet Ludwig, Lewis T. Chapin.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Geo. W. Graham; Treas.—Thos. Harrison; H. C.—E. G. Sechler; J. P.—Wm. Culver; vacancy, J. W. Salsbury; Sch. Insp.—Newton Burns; Review—Wallace Perkins.

To raise $300 for a town hall—yes, 206; no, 7.

May 22, '91, J. M. Brickan was appointed school inspector in place of Lucia Ludwig.

Local option election, Jan. 25, 1892—yes, 125; no, 31.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Forest B. Hastings; Treas.—Thos. Harrison, Jr.; H. C.—Frank A. Sexton; J. P.—W. J. Miller; vacancy, Wm. P. Du Bois; Sch. Insp.—Albert Calthorp; Dr. Com.—Clarence K. Fox; Review—E. Shaw.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Newton Burns; Treas.—Philip D. Bordine; H. C.—Frank A. Sexton; J. P.—J. R. Salisbury; vacancy, Noah Wilson; Sch. Insp.—H. Oscar Kelly.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Newton Burns; Treas.—Wm. A. Johnson; H. C.—F. A. Sexton; J. P.—Hazen Gidley; Sch. Insp.—Edmund E. Peters; Dr. Com.—E. Shaw; Review—Gil. E Hall.

Milton Shook was appointed census enumerator by the board.

Aug. 24, '94, Alba Sexton was appointed school inspector vice H. O. Kelly, removed from the township.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Newton Burns 143, W. J. Miller 143; Miller won the prize; Clk.—Wm. J. Baney; Treas.—Noah Wilson; H. C.—Wallace Perkins; J. P.—Wm. Culver; Sch. Insp.—Alba Sexton; Review—John A. Sias, S. P. Richardson.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—Wm. J. Baney; Treas.—Noah Wilson; H. C.—Geo. E. Smith; J. P.—Thos. Harrison, Jr.; Sch. Insp.—W. U. Barnes; Dr. Com.—Henry B. Gulick; Review—Edward F. Baker.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Henry Bodfish; Clk.—Wm. J. Baney; Treas.—Thos. Harrison, Jr.; H. C.—Geo. E. Smith; J. P.—J. R. Salisbury; Sch. Insp.—Alba Sexton; Review—Noah Wilson.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Henry Bodfish; Clk.—Wm. J. Baney; Treas.—Thos. Harrison, Jr.; H. C.—Geo. E. Smith; J. P.—Ai E. Milligan; Sch. Insp.—John H. Husted; Review—Wm. A. Johnson.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Henry Bodfish; Clk.—Wm. J. Baney; Treas.—Wm. H. Fox; H. C.—Frank Peach; J. P.—Thos. Richards; Sch. Insp.—Alba Sexton; Review—J. E. Holton.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—W. J. Miller; Clk.—W. J. Baney; Treas.—Wm. H. Fox; H. C.—Frank Peach; J. P.—R. H. Comstock; Sch. Insp.—M. Kidder. Review—Wm. A. Johnson.

For court house loan, $34,000—yes, 126; no. 188.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Wm. H. Fox; Clk.—John C. Baney; Treas.—Wm. A. Johnson; H. C.—Frank Peach; J. P.—J. R. Salisbury; Sch. Insp.—Frank A. Comstock; Review—Alba Sexton.

April 10, board appointed H. B. Gulick to the board of review vice W. A. Johnson, resigned.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—Wm. H. Fox; Clk.—J. C. Baney; Treas.—Wm. A. Johnson; H. C.—Frank Peach; Sch. Insp.—Alba Sexton; Review—H. B. Gulick, Wm. Howland.

Local option—yes, 130; no, 154.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Wm. A. Johnson; Clk.—J. C. Baney; Treas.—Jonathan W. Salsbury; H. C.—Alba Sexton; J. P.—Thos. Richards; Sch. Insp.—Fred Comstock; Review—Sam. Barnes.

April 7, 1903, Wm. A. Johnson resigned and the board appointed Thos. Richards, supervisor.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Thos. Richards; Clk.—J. C. Baney; Treas.—Frank Peach; H. C.—Alba Sexton; J. P.—Franklin P. Shook; Sch. Insp.—N. Burns; Review—Elias M. Wagner.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—J. C. Baney; Treas.—Thos. Richards; H. C.—Frank McLean; J. P.—Newton Burns; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Foster; Review—Sam. Barnes.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred C. Pernert; Treas.—Thos. Richards; H. C.—Frank McLean; J. P.—Henry Bodfish; Sch. Insp.—Benson J. Youngs; Review— Thos. Harrison.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred C. Pernert; Treas.—W. J. Miller; H. C.—Oscar Wolf; J. P.—Edward F. Baker; vacancy, Orin J. Duryee; Review—Henry M. Martin.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred C. Pernert; Treas.— B. J. Youngs; H. C.—Franklin P. Shook; O. of H.—Alex. Stewart; J. P.—Thos. Harrison; Sch. Insp.—J. C. Baney; Review—Noah Wilson.

Local option—yes, 189; no, 113.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred C. Pernert; Treas.—B. J. Youngs; H. C.—Alex. Stewart; O. of H.—W. G. Ward; J. P.—Newton Burns; Review—Frank W. Hufford.

March 20, 1910, the board divided the township into four road districts, dividing on the center line each way and numbering the districts as follows: No. 1, the northeast corner of the township; No. 2, the northwest corner; No. 3, the southwest corner; No. 4, the southeast corner. An overseer to be elected for each district.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred C. Pernert; Treas.—J. C. Baney; H. C.—Frank P. Shook; O. of H.—Dist. No. 1, Wesley Beard; No.

2, Noah Wilson; No. 3, Henry M. Martin; No. 4, Geo. Hurst; J. P.—B. J. Youngs; Review—Wm. A. Johnson.

Noah Wilson and H. M. Martin failed to qualify as overseers, and the board appointed John Schultheiss and Wm. Culver to be overseers of the respective districts.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Fred C. Pernert; Clk.—Fred A. Comstock; Treas.—J. C. Baney; J. P.—Edward F. Baker; Review—Sam. Barnes; H. C.—Frank P. Shook; O. of H.—No. 1, John Kehl; No. 2, John Schultheiss; No. 3, Wm. Culver; No. 4, Clarence Muscott.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Fred C. Pernert; Clk.—Fred A. Comstock; Treas.—Oscar Wolf; J. P.—Thos. Harrison; vacancy, J. C. Baney; Review—Fred Bebow; H. C.—Theo Rosenberger; O. of H.—No. 1, Chas. Rowley; No. 2, Jacob Bucholz; No. 3, Chas. Bebow; No. 4, Geo. Hurst.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Frank Peach; Clk.—Fred Comstock; Treas.—John Baney; H. C.—Frank P. Shook; O. of H.—No. 1, Wesley Beard; No. 2, Chris. C. Apple; No. 3, Chas. Bebow; No. 4, Geo. Hurst; J. P.—Elmer Fought; Review—Frank McLean.

Vote on Woman Suffrage: Yes, 56; No, 134.

Vote on Co. Road System: Yes, 54; no, 139.

### Supervisors.

Welcome J. Partelo, 1858.
Fred D. Weller, 1859, '60.
Bernard Fox, 1861.
Edward L. Drake, 1862, '65.
Wm. B. Harris, ap. July 5, '62.
Alfred Clark, 1863, '64, '66.
Welcome P. Partelo, ap. Feby. 17, '64.
Jonathan C. Giddings, 1867, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74.
Floyd E. Martin, ap. April 20, '75. (In place of J. W. Salsbury, failed to qualify.)
Seely D. Hicks, 1876, '77, '78.
John G. Thompson, 1879.
Willard D. Tucker, 1880, '81, '82.
Mortimer Sharpsteen, 1883, '84.
Wesley J. Miller, 1885, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '00.
Henry Bodfish, 1897, '98, '99.
Wm. H. Fox, 1901, '02.
Wm. A. Johnson, 1903.
Thos. Richards, ap. April 7, '03; ,04.
Frank Peach, 1905, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '13.
Fred C. Pernert, 1911, '12.

### Township Clerks.

Bernard Fox, 1858.
W. J. Partelo, 1859.
Harlow Cramer, 1860.
Chas. E. Going, 1861.
Jas. T. Rooks, 1862.
Sam. C. Skinner, 1863, '64.
Jas. S. Eager, 1865.
Elias W. Smith, 1866.
Alfred Clark, 1867.
Geo. L. Patch, 1868, 69.
F. D. Weller, 1870, '88, '89.
Ira G. Dillon, 1871.
Silas C. Crossman, 1872.
Newell Leonard, 1873.
Wm. H. Ostrom, 1874.
Levi O. Rowland, 1875, '76, '77, '84.
J. Frank Suydam, 1878.
Albert Holmes, 1879.
Henry Smalley, 1880.
J. Marks, 1881.
E. R. Landon, 1882, '83.
N. M. Cook, 1885.
Geo. W. Long, 1886, '87.
Frank W. Hastings, 1890.
Geo. W. Graham, 1891.
Forest B. Hastings, 1892.
Newton Burns, 1893, '94.
Wm. J. Baney, 1895, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00.
John C. Baney, 1901, '02, '03, '04, '05.
Fred C. Pernert, 1906, '07, '08, '09, '10.
Fred A. Comstock, 1911, '12, '13.

**Treasurers.**

John Bailey, 1858, '59.
Alfred Clark, ap. Dec. 26, '59; '60, '61, '62.
Henry H. Partelo, 1863.
W. L. Stebbins, 1864.
F. D. Weller, 1865.
S. C. Skinner, 1866, '67, '68, '69.
John G. Thompson, 1870, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '77, '78.
Wm. C. Thompson, 1876.
Newell M. Cook, 1879, '80, '83, '84.
Wm. C. Garbutt, 1881, '82.
J. W. Salsbury, 1885, '86, '03.
Jas. A. Templar, 1887, '88, '90.
Samuel Gordon, 1889.
Thos. Harrison, Jr., 1891, '92, '97, '98.
Philip D. Bordine, 1893.
Wm. A. Johnson, 1894, '01, '02.
Noah Wilson, 1895, '96.
Wm. H. Fox, 1899, '00.
Frank Peach, 1904.
Thos. Richards, 1905, '06.
W. J. Miller, 1907.
B. J. Youngs, 1908, '09.
J. C. Baney, 1910, '11, '13.
Oscar Wolf, 1912.

## BETHANY BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### ROWLEY.

Joel Rowley, son of Jaduthan and Clarissa Rowley, was born in Cameron, Steuben County, N. Y., October 28, 1819. He was married December 11, 1845, to Mary E. Rooks, daughter of David M. and Sophia Rooks, born at Erwin, Steuben County, N. Y., December 12, 1829. To this union four children were born—Edwin D., Francis J., C. Eugene and Clarissa S. The wife and three of the children preceded Mr. Rowley to the "Great Beyond", Eugene, now a resident of Seattle, Washington, being the only survivor of the family. Mr. Rowley died at the home of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary L. Rowley, one and one-half miles east of St. Louis, February 11, 1905.

Coming to Michigan in 1854, Mr. Rowley first settled in Lansing, at that time but a small place. While living there he helped to grade the ground where the state capital now stands. In 1856 he removed with his family to St. Louis, this county. What has since grown to be a populous and thriving city, was at that time but a small clearing of about ten acres in the midst of the forest, with but seven or eight houses. They came on sleighs from Lansing, arriving January 8, 1856, taking up their residence in a log house, the floor of which was made of hewed logs. Access to the chamber was gained by way of pegs driven into holes bored in the logs that formed the side walls. Such was the style in those pioneer days. In those days the groceries and other merchandise used by the settlers were brought from Saginaw in canoes. One of the largest of the canoes was made from a large tree which was cut on the ground now occupied by the chemical works. This canoe would carry about a ton of goods, and the round trip took about a week. This was about ten years before a road was made through the dense woods between St. Louis and Saginaw.

Mr. Rowley enlisted in his country's military service August 12, 1861. In 1863 he re-enlisted and was granted a furlough of thirty days to visit his family. In the Battle of the Wilderness he was severely wounded, but he continued in the service till the close of the war, when he returned to his home in St. Louis, afterward removing to his farm one and one-half miles east of St. Louis where he spent the remainder of his life, passing through all of the experiences usual with the pioneer settlers in a new country. He and his estimable family were, and are, rightly classed among Gratiot County's most respected pioneers.

## WHEELER.

James A. Wheeler, of Iola, Kansas, was born in Jamestown, New York, July 12, 1864. His parents were Aaron M. and Lucy J. (Landon) Wheeler, pioneers and well-known residents of Gratiot County for many years, coming to the county in November, 1867, and settling on the northeast ¼ of the northwest ¼ of section 26, Bethany Township.



AARON M. WHEELER.

Aaron M. Wheeler was born in Washington County, N. Y., February 23, 1821, and died July 27, 1896. Mrs. Lucy J. Wheeler was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., January 17, 1828, and died December 2, 1910.

Eight children were born to their union: Sarah M., born May 16, 1850, was married February 28, 1869, to Seth C. Burgess, who died July 8, 1890. She was afterward married to Henry H. Geiger, in Denver, Colorado, August 24, 1892. He died April 5, 1912, at their home in Seattle, Wash.

Mary E., born June 26, 1853; married February 3, 1874, to Wm. C. Garbutt, who died May 14, 1897. The widow now resides in Detroit, Mich.

Hattie F., born August 7, 1855; married December 3, 1875, to Alba E. Sexton; now living on the homestead above described.

Chesley D., born July 12, 1857; died at the age of three years.

Emma L., born February 11, 1859; married April 27, 1881, to Wm. L. Holmes, Detroit, Mich., their present address.

James A., (as above stated); Cyrus F., born August 2, 1866, married July 14, 1891, to Miss Fannie L. Todd.

Wm. A., born September 11, 1868; married December 10, 1890, to Minnie M. King, of Bay City, Mich., their present address being Iola, Kansas.

Three children born to Mr. Wheeler by a former marriage were named as follows: Melissa J., Ellen A. and David P. Melissa is still living, a resident of Detroit. She is the widow of J. P. Gilmore. Ellen A. was married in Detroit to Henry Bridge. She died July 2, 1908, at Mishawaka, Mich.

David P. was married to Calista H. Willard, in Detroit, Mich., and died December 25, 1901, in Akron, Ohio.



MRS. A. M. WHEELER.

James A. Wheeler's youth was spent about as is usual with farmers' sons—assisting at the farm work and securing a common school education. After leaving school he was employed as bookkeeper and assistant cashier in Harrington & Saviers' Bank, St. Louis, Mich., (afterward reorganized and its name changed to the Commercial Savings Bank) continuing with that institution until the year 1891, when he moved to Detroit, and entered the employ of W. L. Holmes. In 1899 he removed to Iola, Kansas, in the em-

ploy of the American Construction Co. of which Mr. Holmes was president, to take charge of the office and financial end of the company's business in the construction of the Iola Portland Cement Co.'s plant at that place. This work was completed in about a year, after which Mr. Wheeler was retained by the Cement Company mentioned, as assistant secretary and treasurer, which position he has held continuously to the present time.

September 8, 1887, at St. Louis, Mich., Mr. Wheeler was united in marriage to Miss Minnie M. Stebbins, one of St. Louis' most popular and worthy young ladies, daughter of Wolcott L. and Margaret L. (Francisco) Stebbins. She was born in St. Louis, Mich., July 2, 1865, enjoyed the advantages of the St. Louis schools, and was a member of the first class to graduate from the high school—the class of 1884.

Her father was born in Monroe County, N. Y., September 10, 1822, and died January 20, 1895, in St. Louis, Mich. Her mother was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., October 9, 1809, and died in St. Louis, Mich., September 8, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins were the parents of eight children of whom Minnie M. was the sixth in their order: Edgar A. was born June 14, 1851; Arthur M., June 29, 1853; Clara F., December 5, 1856; Frederick A., March 7, 1859; Orville W., June 19, 1861, died October 5, 1897; Minnie M. (as above written); Bessie B., September 6, 1869; Myrtle B., February 26, 1872.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Wheeler are the parents of two children, as follows: Florence B., born April 4, 1889, and Louis J., born May 29, 1895.

It is a real pleasure to be able to place this family history, though briefly written, upon the pages of this volume, particularly so, for the reason that nearly every individual mentioned was for thirty or more years well known to the writer.

The families of Aaron M. Wheeler and Wolcott L. Stebbins would justly occupy positions well along toward the head in a list of the substantial, reliable, and popular early residents of Gratiot County.

## FOX.

Bernard Fox was one of the first settlers of Bethany Township, locating land on section 13 in 1855 and settling permanently on the same in 1857. His experiences as a pioneer were similar to those of hundreds of others, and they were met with greater energy and perseverence than that displayed by many. During the period of destitution in the new county he managed in such a way that he weathered the hardships without assistance, when so many others became the beneficiaries of the charitable and of those in authority. Mr. Fox was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., January 27, 1814. September 2, 1835, he was married to Dorinda Kennedy, daughter of Henry and Anna (Blair) Kennedy, who was born in Bath, N. Y., October 13, 1813. Mr. and Mrs. Fox were the parents of ten children, eight of whom lived to reach mature years, and several of them still residents of Gratiot County.

Mr. Fox took an active and a leading part in township affairs in the early days, and whatever position he filled, officially, was filled to the entire satisfaction of his townsmen. A conscientious devotion to justice and equity was his strong point, and it won for him the confidence of his fellows in marked degree. He held various positions such as township clerk, justice of the peace and supervisor, the latter in 1861.

Bernard Fox died April 24, 1899, aged 85 years, his wife having preceded him, passing away January 14, 1892, at the age of 79 years.

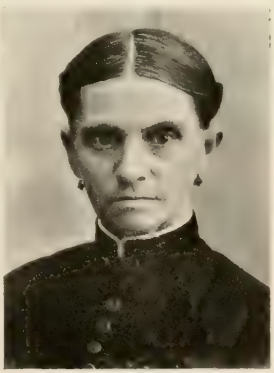
## McLEAN.

Frank McLean, the subject of this sketch, was born in Lindley Township, Steuben County, N. Y., November 4, 1863, of American parentage. His father, Wanton McLean, was born in New York State, December 25, 1828. The father's earlier days were spent, mostly, as an employe in various vocations until the autumn of 1871, when he came with his family to Bethany, Gratiot County, and launched out upon the great sea of life in earnest for himself and family. Many were the battles he fought with the uncertain but powerful forces of destiny, and by incessant struggles came out victorious in the end, accumulating a valuable property, besides raising a large family. The truth of this large family suggestion is fully borne out by the fact that at the Michigan Central Union Fair held midway between St. Louis and Alma he and his wife won the first prize for attending with the largest family.



WANTON McLEAN.

Wanton McLean was married January 30, 1851, to Sarah Allen, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., September 16, 1836, daughter of Henry J. Allen. To this union there were eleven children born, eight of whom are still living; brief sketches of all follow: Henry, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., January 21, 1854, married to Lizzie Lindsay, of Indian River, Mich., September 11, 1881; now living in Detroit. Adda, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., July 16, 1855, married Hiram Mills, April 3, 1887; resides at New Baltimore, Mich. Delphine, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., March 20, 1857, married Thomas Richards, a school teacher, of Bethany, March 14, 1877; now residing in Oregon. Charlie, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., January 1, 1859, married Hattie Clark, in Kentucky, August 30, 1892; now living in Porter township, Midland County, Mich. Helen, born in Schuyler County, N. Y., November 6, 1861, died February 11, 1868. Frank, our principal subject, born November 4, 1863. Edward, born at Lindley, N. Y., September 27, 1865, married to Ella Houselander, February 23, 1888; now resides in Bethany. Ella, born in Steuben County, N. Y., April 16, 1868, married Robert Monroe, in 1893; lived in Bethany during her short married life and died September 25, 1894. Fred, born in Steuben County, N. Y., December 10, 1870, married Nettie Perkins, July 24, 1895; lives two and a half miles southeast of St. Louis. Bertie, born in Gratiot County, February 22, 1873, died August 7, 1879. Clarence, born in Gratiot County, April 22, 1875, married Belle Richardson, April 29, 1897; now resides on the old homestead.



MRS. WANTON McLEAN.

The father, Wanton McLean, died March 24, 1907. The mother, Sarah (Allen) McLean, died July 1, 1895. They were among Bethany's most highly esteemed citizens.

Frank McLean came to Gratiot with his parents in the fall of 1871, at the time of the great forest fires when Gratiot was suffering in common with many other sections of the country. His father bought 80 acres of wild land and built a log cabin one-fourth of a mile from the Vincent school, already established, where Frank received his entire school education. It may not be out of place to say that the youngster, being alert and witty, possessed his full share of boyish mischievousness. By a companion it is told that during one of his periods of "gayety"—so called to avoid a harsher word—while school was in session, the teacher said to him, "Frank, I believe you lie awake nights studying deviltry." Frank's prompt reply was, "No, I study it daytimes and work it out nights."

In helping his father to improve the farm, together with many winters spent in the lumber woods in Central and Northern Michigan, he has contributed his share to the pioneer annals of the county and state. He was married March 25, 1885, to Miss Minnie Culver, daughter of William and Lecta Louisa (Leonard) Culver, of Bethany. She was born in Schuyler County, N. Y., August 31, 1867. She has one brother, N. Leonard Culver. He was married, first, to Mabel Morrison, who passed away, leaving a daughter, Neva. He afterward married Bertha Bebow.

Mr. McLean has held the office of highway commissioner of his township, and has served in other official capacities. He was an officer in his school district several years, and was one of the principal promoters of the rural telephone lines in his locality, and in various other ways has shown himself to be one of the progressive and enterprising citizens of Bethany Township. He is a Pythian, a Maccabee and a Gleaner. Mrs. McLean belongs to the Ladies of the Maccabees and to the Gleaners.

## CUMMINGS.

Ora Cummings, a farmer, residing on section 23, Bethany Township, was born in St. Louis, Mich., August 21, 1860, son of James Avery Cummings and Sophronia (Sias) Cummings, the former born in the State of New York in 1837, the latter also a native of New York State, born in 1842. They were united in marriage June, 1859, and became the parents of four sons—George, Ira, James Avery, Jr., and Ora, our subject.

The father, James A. Cummings, came to Gratiot County and to St. Louis when sixteen years of age. At that time practically the whole county was a wilderness, and St. Louis had but half a dozen settlers. His first employment was clearing and logging the ground now occupied by the western portion of the City of St. Louis. Afterward he bought a farm of 160 acres lying north of St. Louis. Later he built a hotel in St. Louis, and was conducting it as landlord at the time of his death, which occurred February 27, 1867. The hotel was named the "Loder House", later being known as the "Exchange", the "Commercial", etc., and in comparatively recent years was transformed into a department store, finally being destroyed by fire March 20, 1911.

Ora Cummings, the principal subject of this sketch, was married at St. Louis, September 10, 1885, to Miss Alida E. Niles, who was born at Alburgh Springs, Vermont, daughter of Nathan Niles, also born at Alburgh Springs, 1830, and of Clara (West) Niles, a native of New York, born April 23, 1823. Mr. and Mrs. Niles were married in 1861, and had children born to them as follows: Henry G., Bertha and Alida E.

Ora Cummings has resided in Gratiot County all his life. He and Mrs. Cummings are the parents of four children—Bessie, Ethel, Verna and Niles. Bessie, was born in St. Louis, March 7, 1887. She was married June 12, 1912, to Arthur L. Lane. Ethel was born on a farm north of St. Louis, January 28, 1889. She was married to Fred Burlingame January 24, 1912. They live on a farm two and one-half miles northwest of Breckenridge. Verna was born on a farm north of St. Louis, July 27, 1890, and was married to Elmer Behler, November 30, 1910. They have a daughter—Beulah Elizabeth—born August 9, 1911. Niles was born November 3, 1899, on the farm where the family resides, west of Breckenridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Cummings and their children are members of the Church of Christ, St. Louis, and are held in high esteem by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

## COLE.

This sketch has for its subject one of the prosperous farmers of Bethany—Prentice W. Cole, who resides on section 34 of that township. He was born in Greenwood, Steuben County, N. Y., February 9, 1858. His father, David D. Cole, was born in Howard, Steuben County, in 1832. His mother, Harriet M. Cole, who was the daughter of Warren and Sally Bunker, was born in Hoosic, Vermont, in the year 1834.



PRENTICE W. COLE.

To the union of David D. and Harriet M. Cole five children were born; all entering upon their earthly careers at Greenwood, N. Y., their names and birth-dates being as follows: Adah E., born in 1854; Hiram L., born in 1856; Prentice W., as stated above; Frank E., born in 1861; Rose, born in 1864, died in infancy.

Prentice W. Cole came to Michigan March 17, 1881, establishing himself at Rockland as engineer in a shingle and lumber mill. After about a year and a half he went to Rock Lake and engaged in the same vocation for about wo years, going from there to Harrison where he remained one and a half years. While a resident of Harrison he bought the farm—then all woods—where he now lives. He did not then move on to the place, but went to Ithaca and secured a position as engineer in the stave and heading factory of C. W. Althouse. Here he remained for a period of about 15 years. While thus engaged he spent his surplus earnings in clearing up his 80-acre farm in Bethany, and erecting the needed farm buildings. He also bought 40 acres adjoining on section 35.

On the 28th of March, 1901, Mr. Cole removed with his family to the farm, where he has since resided, engaged in all the arduous activities of a farmer's life. He has since added to his possessions two 80-acre farms, being now the owner of 280 acres of valuable farming lands, with possibilities for still further additions to his landed domain.

Mr. Cole was married at Elm Hall, this county, October 4, 1882, to Carrie Akins, daughter of George B. and Mary Akins, both natives of New York State. She was one of a family of seven brothers and five sisters, and was born in the year 1865. The parents settled in Ithaca in 1866, afterward removing to Fruitport, Mich.

Children of Prentice W., and Carrie Cole are as follows: Mabel, born May 23, 1884; Florence, born August 3, 1888, died December 3, 1888; Estel, born August 8, 1890; Prentice, born July 21, 1894; Ivan F., born March 27, 1901; George Everett, born May 7, 1904. Mabel, the oldest child, was married to Harry Clawson, December, 1903. They reside on section 28, Bethany, and have one son, Clay Clawson, born January 1, 1905. Estel Cole was married March 20, 1907, to Blair Laughery. They live on section 34, Bethany, and have a daughter, Margaret, born March 5, 1908.

This sketch deals with a family of industry, progress and thrift; people who deservedly stand high in the esteem of their fellow-citizens.

## ROWLEY.

Francis J. Rowley, second son of Joel and Mary E. Rowley, was born in Addison, Steuben County, N. Y., June 26, 1848. He came to Gratiot with his parents in 1856, and was consequently one of the pioneers of St. Louis and of Bethany Township. In February, 1864, when less than sixteen years old, he enlisted in Company E, 8th Mich. Infantry. His first experience in active service was at the Battle of the Wilderness, where his father, Joel Rowley, was wounded. He was with Grant throughout the entire Wilderness campaign, participating in most of the engagements, including the famous siege of Petersburg. At the close of the war he returned to his home in St. Louis, soon thereafter settling on a forest farm one and three-fourths miles east of St. Louis. There he resided, engaged in clearing and otherwise improving his farm, until his death, which occurred July 25, 1885. His death was sudden and unexpected, from rheumatism of the heart; a great shock to his family and a source of keen regret to all his acquaintances, among whom he was exceptionally popular. A devoted wife and three children survived him, all of whom are still living.

Francis J. Rowley was married to Mary L. Vincent, July 3, 1873. She was born November 26, 1850, in Niagara County, New York, daughter of Norman D. and Sarah Vincent. To them were born three children: Nellie M., born May 25, 1874, is married to George W. Graham and resides in Bethany Township. Edith B. was born August 19, 1877, and is now the wife of Arthur Church, residing in Alma. Charles F., born March 28, 1883, is married to Lucretia Holtsberry and resides in St. Louis. The mother, Mrs. Mary L. Rowley, now resides in St. Louis, having sold the home farm in March, 1911.

The biographical sketches of Joel and Frank Rowley, together with brief mention of their families, will be read with great interest by all who knew them or knew of them.

## BURNS.

The biographical sketch of Newton Burns in connection with this work will be considered favorably by a host of friends in Gratiot County. He was born in Pekin, Niagara County, N. Y., July 18, 1853, son of Samuel and Abigail (Hubbard) Burns. He is the fifth in a family of eight children, as follows: Dennis H., died at the age of thirty-eight years; Martin; Sophia, deceased, who was the wife of H. H. Wilcox; Lucia, who married W. O. Kellam; Newton; Irving; Herman; Elmer. The father died in Niagara County, N. Y., February 10, 1889, at the age of about eighty years. The mother died at Pekin, N. Y., December 21, 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Burns were loyal and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Newton Burns was reared on his father's farm in Niagara County, N. Y., and received a good common school education. Later, in addition to his

farming activities, he engaged in teaching, becoming well and favorably known as an educator. In the year 1887 he removed to Gratiot County, purchasing the Seely D. Hicks farm on section 32, Bethany Township; a valuable farm of eighty acres, under a fine state of cultivation. There he still resides. Since becoming a resident of Gratiot he has taught about six years in his township and in Wheeler Village.

Mr. Burns was married in Niagara County, N. Y., April 22, 1874, to Miss Mary P. Maxon, daughter of Stephen B. and Sarah (Ray) Maxon. She was born October 5, 1851.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Burns there were four children born: M. Estelle was married to Geo. W. Moore. They reside in Alma, Mich., and are the parents of two sons, Harold D. and Arlan W. Wilbur N. Burns was married to Grace Bartrem, of St. Louis, Mich. They reside in Niles, Mich., where Wilbur N. is in the active practice of law. They have two children—Robert B. and Mary A.

Myra Burns is married to Claire Rogers, of Ithaca. They reside in Chicago, Ill.

Edna M. Burns died in Bethany Township, aged about six years.

Newton Burns is one of the wide-awake citizens of the county, aggressive and outspoken in the interest of any matter or cause that he believes to be right. Anything tending to promote morality, justice and good citizenship is sure to have his earnest and energetic support. He and Mrs. Burns are active members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Burns is active in the orders of the I. O. O. F., K. O. T. M. M., A. O. O. G., and of the Grange, and has served officially in all of those orders.

In his township, Mr. Burns has been chosen to several offices of trust and responsibility—school inspector in 1891 and 1904; clerk in 1893 and '94; justice of the peace in 1905 and '09. In 1895 he was tied with Wesley J. Miller for supervisor, and lost out in the "gamble" for the place.

At the session of the board of supervisors in October, 1899, Mr. Burns was appointed county drain commissioner, filling the office with marked ability for a period of two years. If he made any enemies in that office—which bad luck sometimes happens to a drain commissioner—doubtless he evened up matter by winning many friends.

Mr. Burns was the Populist candidate for representative in the legislature in the fall of 1894, making an excellent run for that honorable position. At the primaries of September, 1910, Mr. Burns received the Democratic nomination for county clerk, and though defeated at the November election, he reduced his opponents majority one-half from what it was two years before.

In the political activities of 1912 Mr. Burns was a progressive, an ardent admirer of W. J. Bryan, and an earnest supporter of Woodrow Wilson for president.

## KIDDER.

In connection with a history of Gratiot County it is a pleasure to give a biographical sketch of Martin Kidder, a resident on section 21, Bethany Township. Here he has a fine farm, well cultivated and very satisfactorily productive. The buildings are sufficient and convenient, and Mr. Kidder and his estimable wife are passing their declining years in comfort well earned and well deserved.

Martin Kidder was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, October 6, 1839. His father—Nathan Kidder—and his mother—Oroline (Simons) Kidder died while he was yet a youth, leaving him to his own resources in the battle of

life. He learned the trade of a machinist and followed that vocation till the breaking out of the Civil War when he went to the front in the service of his country as a member of Company F, 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery. He served three years, participating in the battles of Fair Oaks, Yorktown, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill and Drury's Bluff, besides many other engagements of minor importance. After receiving an honorable discharge he returned to his home in Connecticut and engaged in agricultural pursuits.

September 29, 1869, Mr. Kidder was married at Watertown, Connecticut, to Mary J., daughter of David S. and Maria J. (Hubbell) Munn, who was born June 18, 1851. They came to St. Louis December 1, 1870, and shortly afterward purchased and removed to the tract of land where they have ever since resided. It was a wild and discouraging location in that early day, like many another portion of the county; entirely too well watered in some seasons of the year. Many days of peristent effort, however, have brought happy results, developing the unpromising tract into a valuable and productive farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Kidder are the parents of two children: Nathan was born April 21, 1875; Wealthy was born December 10, 1877. Nathan was married to Luella Aldrich, November 2, 1898. They have three daughters—Alice Louise, born July 24, 1901; Lucile Mary, born January 29, 1905, and Eloise Cristine, born September 11, 1908. A baby girl was born August 2, 1903, and died September 2, 1903. They own and reside upon a forty-acre farm on section 28, Bethany Township, and have a pleasant home. The daughter—Wealthy—married Milton Cramer October 12, 1898. Two children have resulted from the union—Clay Adair, born February 11, 1903, and Mary Etta, born September 14, 1905. They reside in Owosso, Mich.

Martin Kidder has always held decided views in all matters of national, state and local import, and is of a nature and disposition to maintain and defend those views with fidelity and vigor. Recognizing his worth, and with faith and confidence in his integrity, his townsmen have many times called him to positions of responsibility. He was for several years township drain commissioner, and, as such, was instrumental in establishing many of the drains that have had so much to do with the development of the township. The office of drain commissioner is confessedly the most difficult and thankless in the whole list of offices in the gift of the people, but it seems but proper to state that Mr. Kidder came through with as good a record for thorough and efficient work as was ever enjoyed by anyone who has ever held that office within the county. Not only that, but he can also have the satisfaction of knowing that in all of the controversies growing out of a faithful discharge of the duties of the office, his opponents never had anything coming to them when the arguments were all in. In addition to the office mentioned, Mr. Kidder has served as justice of the peace. In politics he is a Democrat, having developed into that faith by way of the old Greenback party.

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**Welcome J. Partelo,** the first supervisor of Bethany—1858—came to that township in 1855. He came from the Township of Victor, Clinton County, in which township he was the first white settler. A history of Clinton County issued in 1880 contains this interesting item: "At that time—1836—one Welcome J. Partelo effected on the southwest quarter of section 31 the pioneer clearing. Although he did not discover his error until some years afterward, he settled upon land belonging to other parties, but adjoining his own. Unconscious of his mistake he worked and improved that place, set out an orchard, and very materially enhanced its value, when there came to him the knowledge one day that he had been improving

another man's land while his own had all that time been suffered to lie neglected. Partelo was of course chagrined and much disgusted when the revelation fell upon him, but as he was fortunately permitted to purchase the property at the price of unimproved land, he escaped from the dilemma with considerable satisfaction, and continued to make his home where he had begun. Mr. Partelo was chosen the first supervisor of DeWitt Township, Clinton County, which included at that time—1837—the present Township of Victor. Clinton County was at that time attached to Kent County, and Mr. Partelo met with the Kent County supervisors at Grand Rapids. He was re-elected in 1838, and as Clinton County had by that time been transferred to Shiawassee County, Mr. Partelo met with the Shiawassee supervisors at Corunna. In 1839 Victor was organized as a separate township, and Mr. Partelo was chosen school inspector, and the next year, justice of the peace. After removing to Bethany and serving as first supervisor in 1858, he served as township clerk and highway commissioner in 1859. He died in the year 1863. His son, Welcome Phineas Partelo, was a well-known resident for many years, and held the offices of justice of the peace and highway commissioner. He died August 4, 1895, aged 78. Mrs. Amelia J. Partelo, his wife, died September 26, 1906.

**Frederick D. Weller** was one of the early settlers of Bethany Township, within the limits of St. Louis Village. He held many official positions, both in township and village, and was elected sheriff of the county in 1860 and '62. In the township he held the office of supervisor two years, clerk three years, treasurer one year, justice of the peace three terms. In St. Louis Village he was clerk and marshal. He died June 9, 1897, aged 77 years. His wife, Susan A. Weller, an estimable woman and a great church worker, died December 7, 1893, aged 60. Their only son, J. Archie, died June 14, 1903, at his home in Tampa, Florida, aged 43. Their only daughter, Addie, died in St. Louis, April 16, 1912, aged 62.

**Henry Smith,** son of Ira and Zada (Hitchcock) Smith, was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., September 10, 1825. He came to Gratiot County in 1854, locating land in Pine River Township, near St. Louis, on section 26. October 22, 1856, he was married to Julia A. Porter, daughter of Elijah Porter of Pine River. Her death occurring May 19, 1862, he married her sister, Sarah E., May 4, 1864. Children by the first wife were Julius, Cornelia and Louise; by the second—Miles, Mortimer, Arthur, Laura, Mary and Virgil. Mr. Smith was the first clerk of Pine River—1855 and '56—and was elected county clerk in November, 1856. He died June 22, 1895, at his home in Bethany, to which township he removed in 1882.

Bethany Township has had no lack of first-class citizens to transact her business, uphold her honor and to shed luster upon her history. Enough are here mentioned to fully prove this claim: Alfred Clark, supervisor, etc.; Jonathan C. Giddings, supervisor eight times and chairman board of supervisors; Floyd E. Martin, supervisor; John G. Thompson, treasurer eight years; Mortimer Sharpsteen, supervisor; Harlow and Martin Cramer; Ephraim Pettey, justice many years; William A., James M. and Edwin Johnson; John Baney and his sons, William J. and John C.; William H. Fox; Frank Peach; Fred C. Pernert; Jonathan W. Salsbury; Joseph R. Salisbury; William C. and son, Lewis F. Thompson; Wesley J. Miller, thirteen times supervisor; Charles T. Richards, Democratic candidate for representative in 1902; Henry Bodfish; Seely D. Hicks, Greenback candidate for sheriff in 1880; Charles W. Hicks; Elias Shaw, holding various

official positions, and an earnest politician; Edward Lake; Joel Rowley and sons, Edward, Frank and Eugene, (see sketch); L. T. Chapin; Samuel M. Barnes; Hiram Kelly and son, H. Oscar; Chas. Rooks; Ed. G. Sechler; Joseph and Thomas Holton. It would amount to a canvass of the township to mention half of those entitled to recognition for aid in bringing Bethany up to its present high standing in the sisterhood of townships.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Allen, Mrs. David P.,** Dec. 21, 1881. A pioneer with many superior qualities.

**Acker, George,** Aug., 1883, aged 61.

**Allen, David P.,** Nov. 18, 1905, aged 82.

**Buell, Chauncey J.,** Sept. 10, 1888, aged 52.

**Bordine, Philip D.,** Nov. 27, 1893, aged about 40. Several years a resident of St. Louis; village marshal in 1885 and '86. Treasurer of Bethany at the time of his death.

**Broadhead, John,** Dec. 14, 1890, aged 61. A pioneer of 1856.

**Baney, Wm. J.,** July 10, 1900, aged 44. Was township clerk from 1895 to 1900.

**Baney, Mrs.,** wife of John Baney, January 21, 1902, aged 65. They were esteemed pioneers.

**Bucholz, Christopher,** Nov., 1906, aged 80. A pioneer of strict honor and integrity.

**Boggs, Wm. E.,** April 29, 1902, aged 76.

**Bodfish, Henry,** Aug. 14, 1906, aged 63. One of Bethany's foremost citizens; supervisor in 1897, '98 and '99.

**Bricken, John M.,** March 25, 1909, aged 69.

**Chapin, L. T.,** Oct. 18, 1901, aged 71. An esteemed early settler.

**Comstock, Robert H.,** April 6, 1905, aged 57.

**Cramer, Martin W.,** April, 1912, at his home in Holland, Mich., where he had lived about 20 years. Located in Bethany in 1854, and was an active, aggressive citizen. A soldier in the Civil War, member of the "Gratiot Rangers"—Company C, 8th Mich., Infantry. Aged 81 at his death; brother of Harlow Cramer.

**Cramer, Harlow,** at his home in Bethany, April 4, 1913, aged 83 years. He settled in Bethany in 1855. He was a man of sterling qualities, with intelligent and positive views, and with the courage to defend them. He was elected highway commissioner of Pine River and Bethany in 1856, and clerk of Bethany in 1860.

**Davison, Joseph,** May 29, 1872, aged 61. One of the honorable pioneers.

**Davison, Mrs. Margaret A.,** widow of Joseph Davison, March 4, 1891, aged 72.

**Dickinson, Wm. D.,** April 12, 1887, aged 48.

**Davison, Mrs.,** widow of the late Warren Davison, at the home of her son, Eugene, Lansing, April 8, 1911, aged 79.

**Frary, Joseph L.,** Nov. 19, 1890, aged 83. An old-timer, proprietor of Frary's Addition to St. Louis. Mrs. Frary died in Pine River Township in 1871.

**Fox, Mrs.,** wife of Clarence K. Fox, January 13, 1904.

**Gamble, John,** February 7, 1872, aged 32. A young man of excellent standing.

**Gould, James H.,** January 21, 1907, aged 73.

**Gilliland, Samuel,** Nov. 2, 1903, aged 70.

**Goodyear, Geo. L.,** January 25, 1910, aged 77. An old soldier, residing in Bethany about 30 years.

**Hatfield, Jacob,** Oct. 28, 1870, aged 61.
**Hutchings, P. R.,** Nov. 26, 1880, aged 81; father of Mrs. R. S. Miller, of Elwell.
**Holton, Joseph, Sr.,** February 18, 1884, aged 70. One of Bethany's pioneers.
**Hurst, Mrs. Mary,** March 12, 1886, aged 85.
**Hunt, Jonas,** Dec. 30, 1887, aged 66.
**Hicks, Mrs. Clarissa,** wife of Seely D. Hicks, Aug. 15, 1887, aged 53. They settled here in 1874, and were of the best citizens.
**Holton, Elizabeth B.,** widow of Joseph Holton, Sr., July 17, 1895, aged 71; at the home of her son Frank.
**Harris, Wm. J.,** Aug. 25, 1890, aged 61.
**Hasbrook, Gilbert B.,** April 24, 1891, aged 77. A pioneer from 1865.
**Hill, Mrs. Cornelia,** June 13, 1903, aged 89; widow of Justin Hill, of St. Louis; at the home of her son, Albert R. Hill.
**Hill, Mrs.,** wife of Albert R. Hill, Nov. 22, 1909 at the age of 68 years. A valued resident more than 40 years.
**Higley, Mrs. Mary A.,** widow of Nelson Higley, May 19, 1910, aged 69. Pioneers, dating from 1865.
**Holton, Thomas,** Sept. 10, 1910, aged about 65. An active and aggressive citizen, who settled here in 1866.
**Hill, Albert R.,** April 17, 1913, aged 75 years. He settled in Eastern Bethany in 1866, and always stood well as a man of strict integrity. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and an active member of Billy Cruson Post, G. A. R. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah E. Hasbrook, passed away in November, 1909.
**Johnson, James M.,** January 27, 1884, aged 40 years. A popular farmer, highway commissioner several years.
**Johnson, Mrs. Emma M.,** wife of Edwin Johnson, Aug. 16, 1910, aged 55.
**Johnson, Mrs.,** wife of Wm. A. Johnson, July 5, 1911, aged 59.
**Kelly, Don,** son of Hiram Kelly, January 18, 1892, aged 24. Respected early settlers.
**Kelly, Mrs. Hannah A.,** July 14, 1904, at the age of 65 years.
**Kenyon, H. S.,** Dec. 29, 1910, aged 77. Mrs. Kenyon died a week later, aged 66. Pioneers of Bethany but had recently become residents of Wheeler.
**Lowell, David A.,** Aug. 15, 1887, aged 64.
**Lake, Edward,** Dec. 30, 1899, aged 75. First settled in Arcada, section 25, in 1854; in 1856 moved to section 20, Bethany, where he died 43 years later. Mrs. Lake died at St. Louis, May, 1912.
**Lathrop, Frank J.,** at the home of his son in Owosso, May 27, 1911, aged 70. Settled in Bethany in 1875.
**Munn, Mrs. Jane A.,** Oct. 26, 1889, aged 40; wife of Myron J. Munn.
**Munn, Myron J.,** June 19, 1912, aged 59.
**McGregor, James,** Nov. 5, 1889, aged 64. Settled here in 1868.
**McCord, Andrew,** March 30, 1891, aged 81.
**Myers, Peter,** Nov. 5, 1900, aged 79.
**McCall, John H.,** June 26, 1906, aged 73.
**Pearson, Mrs. Mary,** May 27, 1870, aged 80 years.
**Partelo, Dwight,** March 8, 1888, son of Welcome P. Partelo.
**Porter, Thomas A.,** April 17, 1890, aged 66.
**Pernert, John C.,** July 28, 1898, aged 54.
**Perkins, Wallace,** at his home in Alden, Mich., February, 1911. A resident of Bethany 26 years, having recently removed to Alden.
**Rowley, Francis J.,** July 25, 1885, aged 37. A Cicil War veteran, son of Joel Rowley. (See sketch).

**Rowley, Edward D.,** February 12, 1893, aged 47. A Civil War veteran, son of Joel Rowley.

**Rowley, Joel,** February 11, 1905, aged 76. Came here in 1856; an old soldier. (See sketch).

**Rowley, Mrs. Mary E. (Rooks),** wife of Joel Rowley, July 18, 1896, aged 66.

**Redman, Mrs. James H.,** Oct. 28, 1898. They settled here in 1866, and were of the best citizens.

**Rooks, Mrs. Sarah (Vliet),** wife of Charles Rooks, Oct. 29, 1909, aged 70.

**Rooks, Charles,** died at his home in St. Louis, Jan. 31, 1913, aged 72 years. He came to this county in 1859, settling in St. Louis. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Co. C, 8th Mich. Infantry. He was married in 1869 to Mrs. Sarah (Vliet) Harris, widow of Wm. B. Harris, and daughter of Nathan Vliet. The same year they settled on a farm in Bethany, where Mrs. Rooks died Oct., 1909. Mr. Rooks married, Dec., 1910, Mrs. Mary Clark, widow of John A. Clark. Besides his wife, he left a son, Charles Rooks.

**Snook, John S.,** April 29, 1873, aged 56.

**Suydam, Mrs. Mary (Goodenough),** April 27, 1888, aged about 30. Esteemed widow of Mark Burdette Suydam, who died January 10, 1884.

**Stevens, Charles W.,** Aug. 1, 1889, aged 46. A Bethany pioneer of 1860.

**Sharpsteen, Mortimer,** February 22, 1897. A leading citizen, settling here in 1880. Was supervisor in 1883 and '84.

**Shook, Milton,** January 6, 1898, aged 55. An esteemed pioneer.

**Shook, Peter,** June 9, 1908, aged 63. A veteran of the Civil War.

**Shaw, Israel,** Nov. 5, 1909, aged 72. Had the distinction of being brother to Elias Shaw.

**Shaw, Elias, February,** 1909, aged 74. Helped to organize the township, and got his reward by being chosen to several important positions, such as highway commissioner.

**Smith, Rachel,** Dec. 15, 1904, aged 103.

**Shook, Mrs.,** widow of John J. Shook, Oct., 1910, aged 77. An esteemed early settler. Her husband, who was a Civil War veteran, died March, 1904. (See sketch of Mortimer G. Shook).

**Stewart, James,** May 27, 1911, aged 66. A reliable pioneer.

**Suydam, Mark Burdette,** January 10, 1884, aged 30. Respected son of John H. Suydam, pioneers of St. Louis.

**Stewart Erwin,** March 6, 1912, aged 68 years. One of the old-timers at St. Louis, with many friends.

**Schultheiss, John,** suddenly at his home, Sept. 11, 1912, aged 56 years. He lived nearly his whole life in the township and left many relatives and friends.

**Shook, Mrs.** widow of the late Peter Shook, at the home of her son Fred, April 7, 1913, aged 65 years. They were early settlers in Bethany. Mr. Shook passed away in 1908.

**Salisbury, Mrs.** Helen M., wife of J. R. Salisbury, old residents of Bethany. She was 76 years of age. Died at the home of her son C. E. Salisbury, at Spokane, Wash.

**Taylor, Wm. M.,** Sept. 9, 1886, aged 70. An energetic pioneer.

**Thompson, Mrs.,** wife of John G. Thompson, July 9, 1881. They were of the best of Bethany's many excellent pioneers.

**Taylor, Mrs. Wm. M.,** March, 1884.

**Thompson, Wm. C.,** Oct. 4, 1901, aged 76. An upright citizen.

**Wilcox, Geo. W.,** May 12, 1873, aged 70.

**Wilson Mrs. Mary,** Dec. 27, 1881, aged 76; mother of John, Nathaniel and Noah.

**Wolf, Mrs. Asenath,** Dec. 13, 1891; wife of Martin Wolf, and daughter of Welcome J. Partelo, who was the first supervisor of Bethany.

**Wheeler, Aaron M.,** July 27, 1896, aged 75 years. His wife, Lucy J. Wheeler, died Dec. 2, 1910. They were pioneers and leading citizens. (See sketch of James A. Wheeler).

**Wilcox, Benj. F.,** at the home of his son, George H., at McBain, Mich., Jan. 3, 1912, aged 70 years. Settled in Bethany in 1880.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1880, April 9—The farm barn of Shank Bros., one and a half miles south of St. Louis, was burned with all its contents, including five horses. Loss, $1,500; insurance, $200.

1887, April 13—The residence of James H. Redman burned April 13. Loss, $1,200; insurance, $800.

1891, April 6—Wm. Boggs lost his home by fire, April 6.

1906, July 22—Chas. Rooks' barn was struck by lightning and was consumed by fire with its contents.

1910, Sept. 7—The barn of Arlington Kline was burned with its contents, Sept. 7.

1911, Dec. 2—The residence of Alfred Cole was destroyed by fire with most of the contents. There was some insurance.

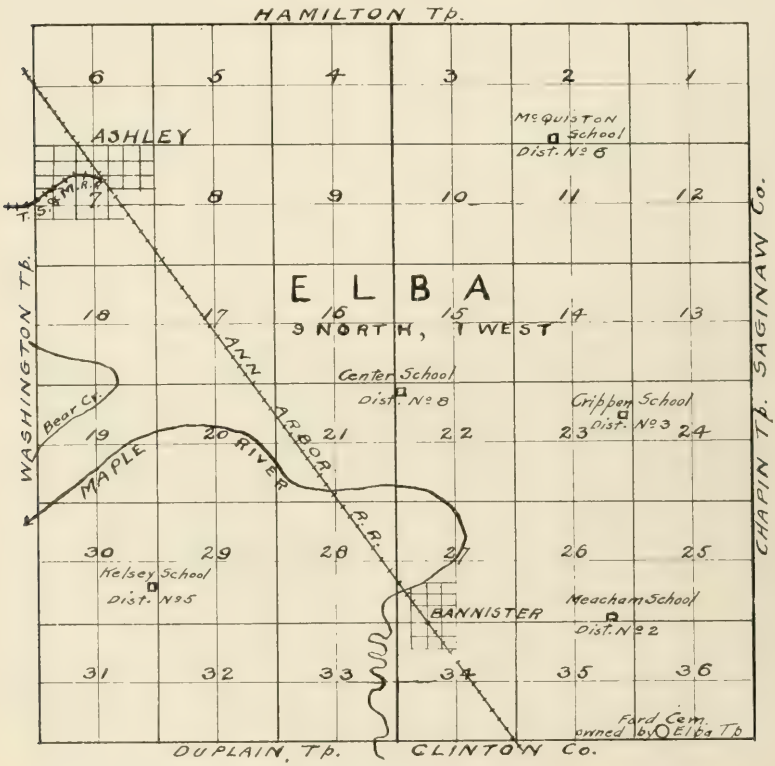
1913, July 13—Sunday afternoon, fire destroyed the house of George Hurling. The contents, too, were mostly destroyed; $500 in cash going with the rest.



## ELBA TOWNSHIP.

The six miles square known as the Township of Elba, and described as town 9 north, range 1 west, has probably shown greater advancement in many ways in the past thirty years than any other township in the county. In saying this there is no thought of saying that it is the best township in the county. The word "advancement" is only relative, in this case, and must be taken with the understanding that the townships advancement started to advance from a starting point far more unpromising than was that of most of the others. The much-talked-of Maple River overflow has always affected Elba far worse than any of the other townships. There is much swamp land. The last thirty years, however, has brought about great improvement in this respect, thanks to persistent work in establishing and maintaining drains. With the surface water disposed of—and it is being disposed of at a comparatively rapid rate—the township will rank well up among the good townships of the county.

A portion of the township was surveyed by the Government in 1831. A portion had to be left unsurveyed, for reasons set forth by the surveyor in



his field notes. He says: "The remainder of this town it was impossible to survey on account of the depth of the water on Maple River bottoms, which are one and a half or perhaps two miles wide. In running to the north between sections 29 and 30, we set the corner of 19, 20, 29 and 30 in three feet of water. We then attempted to run to the west, but after proceeding fifty chains were obliged to return, and gave up all hopes of surveying the remainder, which is nothing more than a chain of alder and tamarack swamp. The whole of the west and northwest part of the town is under water."

This depressing outlook is far from being descriptive of present conditions, and it is quoted only to emphasize the original statement that the township had made greater advancement than any other in the past thirty years. The southern and southeastern part of the township was never subject to the disadvantages mentioned. Much of the land formerly inundated by the Maple has been reclaimed and is rapidly taking rank with the best in the county. The early growth of the township as indicated by the vote at the elections, was very slow. At the first election—1856—there were 21 votes; in 1863 there were 20, and in 1865 there were 14. To show what the township has done in a material way, I mention that at the first equalization of assessments in the county there were only three townships rated lower than Elba. At the equalization of October, 1912, only five were rated higher.

Elba has the benefit of the Ann Arbor Railroad across its face from southeast to northwest; and it has the stub end of the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon division of the Grand Trunk as it comes in from the west and takes the Ann Arbor tracks for Owosso. In drainage it has all the benefits to be derived from the "gurgling Maple", supplemented by the advantages of the gentle slope eastward toward Bad River. The Villages of Ashley and Bannister furnish excellent markets for the farmers' produce, and not a farm is farther away than six miles from market.



THE RAILROAD CANAL.

The illustration shows the big ditch, or Maple River cut-off, near Bannister, constructed by the Ann Arbor Railroad Company along the west side of its track, across the ox-bow bend of the river, to serve for quick delivery

of surplus water in time of floods. Reference to the map will show how this mile of canal aids in time of high water by furnishing a short-cut. It is a great benefit to the company, but as to its benefit to the farmers there is a difference of opinion.

## ELBA ELECTIONS.

The first election was held April, 1856, at the house of Michael Miller. There were 21 votes polled.

**April, 1856:** Sup.—Hason Sinclair; Clk.—John O. Wool; Treas.—Michael Miller; H. C.—Wm. W. Dodge, Jas. Wooley, Sherman Call; J. P.—Nelson Boyer, Daniel Call, Wm. W. Dodge, Ralph Sutfin; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Call, Hason Sinclair; Overseers of Poor—Jas. Wooley, Richard G. Finch; Const.—Andrew Call, Wm. Wooley, Edward Letts.

The board of supervisors had a June session, and Elba was represented by Hason Sinclair. At the session in October, however, the township was represented by Abram B. Beebe as supervisor, and the county treasurer's records also show that he was supervisor that fall. All of which shows that Hason Sinclair resigned as supervisor some time after June and before October, and that Abram B. Beebe was appointed to the vacancy by the township board. The fact that the township records do not mention the change, seems to make this explanation appropriate, in order to give clearly, in this history, Mr. Beebe's standing as the successor of Mr. Sinclair and as the representative of the township on the board of supervisors.

At this first township meeting in Elba a contingent fund of $75, and a highway fund of $250 were voted. A resolution was passed "for the destruction of obknoxious animals; $5 bounty for wolves and $3 for bear, by the destroyer shooing good and satisfactory proof that he or Shee did take and kill the same within the limits of this township", says the record.

The next township meeting to be held at the house of Jas. Wooley.

**1857:** Twenty-seven votes were polled at this election. Sup.—Richard G. Finch 11, Daniel Call 9, Abram B. Miller 7; Clk.—John O. Wool 27; Treas.—Michael Miller 27; H. C.—Byron S. Beebe 27; J. P.—John O. Wool 18, Daniel Call 9; vacancy caused by the death of Nelson Boyer—Wm. B. Beebe 15, John O. Wool 8, Wm. Myers 2; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Myers 7, A. B. Beebe 7, Derrick Sutfin 7, Byron S. Beebe 5; Directors of Poor—Daniel S. Letts 27, Andrew Call 18, Christopher Dodge 9; Const.—Wm. Miller, Wm. Call, Edward Letts, Wm. Myers.

The meeting decided by vote to pay no bounties the coming year. The board paid, for "obknoxious" animals already killed, as follows: To Geo. Burch $9 for three bears; A. Call, one bear, $3; Richard G. Finch, three bears, $9; Wm. Mattison, three wolves, $15; Hason Sinclair, one bear; Jas. Miller, two bears; Michael Miller, two bears.

Oct. 26, '57, Wm. W. Wooley was appointed treasurer vice M. Miller, resigned, and Wm. W. Dodge school inspector vice Wm. Myers, removed from the township.

A special township meeting was held Dec. 26, '57, to fill various vacancies, at which 12 votes were polled. Daniel Call was elected clerk; Michael Nicholas, treasurer vice Wm. W. Wooley, resigned; Wm. Call highway commissioner vice Dodge, deceased; Andrew Call justice vice Dodge deceased; and Christopher Dodge justice vice Wm. B. Beebe, removed from the township.

**1858:** Sup.—Richard G. Finch; Clk.—Daniel Call; Treas.—Wm. Call 9, Cyrenus Thomas 9; Call won the draw; H. C.—Cyrenus Thomas; J. P.

—R. G. Finch; vacancy, Daniel Call; Sch. Insp.—Dewey Smith, Christopher Dodge; Overseers of Poor—Daniel S. Letts, Andrew Call.

Judge of the 10th judicial district, Longyear, Dem., 11; Woodworth, Rep., 12.

**1859:** Sup.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—Wm. Call. No further record.

**1860:** Nineteen votes were cast—two less than were cast at the first election four years ago.

Sup.—Chas. Dodge; Clk.—Wm. Wooley; Treas.—Hiram Coffman; H. C.—M. Nicholas; vacancy, Andrew Call; J. P.—Daniel Call; vacancy, Chas. Dodge; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Dodge, Dewey Smith.

**1861:** Sup.—Wm. Call; Clk.—Nathan S. Spooner; Treas.—Rufus Sheldon; H. C.—E. J. Miller; J. P.—Bruce Hunter; vacancy, Andrew Call; Sch. Insp.—Wm. A. Steffey.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Daniel Call; Clk.—M. Nicholas; Treas.—Wm. W. Wooley; H. C.—Andrew Call; J. P.—C. B. Waldo, Dewey Smith; Sch. Insp.—Dewey Smith.

**April, 1863:** At this seventh township election there were 20 votes polled.

Sup.—Daniel Call; Clk.—M. Nicholas; Treas.—Wm. W. Wooley; H. C.—Michael Nicholas; J. P.—Arthur Burlingame; vacancy, Chas. Dodge; Sch. Insp.—Arthur Burlingame.

A special township meeting was held May 25, '63, to fill some vacancies. For clerk Chas. Bradford was elected, but evidently did not accept, for later on L. M. Crego was appointed by the board. Chas. Dodge was elected justice vice Bruce Hunter, resigned. Wm. W. Wooley was elected highway commissioner vice M. Nicholas, resigned. Oct. 31, '63, Wooley resigned as treasurer and the board appointed Chas. Dodge.

At a special election held Nov. 22, '63, $600 was raised by vote to pay volunteers.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Daniel Call; Clk.—Derrick R. Sutfin; Treas.—Loren M. Crego; H. C.—B. H. Van Cleave, Geo. E. Terry; J. P.—Daniel Call; vacancy, A. J. Hurshey; Sch. Insp.—Geo. E. Terry.

June 22, '64, the township board voted a bounty of $100 each to volunteers or drafted men.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Daniel Call; Clk.—Ira J. Andrews; Treas.—L. M. Crego; H. C.—Isaac Wooley; J. P.—Wm. Call, Dewey Smith; Sch. Insp.—Dewey Smith, Andrew Call.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Ira J. Andrews; Clk.—Henry Edden; Treas.—L. M. Crego; H. C.—Jas. R. Harvey; J. P.—Hiram A. Brintnell; Sch. Insp.—I. J. Andrews.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Ira J. Andrews; Clk.—Henry Edden; Treas.—Wm. W. Wooley; H. C.—B. H. Van Cleave; vacancy, Reuben R. Smith.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Henry Edden; Clk.—Daniel B. Wooley; Treas.—Wm. W. Wooley; H. C.—Allen Oberlin; J. P.—Jacob Bishop; vacancy, J. G. Hustin; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo Mattison.

The township records give the above facts, but the record of the board of supervisors shows no reference to Henry Edden as supervisor from Elba or in any other way. Ira J. Andrews is shown to have represented Elba in 1868. Whether Mr. Edden resigned, removed from the township, or failed to qualify, is left to the imagination. As he was justice of the peace and drain commissioner in June, '71, it seems quite certain that he did not die. Also he was clerk in '66, '67.

**1869:** Sup.—Wm. H. Morrison; Clk.—D. B. Wooley; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—Jacob Bishop; vacancy, Abraham Shellenbarger; J. P.—

Samuel N. Huston; 3 yrs, Heman Dockem; 1 yr, Dewey Smith; Sch. Insp.—Goodsell Stewart.

A special election was held Oct. 23, '69, to vote $7,000 aid to the Owosso & Big Rapids Railroad, conditioned that a depot be erected near or on section 9, and a flag station where the road crosses the line between 26 and 27. Yes, 48; no, none. Fifteen years later the Ann Arbor road was built, substantially along the line indicated, and two regular stations—Ashley and Bannister—were established in the township.

Nov. 1, '69, John B. Kneeland was appointed supervisor vice Morrison, removed from the township.

**April, 1870.:** Sup.—Hason Sinclair; Clk.—Daniel B. Wooley; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—Arthur Burlingame; J. P.—B. S. Brownell; vacancy, Henry Adams; Sch. Insp.—S. N. Barber.

July 23, 1870, the board appointed G. S. Stewart supervisor vice Sinclair, removed from the township.

Dec. 31, 1870, Wm. W. Wooley was appointed supervisor vice Stewart, resigned.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—John B. Kneeland; Clk.—D. B. Wooley; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—Wm. A. Krom; J. P.—Henry Edden; vacancy, John Scott; Sch. Insp.—Stephen Guthrie, Joseph Davidson.

June 12, '71, the board appointed Henry Edden drain commissioner, none having been elected in April.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—J. B. Kneeland; Clk.—Edwin Meacham; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—Jacob Bishop; J. P.—John Scott; Sch. Insp.—E. D. Sargent; Dr. Com.—H. Edden.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—J. B. Kneeland; Clk.—Ed Meacham; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—A. Sebring; J. P.—C. H. Root; Sch. Insp.—W. H. Morrison; vacancy, J. G. Hustin; Dr. Com.—E. D. Sargent.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—J. B. Kneeland; Clk.—Wanton Westgate; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—Reuben R. Smith; J. P.—Wanton Westgate; vacancy, Jas. R. Green; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Davidson, Edward Bensinger.

A motion was made and it was carried, that Wm. A. Krom, treasurer, be requested to burn certain railroad bonds in his possession given to the Owosso & Northwestern Railroad.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—J. B. Kneeland; Clk.—Wanton Westgate; Treas.—Wm. A. Krom; H. C.—E. D. Sargent; J. P.—Wm. A. Krom; 2 yrs., John Hustin; 1 yr, Edward Bensinger; Supt. Sch.—Norman L. Higbie; Sch. Insp.—Stephen Guthrie; Dr. Com.—E. D. Sargent.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—J. B. Kneeland; Clk.—Ed. Meacham; Treas.—W. A. Krom; H. C.—J. B. Davidson; J. P.—Edward Bensinger; Supt. Sch.—Alex. T. Rice; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Letts; Dr. Com.—Homer Davidson.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Alex. T. Rice; Clk.—John W. Smith; Treas.—W. A. Krom; H. C.—J. B. Davidson; J. P.—J. G. Hustin; vacancy, Ed. Bensinger; Supt. Sch.—J. B. Davidson; Sch. Insp.—W. Westgate.

Nov. 22, '77, special election to vote on bonding to finish jail—yes, 25; no, 5.

**April 1, 1878:** Sup.—A. T. Rice; Clk.—J. W. Smith; Treas.—Wm. W. Wooley; H. C.—Ed. Bensinger 39, B. Miller 39; J. P.—Jas. Young; Supt. Sch.—L. N. Higbie; Sch. Insp.—W. Westgate; Dr. Com.—Daniel Gower.

Authorizing the issue of bonds to complete jail—yes, 50; no, 24.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—A. T. Rice; Clk.—J. W. Smith; Treas.—W. W. Wooley; H. C.—J. G. Hustin; J. P.—Henry Shellenbarger; Supt. Sch.—W. M. White; Sch. Insp.—W. Westgate.

For tax to complete jail—yes, 114; no, 3.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—A. T. Rice; Clk.—J. W. Smith; Treas.—J. B. Kneeland; H. C.—Ed. Bensinger; J. P.—A. J. Brown; Supt. Sch.—Dwight Morrison; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Letts; Dr. Com.—Isaac Wooley.

By a vote of 22 to 7 it was decided at a special election held Jan. 31, '81, to build an iron bridge across Maple River between sections 28 and 33.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Edwin Meacham; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Bishop Miller; J. P.—Nehemiah Lamb; Supt. Sch.—Dwight Morrison; Sch. Insp.—Wm. D. Letts; Dr. Com.—Goodsell Stewart.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Alexander T. Rice; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Bishop Miller; J. P.—H. G. Tyler; Sch. Insp.—W. D. Letts, D. S. Morrison; Dr. Com.—N. Lamb; Review—Jas. Young, Daniel Gower.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—Alonzo Peterson; H. C.—Wm. Fitzgerald; J. P.—Chas. Markham; vacancy, Jas. Young; Sch. Insp.—Noah W. Kaltrider.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—W. D. Letts; H. C.—Reuben R. Smith; J. P.—Wm. A. Krom; 2 yrs., R. R. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Aaron Martin.

A vote was taken on the question of bonding for $450 for a town hall site at Bannister. The result was 82 votes for it, and 82 against it. Here was a tie, and the board proceeded to decide the matter by lot. Two ballots, one marked "yes", the other marked "no", were put into a hat, and then Esqr. A. J. Brown drew one out, and on examination it was found that he had drawn out the "yes" ballot. So the question was declared carried. Nothing easier.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—N. W. Kaltrider; Clk.—Burwell Teeter; Treas.—Wm. D. Letts; H. C.—Jas. Young; J. P.—Daniel Kelsey; vacancy, R. M. Brooks; Sch. Insp.—Josh. Davidson; Review—J. B. Davidson, Daniel Gower.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—W. A. Krom; H. C.—Wm. D. Letts; J. P.—Lloyd Webb; Sch. Insp.—Aaron Martin; Review—Wm. A. Krom; Wm. H. Morrison.

A special township meeting held June 7, '86, voted to raise $100 to contest the tax spread by Commissioner Wm. Kroll for the Maple River improvement. Yes, 63; no, 6.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Lorenzo F. Randolph; Clk.—Alonzo M. White; Treas.—Chas. E. Chittenden; H. C.—Frank Hurshey; J. P.—Thompson Kirby; vacancy, Thompson Kirby; Sch. Insp.—Wm. A. Krom; Review—Wm. A. Krom, Loren M. Hutchinson.

At the election on local option held Feby 13, '88, the affirmative vote was 111; negative, 35.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Kelly S. Searl; Treas.—T. A. Hanvey; H. C.—Solomon J. Haring; J. P.—L. F. Randolph; vacancy, Ellis Meyers; Sch. Insp.—Edwin W. Fieto; Dr. Com.—Bish. Miller; Review—Thompson Kirby, Nehemiah Lamb.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Wm. J. Barker; Treas.—T. A. Hanvey; H. C.—Bish. Miller; J. P.—Geo. W. Mead; Sch. Insp.—J. Belle Sickles.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—T. A. Hanvey; Treas.—Edson C. Brown; H. C.—Myron Mills; J. P.—Wm. A. Emery; Sch. Insp.—Jacob Powell, Sr.; Dr. Com.—Myron H. Mills; Review—Geo. E. Clutterback, Wm. H. Morrison.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—L. F. Randolph; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Edson C. Brown; H. C.—N. W. Kaltrider; J. P.—Jacob Powell; Sch. Insp.—Chas. F. Pike; Review—A. Peterson.

The board appointed N. W. Kaltrider drain commissioner vice Myron H. Mills, resigned.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Chas. E. Chittenden; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Jerome F. Bush; H. C.—Wm. B. Roof; J. P.—T. Kirby; Sch. Insp.—Wallace A. Hale; Dr. Com.—Wm. B. Roof; Review—Benj. Garrett, Loren M. Hutchinson.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—E. C. Brown; H. C.—N. W. Kaltrider; J. P.—Andrew H. Steadman; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Dickerson; Review—J. W. Smith.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—E. C. Brown; H. C.—Reuben R. Smith; J. P.—N. Lamb; Sch. Insp.—John N. Day; Dr. Com.—Daniel Kelsey; Review—J. W. Smith.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Benj. C. Brewer; J. P.—John N. Day; vacancy, Riley Letts; vacancy, Geo. W. Mead; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Dickerson.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—R. R. Smith; J. P.—T. Kirby; 3 yrs, John D. Willis; 2 yrs, Aaron Martin; Sch. Insp.—Frank Sebring; Dr. Com.—Martin Z. Lewis; Review—Wm. A. Emery.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Ed. Mecham; Clk.—Ebenezer Z. Fuller; Treas.—Lewis G. Boyd; H. C.—R. R. Smith; J. P.—B. D. Ackmoody; vacancy, John W. Letts; Supt. Sch.—Orin J. Dutton; Review—Chas. Kerr.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Lewis J. Boyd; H. C.—D. W. C. Tiffany; J. P.—John W. Letts; Sch. Insp.—John W. Peternell; Review—J. W. Smith.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Wm. A. Emery; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—A. W. Dickerson; J. P.—Jacob Weidner; vacancy, Benj. Pease; Sch. Insp.—Hewitt J. Moulton; Review—Chas. Emmett.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Wm. A. Emery; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—A. W. Dickerson; H. C.—D. W. C. Tiffany; J. P.—Alonzo Peterson; vacancy, John D. Willis; vacancy, Thos. Brown; Sch. Insp.—John W. Peternell.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Martin W. Coon; Clk.—A. B. Klooz; Treas.—Harry C. Rose; H. C.—Riley Letts; J. P.—B. D. Ackmoody; Sch. Insp.—H. J. Moulton; Review—W. H. Gilman.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—Frank Sebring; Treas.—Harry C. Rose; H. C.—Riley Letts; J. P.—Thos. Brown; Sch. Insp.—Dr. Hale; Review—Frank Newson.

Later the board appointed John W. Smith treasurer, vice H. C. Rose.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Ed. Meacham; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Jas. B. Crook; J. P.—Chas. E. Beck; Sch. Insp.—Chas. B. Porter; Review—Geo. Oberlin, Wm. L. Wooley.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Wm. A. Emery; Clk.—Geo. E. Cordray; Treas.—S. E. Peterson; H. C.—M. Z. Lewis; J. P.—Wm. B. Roof; 3 yrs, John Riley; 1 yr, Frank Downie; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Campbell; Review—L. M. Hutchinson.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—A. N. Palmeter; Clk.—G. E. Cordray; Treas.—R. D. Letts 163, Lester G. Fox 163; H. C.—Benj. Roof; J. P.—Chas. A. Green; Sch. Insp.—J. E. Hunter; Review—Chas. Kerr.

The tie on treasurer resulted in Letts securing the office.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—W. N. Gladstone; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—M. Z. Lewis; J. P.—Thos. Brown; 3 yrs, Edward Bensinger; Sch. Insp.—Alfred Sutfin; Review—C. F. Patton.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—W. N. Gladstone; Treas.—John Scott; H. C.—J. Smith; J. P.—John Willis; vacancy, Albert Fuller; Sch. Insp.—John Hunter; Review—Chas. Kerr.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—W. N. Gladstone; Treas.—John Scott; H. C.—M. Z. Lewis; vacancy, Will Peternell; J. P.—C. F. Thayer; Sch. Insp.—A. Sutfin; Review—C. F. Patton.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—John Scott; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—A. F. Rider; H. C.—Stephen Burlingame; vacancy, Frank Bensinger; J. P.—Bert Angell; Review—D. W. C. Tiffany.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—M. W. Coon—resigned and board appointed John Scott; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—A. F. Rider; H. C.—Frank Manning; Overseer—W. H. Willis; J. P.—Jas. B. Crook; vacancy, Frank Sebring; Review—Jacob Weidner

**April, 1911:** Sup.—John Scott; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—Chas. E. Beck; H. C.—Wm. Peternell; Overseer—Jas. Hoover; J. P.—Hubert C. Rose; vacancy, Miles Simpson; Review—A. N. Palmeter.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—A. F. Ryder; Clk.—D. Duncan; Treas.—Chas. E. Beck; H. C.—Frank Manning; Overseer—Wm. Peternell; J. P.—Ernest J. Heinze; vacancy, 2 yrs, Thos. Brown; vacancy, 3 months, G. B. Turner; Review—Jacob Weidner.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—A. F. Ryder; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—Lewis Kirby; H. C.—Wm. Peternell; O. of H.—Wm. Mitchell; J. P.—M. E. Simpson; Review—A. N. Palmeter.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 80; no, 150.

County Road System: Yes, 66; no, 195.

### Supervisors.

Hason Sinclair, 1856, '70.
Abram B. Beebe, ap. 1856.
Richard G. Finch, 1857, '58.
Chas. Dodge, 1859, '60.
Wm. Call, 1861.
Daniel Call, 1862, '63, '64, '65.
Ira J. Andrews, 1866, '67, '68.
Wm. H. Morrison, 1869.
John B. Kneeland, ap. Nov. 1, 1869; '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76.
G. S. Stewart, ap. July 23, 1870.
Wm. W. Wooley, ap. Dec. 31, 1870.
Alex. T. Rice, 1877, '78, '79, '80, '82.
Edwin Meacham, 1881, '83, '84, '86, '88, '89, '90, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '03.
N. W. Kaltrider, 1885.
Lorenzo F. Randolph, 1887, '91.
Chas. E. Chittenden, 1892.
Wm. A. Emery, 1899, '00, '04.
Martin W. Coon, 1901, '02, '06, '07, '08, '10.
A. N. Palmeter, 1905.
John Scott, 1909, ap. April, '10; '11.
A. F. Ryder, 1912, '13.

### Township Clerks.

John O. Wool, 1856, '57.
Daniel Call, sp. el., Dec. 26, 1857; '58.
Wm. W. Wooley, 1860.
Nathan S. Spooner, 1861.
M. Nicholas, 1862, '63.
Chas. Bradford, sp. el., May 25, '63.
L. M. Crego, ap. 1863.
Derrick R. Sutfin, 1864.
Ira J. Andrews, 1865.
Henry Edden, 1866, '67.
Daniel B. Wooley, 1868, '69, '70 '71.
Edwin Meacham, 1872, '73, '76.
Wanton Westgate, 1874, '75.
John W. Smith, 1877, '78, '79, '80.
T. A. Hanvey, 1881, '82, '93, '84, '86, '90.
Burwell Teeter, 1885.
Alonzo M. White, 1887.
Kelly S. Searl, 1888.
Wm. J. Barker, 1889.
Geo. C. Douglas, 1891, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96.
E. Z. Fuller, 1897, '98, '99, '00, '03.
A. B. Klooz, 1901.
Frank Sebring, 1902.
Geo. E. Cordray, 1904, '05.
W. N. Gladstone, 1906, '07, '08.
David Duncan, 1909, '10, '11, '12, '13.

**Treasurers.**

Michael Miller, 1856, '57.
Wm. W. Wooley, ap. Oct. 26, 1857; '62, '63, '67, '68, '78, '79.
Michael Nicholas, sp. el., Dec. 26, 1857.
Wm. Call, 1858, '59.
Hiram Coffman, 1860.
Rufus Sheldon, 1861.
Chas. Dodge, ap. Oct. 31, 1863.
Loren M. Crego, 1864, '65, '66.
Wm. A. Krom, 1869, '70, '71, 72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '86.
J. B. Kneeland, 1880.
J. W. Smith, 1881, '82, '95, '96, '03, '06.
Alonzo Peterson, 1883.
W. D. Letts, 1884, '85.
Chas. E. Chittenden, 1887.
T. A. Hanvey, 1888, '89.
Edson C. Brown, 1890, '91, '93, '94.
Jerome F. Bush, 1892.
Lewis G. Boyd, 1897, '98.
A. W. Dickerson, 1899, '00.
Harry C. Rose, 1901, '02.
S. E. Peterson, 1904.
R. D. Letts, 1905.
John Scott, 1907, '08.
A. F. Rider, 1909, '10.
Chas. E. Beck, 1911, '12.
Lewis Kirby, 1913.

## ELBA BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### SINCLAIR.

Hason Sinclair was the last surviving member of the board of supervisors elected in the spring of 1856, the first board elected after the organization of the county. He was Elba's contribution to that body of legislators and was elected again in 1870.



HASON SINCLAIR AND WIFE.

Hason Sinclair was born in Royalton, Niagara County, N. Y., March 31, 1830. He came to Gratiot County in 1854 or '55, locating in Elba Township; probably its first settler, certainly one of the first. He was married June 15, 1856, to Miss Eliza Miller, born in Ashland County, Ohio, in 1836. Their children are Mrs. Mertie Hatfield, of Ashley; Mrs. Ida M. Criss, of Elba; James and Michael Sinclair, of Elba. The picture of Mr. Sinclair and his wife was taken in the fall of 1910, at their home in Hamilton Township, specially for this volume. It shows a couple of Gratiot County's good, reliable citizens who were on the ground early and had many of the strenuous experiences that were the lot of the pioneers.

The death of Hason Sinclair occurred May 8, 1911. The aged wife resides with her son, Michael Sinclair, in Elba Township; route 3, Ashley.

From first to last Elba has been favored with many substantial and progressive citizens who have done duty nobly in upholding the dignity and the interests of the township, socially, industrially and politically, and it is a pleasure to give them honorable mention in this connection.

Edwin Meacham was born November 30, 1845, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, son of Almon and Polly (Kelly) Meacham. He came to Gratiot in 1866, settling on section 35, Elba Township. He was married March 21, 1870, to Alice A. Crego. Until the time of his death Mr. Meacham was prominent in the affairs of his township, serving as township clerk three years, and as

supervisor fourteen years. He also served seven years as postmaster at Bannister. He was the Republican candidate for county treasurer in 1890, but went down with his ticket. He died December 23, 1904.

The Wooleys were among the very first settlers. Wm. W. Wooley was present at the first election, and thereafter held many official positions. Daniel B. Wooley also was at the front, being clerk four years. John O. Wool also took a hand in the township's affairs. The Calls—Daniel, William and Andrew—took an active interest. Ira J. Andrews; Richard G. Finch; Loren M. Crego; Ralph Sutfin; Derrick R. Sutfin; John B. Kneeland; Alex. T. Rice; Lorenzo F. Randolph; William A. Krom; Chas. Stewart Douglas; Abram Shellenbarger; Albert W. Dickerson, Democratic candidate for county treasurer in 1900; A. T. Rice; Wm. C. Wooley; Wm. D. Letts.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Anstey, Mrs. James,** in Ashley, Dec. 18, 1909, aged 72.

**Allen, Henry,** April 23, 1913, at his home in Ashley, aged 61 years.

**Benedict, Myron,** May 3, 1880, aged 61.

**Campbell, J. Henry,** at Ashley, March 11, 1901, aged 53. A popular citizen, son of Cornelius Campbell, a pioneer of Washington.

**Coon, J. S.,** Sept. 12, 1892, aged 63.

**Clarke, James,** June 26, 1906, aged 66. A talented and popular attorney, elected prosecuting attorney on the Democratic and P. I. ticket in 1890.

**Crout, Israel,** July 8, 1906, aged 77; at the home of his son, N. H. Crout.

**Carter, Z. M.,** a veteran of the Civil War; February 28, 1907, aged 64.

**Cesar, Mrs. Catharine,** widow of Levi Cesar; Aug. 7, 1908, aged 75. Died at the home of her son-in-law, A. N. Palmeter, in Ashley.

**Crego, Loren M.,** March 29, 1910, aged 81.

**Douglas, Chas. Stewart,** at his home in Ashley, June 24, 1891, aged about 50. For many years a prominent and influential citizen of Washington Township, engaged in lumbering in connection with his farming operations.

**Davidson, Mary R.,** Sept. 20, 1889, aged 77; widow of John and mother of Joseph B. Davidson.

**Fuller, Ebenezer Z.,** August 4, 1912, at an advanced age. He was one of Ashley's earliest settlers, and was prominent, officially and otherwise. He died at his home in Ashley.

**Fuller, Mrs. Mary E.,** widow of E. Z. Fuller, July 5, 1913, aged 77 years.

**Gross, Alfred A.,** at Ashley, June 14, 1894, aged 67. Settled in Hamilton Township in 1865, removing to Ashley about 1888.

**Gallop, Edmund W.,** at his home in Grand Rapids, February 8, 1910, aged 41 years. He was a resident of Ashley several years, standing well as a citizen.

**Hathaway, Jesse,** January 2, 1872, aged 50.

**Hustin, John G.,** May 5, 1883; settled in Gratiot in 1866.

**Hutchinson, Mrs. Armina A.** (Pitts), wife of Loren M. Hutchinson of Ashley, January 8, 1913, aged 56 years. She left a husband and one daughter. A devoted wife and mother. (See sketch of L. M. Hutchinson).

**Harris, Rev. Geo. W.,** at his home in Ashley, Sept. 14, 1913, aged about 72 years. He was a soldier in the Civil War; a citizen who had many friends.

**Kneeland, Mrs. John,** Aug. 24, 1889, aged 67. Died in Bannister.

**Kirby, Thompson,** March 7, 1899, aged 64 years. He was prominent in Elba, justice of the peace in 1887 and '92, and president of Ashley in 1895.

**Kelly, Mrs. Lyman,** many years a resident of Ashley, died Sept. 27, 1911, aged 53.

**Letts, Edward,** June 21, 1881, aged 60. Located on section 35 in 1856.

**La Clear, Byron S.,** July 22, 1889, aged about 40.

**La Clear, Struble,** at Ashley, June 26, 1901, aged 92.

**Langdon, Mrs. Nancy K.,** at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Griffith, of Bannister, July 20, 1911, aged 82.

**Lockwood, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellen,** wife of Enoch Lockwood, at her home in Ashley, Nov. 30, 1912, aged 63 years. A husband and eight children survive.

**Moore, John,** Nov. 3, 1883, aged 70.

**McQuiston, Nancy,** February 22, 1892, aged 82.

**Manning, Hiram,** at his home near Bannister, July 31, 1911, aged 89. A veteran of the Civil War, and had lived in Gratiot 24 years.

**Peterson, Mrs. Katie,** wife of Alonzo Peterson, Oct. 4, 1900, aged 57. An esteemed resident 22 years.

**Pease, Mrs. B. F.,** Dec. 1, 1909, aged 62; a resident of Ashley 20 years.

**Parker, Edwin,** at his home near Bannister, July 1, 1911, at an advanced age.

**Rider, Lewis J.,** January 5, 1900, aged 62; at his home in Ashley.

**Rose, Mrs. Phebe,** wife of Hubert Rose, Ashley, Dec. 10, 1909, aged 28.

**Raymond, Chas.,** an old soldier, Dec. 10, 1909, aged 73.

**Rawson, William B.,** June 14, 1913, aged 72 years. He settled in Elba in 1878.

**Sutfin, Martin,** April 17, 1872, aged 65.

**Stone, John,** July 6, 1879, aged 91.

**Steadman, Harriet,** March 12, 1881, at Ashley, aged 70. A pioneer from 1857.

**Stewart, J. Lucius,** June 18, 1883, aged 71.

**Smith, Dewey,** April 6, 1884, aged 77.

**Sickles, Mrs. Elizabeth,** at the home of her son, Dr. B. C. Sickles, Ashley, January 31, 1890, aged 58.

**Steadman, John W.,** Oct. 22, 1890, aged 82.

**Shellenbarger, Abram,** April 19, 1899, aged 89.

**Sutfin, Ralph,** March 18, 1900.

**Smith, R. R.,** about May 20, 1908, aged 64. A soldier in the Civil War.

**Sutfin, Edward C.,** January 7, 1903, aged 34.

**Sage, J. Henry,** at Ashley, March 19, 1911, aged 61.

**Sperbeck, Mrs. Ira,** Aug. 1, 1911, at her home in Bannister, aged 24.

**Tyler, Horatio G.,** Oct. 2, 1889, at Elsie, Mich. He formerly lived in Elba, and was responsible for the establishment of Leon postoffice, in Elba, named after his son.

**Turner, Mrs. Eliza,** Dec. 9, 1893, at the home of her son, Amasa Turner, of Ashley; aged 77.

**Troop, Myron,** at his home in Bannister, May 20, 1912. An exemplary citizen, resident of Fulton for a long time.

**Wooley, James,** Oct. 14, 1885, aged 96. He came to Gratiot in 1855 and was very close to being the first settler in Elba, locating on section 34. A number of his descendants still reside in the vicinity. They have been active citizens in Elba's affairs from the first settlement.

**Wooley, Isaac,** February 12, 1896, aged 65. One of the early pioneers; was highway commissioner and drain commissioner.

**Wooley, Daniel B.,** July 9, 1899, aged 63. Was township clerk several years.

**Wilcox, Mrs. Eliza B.,** Sept. 25, 1907, aged 71; at her home in Ashley.

**Wooley, Wm. W.,** February 9, 1901, aged 70. He was one of the first settlers, helped to organize the township, and held various official positions, including treasurer four terms.

**Wiltsie, Jacob M.,** July 8, 1910, aged 75; at Vandalia, Mich. A reliable citizen of Ashley several years, being village president in 1890 and '91.

**Whitman, Mrs. Carrie,** at her home in Bannister, June 28, 1910, aged 30; wife of Roy Whitman.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1875, July 11—By the burning of Bentley's saw mill in Elba, together with a large amount of lumber on hand, a loss of about $10,000 was sustained.

1885, May 7—Hewitt's saw mill caught fire from burning sawdust, night of May 7, and was destroyed, entailing a loss of $3,000, and no insurance.

1890, April 23—The depot at Ashley, and Ahren's saloon, adjoining, burned at 2 o'clock, a. m.

1890, May 20—The Ashley House, at Ashley, burned this morning. It was owned by Mrs. J. Huson, but had been closed for a few weeks. Loss, $1,500; insurance on house and contents, $1,000.

1891, May 2—A fire at Bannister burned the hotel, of which Ed. C. Brown was proprietor, a barber shop, a saloon, and the residence of J. R. Hammond.

1891, May 5—At 3 o'clock p. m., fire destroyed the stave and hoop factory of Salliotte & Chittenden, Ashley, with a large amount of staves and other adjoining property. Loss, about $20,000; insurance, $12,000.

1891, Nov. 1—The residence of C. Peterson burned Sunday night, Nov. 1, with most of the contents.

1897, July 26—The Village of Ashley had its worst experience with fires this morning, when five business places were wiped out. Nearly the entire business portion of the west side of the main street was reduced to ashes. Those burned out were M. M. Clark, grocer; J. F. Bush, hardware and implement dealer; Louis W. Fuller, postmaster and publisher of the Ashley Post; Frank Gallup, barber; D. Pechtil, a barn; an ice house, and other sheds and smaller buildings. The residences of O. J. Dutton and Mrs. Robinson were damaged. The loss on buildings and goods was heavy, the insurance light. The hand engine did good work in preventing the further spreading of the fire.

1898, January 17—Bannister sustained a bad loss in the burning of her grist mill and grain elevator. Loss estimated at $3,500; insurance, $1,500.

1899, Oct. 10—Ashley was visited by a serious conflagration which burned P. W. La Clear's livery barn, a brick blacksmith shop occupied by A. E. Church, a dwelling house occupied by Mat. Whitford, and a barn belonging to Mr. Campbell. Six horses, four buggies, harness, hay, tools, etc., were destroyed, the total loss being about $5,000.

1900, July 31—Charles Rose of Ashley lost a barn by fire early this morning, together with a span of horses, vehicles, farm implements, etc. It was thought to have been set by tramps, accidentally or otherwise.

1900, Oct. 23—C. E. Chittenden's stave mill at Ashley was destroyed by fire.

1901, Feby. 16—Fire visited Bannister and inflicted a loss estimated at $10,000. The Greif Bros., proprietors of the stave works, were the losers. The mill itself was saved, but their kilns and sheds, with a large stock of staves and material were destroyed.

1905, Dec. 31—The year went out with an exciting and disastrous fire at Ashley. The hotel was burned, with a large portion of its contents. By

hard and persistent work the fire was kept from spreading to adjoining property. The family and boarders had a busy time getting to safety, but all escaped. The World printing office narrowly escaped being burned out.

1907, Feby. 3—Ashley's new brick Hotel Brimmer was burned in the morning together with the contents. Wm. Toms, the bartender lost his life. The fire was presumed to have had an incendiary origin. Loss, $12,000, pretty well covered with insurance.

1907, Sept. 9—The large farm barns of Lewis Clark, east of Bannister, were struck by lightning and consumed by fire, with a large amount of hay, grain and implements.

1907, Nov. 17—The residence of Charles Kerr of Ashley was burned at noon, with most of the contents. One of the finest residences in town.

1909, July 26—The residence of E. Ladd, in eastern Elba, was burned July 26.

1910, Dec. 14—Fire destroyed the house of John Riley, in Bannister. It is said to have been the first house erected in the village.

1911, Feby. 14—An evening fire destroyed Fred Kelsey's furniture store at Bannister, also a dwelling house adjoining, belonging to George Goodin, and occupied by George Cordray. Some of the contents of the buildings were saved.

1911, Feby. 28—A serious fire visited Ashley February 28th, destroying a brick block on the east side of the main street, occupied by the general store of Harry C. Rose, and by the Masonic order in the upper story. Mr. Rose's loss was severe, as he was only lightly insured. The building was owned by Chas. E. Beck, and was insured for about half its value.

1912, July 20—Ashley had a disastrous fire at about 2 o'clock in the morning, which destroyed several business places on the north end of the principal business street. The total loss was estimated at $20,000, with insurance aggregating $4,000. The principal losers were A. M. Derry & Son, implements; Earl Derry, clothing; Bert Wight, photograph gallery; D. E. Bickford, grocery; A. Landi, new store building; D. W. C. Tiffany, store building. The Ashley World building was in great jeopardy, but was only slightly damaged. The buildings were all of wood.

1913, April 21—At about 11 a. m. fire broke out in the millinery store of Mrs. Bessie Chapman, east side of Sterling Street, destroying store and stock, also the adjoining jewelry store of Ernest Culver. The contents of the jewelry store were mostly saved. The fire seems to have started from an explosion of gasoline, and Mrs. Chapman was badly burned about the head and arms. The firemen and citizens succeeded in preventing serious damage to adjoining buildings.

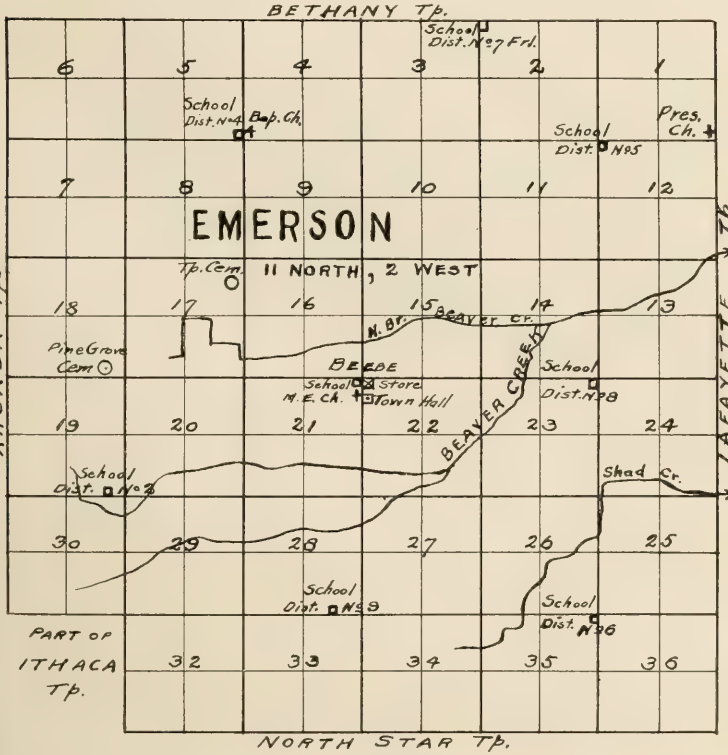
1913, May 1—Wm. Shaw, northeast of Ashley, lost his barn by fire, with contents of corn, beans, wool, hay, two buggies and other articles. Loss $800, with insurance of $300.



## EMERSON TOWNSHIP.

Town 11 north, range 2 west, correctly locates the Township of Emerson. It is one of the four central subdivisions of the county; and it may be remarked, incidentally, that it ranks as one of the best, agriculturally, and perhaps in other ways. In a state of nature the township was about an average. The western part is somewhat hilly; that is, hilly as Gratiot lands go, but not mountainous by any means. The eastern two-thirds is level—and much of it absolutely level, to the eye, but, of course, with enough slope for drainage. Otherwise that part of the township could hardly maintain its reputation as the very best farming section in the county. The higher portions date their first settlement from along in 1854, when a few pioneers stuck their stakes within its borders, and took their chances of starving, far from civilization, as they had known it.

The township was named for William Imisson who was probably the first actual settler. The name, however, through a misunderstanding on the part of the officials recording it, was written "Emerson" in the records, and the people in general soon knew it only by that name.



In mentioning the names of the early settlers of Emerson Township, it must be remembered that up to 1881 the township cornered right in Ithaca Village, consequently many who were early settlers in that village were residents of Emerson Township as well, and in many cases are credited to Emerson very properly, while in fact they were Ithaca villagers. This will explain the matter of duplication in names and places of residence, as they sometimes occur.

Emerson has no railroad of its own, but it has the benefit of two in close proximity, and no farmer has more than about seven miles to haul his produce. And his advantages in that respect are greatly increased by the fact that he has the benefit of many miles of the best gravel roads in the county, Emerson being in the front rank in that respect.



A SPECIMEN ROUND BARN.

The illustration shows a fine round barn on the Arthur Snedicor farm, east of Ithaca.

Through the courtesy of John M. Everden, at present the prosecuting attorney of the county, an old resident in Emerson and for many years one of the county's most prominent and popular citizens, I am able to give the patrons of this volume an interesting narrative of life in Gratiot from his own personal and family experiences. While to a certain extent personal, the story incidentally gives a good idea of general conditions in the county in the pioneer days. Mr. Everden's article follows:

"At the time that Oscar A. Everden—my father—moved into the county—February, 1855—there was only a half mile of road chopped out in the county. This was in Fulton Township, near Maple Rapids. The roads were simply winding trails following the high ground as much as possible. The county was, in fact, a wilderness, with a few log cabins scattered throughout the south central part. The families in Emerson Township were very few at this time. There were Obed Thorp and his family, and his son-in-law, Thomas Reed; Isaiah Allen, his wife and sons Ransom, Isaiah, Philip, Parks and Ira; Melancton Pettit, E. C. Farrington and family; John Knight and family; Levi Haight and family; Erastus Hunt and family. These had all moved in the previous fall. During the year many more settlers came, among the number being William Imisson (after whom Emerson Township was named) and his wife; Jerry Shaver and family, and Lewis Shaver and family.

"A history of Emerson Township would be incomplete if it failed to recount some of the struggles and privations of these early pioneers. Many who came in later years—even after the war—call themselves "pioneers."

To those who came to Gratiot in 1854, '55 and '56, and endured the hardships of those years, and who really laid and established the foundation upon which all of the subsequent prosperity of the county has been built, such claims seem presumptuous.

"In August, 1854, Congress passed a law known as the "Graduation Act", reducing the price of government lands to fifty cents an acre, with a condition, however, as later interpreted by the department, that purchasers must settle upon the land within one year from the date of purchase. The result was that thousands of settlers flocked to these—so called at that time—northern counties of the state for homes. Most of them came without money and with not much else. Details of the hardships of settlers have been given from time to time and in various forms and places, and doubtless the subject will be thoroughly gone into in this volume. The experiences of Mr. Everden and family were not as harrowing as those of many others, but a few details may not be uninteresting to many readers, and they are here given.

"At the time Mr. Everden moved to Emerson Township he owned a yoke of steers, two cows, a calf and two pigs, and he also had $400 in money. After getting his family settled in their new home, (the 'bungalow' of those days), he chopped about five acres around their house, hoping to be able to get it into spring crops. After spring had opened he went back to Ingham County after his stock, which he drove through from near Mason to his home in Emerson in three days. This would not occasion surprise nowadays with our modern highways, but to drive, on foot, four head of cattle, a calf and two pigs, that distance through the woods in the spring of 1855, required some nerve. Mr. Everden reached Emerson safely with his stock. Spring had opened; leeks were plentiful everywhere, but grass was scarce. Consequently the cattle had to eat leeks. This, of course, gave the milk and butter a delicious flavor. So the people had to eat leeks to take the leeky taste away.

"The writer well remembers that the usual routine of work in their home in the mornings of those days and for several springs thereafter would be about as follows: First, breakfast; second, wash the few breakfast dishes; third, mother and children take a pail and go into the woods and dig enough leeks for dinner and supper. People were obliged to use them, and they became a regular article of diet in nearly every home at this season of the year.

"Mr. Everden succeeded in burning most of the brush and logs on the five acres he had chopped that spring, and planted it to corn and potatoes; the planting being done mostly by chopping into the ground with an ax and dropping the corn into the openings made by the ax. The crops gave promise of giving a bountiful yield though planted and cared for under such adverse conditions. However, a severe frost on the night of August 28th killed everything down to the ground; corn, potatoes and all garden truck all absolutely ruined. This was a severe blow, as it meant not only loss of food for themselves, but it left nothing to feed their stock during the coming winter. A man of less determination and spirit would have become discouraged; but Mr. Everden was not of that kind of material. A man by the name of Searl lived one and one-half miles north of where Ithaca now stands, on the farm now owned by John Pinney. He raised some corn that year, of a variety commonly known as 'eight-rowed.' Mr. Everden succeeded in buying of him six bushels of ears by paying him a big price. This corn he broke up into pieces so that each animal could have one piece each day during the winter. This was all he had with which to winter his

stock consisting of two three-year-old steers, two cows, one yearling, one calf and one pig. And yet he carried them all through the winter safely. This, doubtless would be considered a big problem by the average 1913 farmer. Each morning he would give each animal its piece of corn, then take his ax and go into the woods and chop 'browse', the cattle following him like sheep. He would cut only basswood and elm trees, felling them and then trimming down the limbs in such a way that the animals could get at the twigs and limbs easily. By this means he wintered his stock without loss. Obed Thorp, a near neighbor, had eleven head of cattle starve to death that winter.

"The summer of 1856 was extremely dry. Nearly every settler in the county was burning brush and logs in the endeavor to clear his land. High winds prevailed early in October. Fires broke out in many places over the county, and in a few days they became one general fire all over the county. The smoke was so dense for several days that a person could see only a few feet. Many cattle died, and a great many people became sick from inhaling the dense smoke. People were obliged to watch their log cabins day and night to keep them from burning. Scarcely a foot of ground in the county escaped being burned over. Nothing ever occurred in the history of Emerson Township that caused so much damage to the township generally as this great fire of 1856. Emerson Township, excepting the west tier of sections, is comparatively level. This portion of the township was originally covered with a thrifty growth of beech, maple, basswood, hickory, white ash, black ash, elm and burr oak timber. This timber was not extremely large excepting the oak. The central portion of the township was drained mainly by Beaver Creek; the extreme northern part by Bush Creek; the south and eastern portion by Brady Creek and Shad Creek. While the general surface was quite leved, there was fall enough for these creeks to furnish ample drainage for the township. Along these creeks and in the low ground the timber was burned down by the great fires of 1856. On sections 23 and 27 more than a hundred acres of timber was burned down. There were other places in the township where large areas of timber were burned down. As the years passed this down timber decayed, much standing timber that was injured by the fire died and fell or was blown down. The result was to clog and fill up the water courses with dead timber; leaves and rubbish accumulated against the old logs to such an extent that the water could not pass off in the natural channels, but spread over large areas. The woods in their natural state had been free from underbrush, but after the fire underbrush sprang up everywhere, and the woods became filled with thickets of willow, poplar and cottonwood. This condition also tended to congest the already overflowing water courses. All these circumstances and conditions made the clearing of land very slow and difficult, and after being cleared of logs and brush it was so wet as to be almost totally unproductive.

"The opening of these water courses in after years by means of township and county drains has worked a wondrous change in the township. Emerson Township now has a state-wide reputation, and is known as the garden of Michigan. Lands that sold twenty years ago for ten dollars an acre are now selling for from $125 to $200 per acre, and much of it cannot be purchased for that price.

"As already stated, crops were generally a failure in 1856. Many people became discouraged, left their places and returned to their former homes. Among such in Emerson were Obed Thorp and family, Erastus Hunt and family, Andrew McClure and family and others. The inevitable result of the failure of crops produced hard times in the county. Word went out to

the older portions of the state that people were starving in Gratiot County. Many people were suffering for want of food, but no deaths occurred from starvation. William Imisson said he and his wife lived days on leeks and maple sugar, which was probably the truth. At that time the nearest grist mill was at Matherton, near Ionia. It would take a week to make the trip, there and back, and it was no pleasant task. The neighbors would club together, each contributing what he had, perhaps a bushel of corn or buckwheat, and the man who owned a yoke of oxen and a cart would go to mill. It meant a week from home, sleeping under the cart, nights, beside the trail. The oxen would be unyoked at night, a bell put on one of them and they would be turned loose. A peculiar fact is that they would never stray away, but would feed and then come up near the cart and lie down for the night. Much of the corn was ground in coffee mills. A large amount of provision was sent into the county from the south part of the state and distributed to those most needy. The county came to be known to the outside world as 'Starving Gratiot.'

"An incident: Mary Reed, who was a daughter of Obed Thorp, died in 1855, leaving a young babe. This death was the first in the Township of Emerson. The babe was fed coarse corn bread made simply of coarse corn meal ground in a coffee mill, and mixed with water and baked. This the grandmother would soak in spicebush tea and feed to the babe. It had no milk of any kind excepting only as Mrs. Everden would send some to them. Such diet would mean sure death to a modern child, yet the infant grew to manhood, and for many years Johnny Reed was a creditable citizen of the Township of Newark.

"The family of Mr. Everden generally had plenty of milk and butter and corn meal; consequently they never suffered seriously for lack of food. Leeks in the spring furnished a variety.

"Men were continually coming into the woods looking land. Much of Mr. Everden's time was spent going with these men and showing them land that was not yet taken. It was no uncommon occurrence for three or four landlookers to spend the night at his home, usually sleeping on the floor. It is true that these early settlers were 'hard-ups', with all that the term implies, and yet no more hospitable homes could be found in the universe than those of the pioneers of early Gratiot. The latch-string to their homes always hung out; a welcome to every comer. No neighbor or stranger was ever turned away without food. A larger-hearted, more generous people never existed. Everybody within a distance of five or six miles were 'neighbors' and visited each other. It was no uncommon thing for one neighbor to take his oxen and 'jumper' and take his family and perhaps the family of a neighbor also, and drive three or four miles just to 'spend the evening' with some other neighbor. There were no clans, class distinctions nor jealousies. Everybody was equally poor, and just as equally happy."

## EMERSON ELECTIONS.

Emerson's first election was held October 24, 1855. Here is the way it is upon the records: "This is to certify that the electors of Emerson Township met at the house of Erastus Hunt on said day for the purpose of holding a town meeting and to elect township officers, according to the constitution of the United States. Melancton Pettit elected moderator; Alanson B. Bailey elected clerk; Philip P. Allen and Isaac Preston elected inspectors."

There were eleven votes cast, and the canvass by the inspectors showed the result to have been as follows:

**October, 1855:** Sup.—Melancton Pettit 11; Clk.—Alanson B. Bailey 11; Treas.—Levi H. Haight 11; H. C.—Isaiah Allen, for three years, 11; Obed Throop, for two years, 11; John Knight, one year, 10; J. P.—Isaac N. Coleman, 11; Isaac Preston, 11; Sch. Insp.—Ransom Allen, 11; Isaiah Allen, 11; Directors of Poor—Erastus Hunt, 11; Const.—P. P. Allen ,7; E. C. Farrington, 7.

A. B. Bailey, who was elected clerk was sworn into office before a justice of the peace in Pine River, and then he administered the oath to the other officers. Thus were the wheels of government started in Emerson.

**April, 1856:** The votes by this time had increased to 20, and they were cast as follows:

Sup.—Melancton Pettit, 20; Clk.—Oscar A. Everden, 11; A. B. Bailey, 9; Treas.—Philip P. Allen, 19; H. C.—Reuben C. Haight, 19; John Knight, 19; J. P.—Reuben Coffin, 20; Isaac N. Coleman, 19; Joseph A. Guthrie, 15; Sch. Insp.—Jesse Owen, 17; Joseph A. Guthrie, 16; Directors of Poor—Levi H. Haight, 19; John Knight, 19; Const.—Erastus C. Farrington, 19; Ransom Allen, 16; Philip P. Allen, 19; Isaiah Allen, 3; O. A. Everden, 1.

The meeting voted $46.50 to pay past indebtedness, $150, for contingent expenses and $100 for highway purposes, the latter to be applied according to valuation in the several road districts. Thos. Reed was made deputy clerk, and on May 19, M. Pettit was appointed to serve as highway commission in consequence of the ill health of Isaiah Allen.

**1857.** Sup.—Oscar A. Everden, 20; Joseph A. Guthrie, 12; Clk.—Reuben Coffin, 21; Jesse Owen, 11; Treas.—Philip P. Allen, 23; A. B. Bailey, 9; H. C.—Wm. Potter, 17; Isaac N. Coleman, 17; J. P.—M. Pettit, 17; Isaac Preston, 15; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Imisson, 16; Ransom Allen, 15.

**1858:** Sup.—Reuben Coffin, 28; Francis Nelson, 20; Clk.—Wm. W. Comstock, 23; Orville M. Wood, 21; Treas.—P. P. Allen, 29; M. Pettit, 19; H. C.—Warner Coston, 29; Henry Gipe, 18; J. P.—Andrew McClure, 27; J. A. Guthrie, 17; Sch. Insp.—Moses Tompkins, 24; John Knight, 23. A bounty of $3 was voted for wolves' scalps. Oct. 24, '58, Henry Gipe was appointed highway commissioner in place of Reuben C. Haight, removed from the township. Nov. 24, '58, the board appointed B. E. Sawtelle clerk vice Comstock, removed from the township. Dec. 18, '58, Reuben Coffin was appointed school inspector vice Tompkins, removed from the township.

**April, 1859:** Sup.—M. Pettit; Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—Ransom Allen; J. P.—Joseph B. Stafford; vacancy, Joseph A. Guthrie; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Guthrie; vacancy, Wm. Schad.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—M. Pettit; Clk.—Wm. C. Beckwith; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—Reuben C. Haight; J. P.—Wm. W. Comstock; Sch. Insp.—Theron Finney.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Oscar A. Everden; Clk.—Reuben Coffin; Treas.—P. P. Allen; H. C.—Andrew Mitchell; J. P.—Robert G. Hutchinson; vacancy, John Knight; vacancy, Wm. Potter; Sch. Insp.—Louis Hetzman.

May 4, '61, the board appointed Lewis Shaver highway commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by Andrew Mitchell declining the office.

**April, 1862:** The votes cast ran up to 60 at this election. Sup.—Louis Hetzman; Clk.—R. Coffin; Treas.—Jacob N. Decker; H. C.—Lewis Shaver; vacancy, Andrew Mitchell; vacancy, John Henry; Sch. Insp.—O. A. Everden.

Eleven pathmasters for the eleven road districts were chosen as follows: John Knight, David Kostenbader, Geo. A. Files, O. A. Everden, R. Allen, J. A. Guthrie, Jas. Dunn, John Mull, Donald McGregor, Wm. Imisson, Jas. McArthur.

Aug. 21, '62, the board appointed John Knight treasurer in place of J. N. Decker, removed from the township.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Louis Hetzman; Clk.—P. P. Allen; Treas.—Chas. C. Johnson; H. C.—Wm. Johnson; J. P.—Wm. Imisson; Sch. Insp.—R. Coffin.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—L. Hetzman; Clk.—Reuben C. Haight; Treas.—Theron Finney; H. C.—Benj. Ridenour; J. P.—John Knight; Sch. Insp.—L. Hetzman.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—L. Hetzman; Clk.—R. Coffin; Treas.—R. C. Haight; H. C.—Daniel Failing; vacancy, W. C. Beckwith; J. P.—L. Hetzman; vacancy, Benj. F. Shepard; Sch. Insp.—Benj. F. Shepard.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—L. Hetzman; Clk.—W. D. Scott; Treas.—R. C. Haight; H. C.—John Mull; J. P.—Albion Pickett; vacancy, Wilbur Nelson; Sch. Insp.—Nathan Church; vacancy, J. A. Guthrie.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Daniel F. Muscott; Clk.—Lewis S. Brooke; Treas.—Isaac N. Coleman; H. C.—Albert A. Shaver; J. P.—Wm. C. Beckwith; vacancy, J. A. Guthrie.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—D. F. Muscott; Clk.—Lewis S. Brooke; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—Wm. C. Beckwith; J. P.—Ed. E. Mull; Sch. Insp.—N. Church.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—L. S. Brooke; Clk.—Alanson Jeffery; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—John Mull; J. P.—Francis W. Curtis; vacancy, Chas. H. Webster; Sch. Insp.—D. F. Muscott; vacancy, Daniel Taylor.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Louis Hetzman; Clk.—A. Jeffery; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—A. A. Shaver; J. P.—R. C. Haight; vacancy, Abraham W. Russell; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—Louis Hetzman; Clk.—Chas. H. Webster; Treas.—I. N. Coleman; H. C.—R. Allen; J. P.—R. Allen; Sch. Insp.—D. F. Muscott.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Isaac N. Coleman; Clk.—Chas. H. Webster; Treas.—Harvey Cady; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; vacancy, Albert Smith; J. P.—A. W. Russell; Sch. Insp.—Justus N. Guthrie.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—I. N. Coleman; Clk.—Reuben Coffin; Treas.—Spencer Monroe; H. C.—Geo. Fauble; J. P.—Francis W. Curtis; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen; Dr. Com.—L. Hetzman.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—I. N. Coleman; Clk.—R. Coffin; Treas.—S. Monroe; H. C.—F. W. Curtis; J. P.—R. C. Haight; Sch. Insp.—John M. Everden; Dr. Com.—R. C. Haight.

July 18, '74, the board appointed John W. Coffin clerk vice Reuben Coffin, deceased.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—I. N. Coleman; Clk.—John W. Coffin; Treas.—S. Monroe; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; J. P.—Cortez C. Clark; Supt. Sch.—John M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—I. N. Coleman; Clk.—Wallace W. Weatherwax; Treas.—S. Monroe; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; J. P.—A. W. Russell; Supt. Sch.—J. M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—Jas. L. Clark; Dr. Com.—Wm. C. Beckwith.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—John M. Everden; Clk.—W. W. Weatherwax; Treas.—Daniel C. Johnson; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; J. P.—F. W. Curtis; vacancy, L. Hetzman; Supt. Sch.—Schuyler W. Ambler; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen; Dr. Com.—Wm. H. Lewis.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—J. M. Everden; Clk.—A. W. Russell; Treas.—F. W. Curtis; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; J. P.—J. N. Guthrie; Supt. Sch.—Giles T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Jeremiah Shaver; Clk.—Cortez C. Clark; Treas.—F. W. Curtis; H. C.—Jesse Pepple; J. P.—S. W. Ambler; Supt. Sch.—J. M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen; Dr. Com.—John W. Coffin.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—A. W. Russell; Treas.—Harvey Rice; H. C.—Theo. W. Muscott; J. P.—A. W. Russell; Supt. Sch.—J. M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—R. Allen; Dr. Com.—Reuben S. Brown.

By the organization of Ithaca Township which took section 31 out of the Township of Emerson, A. W. Russell, township clerk, was transferred with the section, thus leaving Emerson without a clerk. The township board appointed I. N. Coleman to the position. The shortage in justices was made good at the election following.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—I. N. Coleman; Treas.—D. F. Muscott; H. C.—T. W. Muscott; J. P.—F. W. Curtis, Ransom Allen, Perry D. Pettit; Supt. Sch.—J. M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—Henry L. Beebe.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—J. M. Everden; Clk.—I. N. Coleman; Treas.—D. F. Muscott; H. C.—Geo. J. Coleman; J. P.—J. N. Guthrie; Sch. Insp.—Jotham Allen; vacancy, Henry L. Beebe; Dr. Com.—Jonathan Gidley.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—Gaylord Holmes; Treas.—Mathew Toles; J. P.—Samuel D. Thompson; Sch. Insp.—H. L. Beebe.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—Marion F. Curtis; Treas.—M. Toles; H. C.—Geo. J. Coleman; J. P.—R. Allen; Sch. Insp.—Jotham Allen, O. M. Everden; Dr. Com.—Israel D. Russell.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—Gaylord Helms; Treas.—Robert Gamble; H. C.—J. Gidley; J. P.—F. W. Curtis; Sch. Insp.—Binnie M. Coffin.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—G. Helms; Treas.—Rob. Gamble; H. C.—Geo. Presler; J. P.—J. Gidley; Sch. Insp.—Thos. Wiles; Dr. Com.—Wm. Ching.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Jesse Pepple; Clk.—Rob. Gamble; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—Geo. W. Presler; J. P.—S. D. Thompson; Sch. Insp.—Jotham Allen.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Gaylord Helms; Clk.—R. Gamble; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—Waldo Curtis; J. P.—Geo. W. Skinner; Sch. Insp.—B. M. Coffin; Dr. Com.—Wm. Ching.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—G. Helms; Clk.—B. M. Coffin; Treas.—Geo. J. Coleman; H. C.—Geo. W. Presler; J. P.—F. W. Curtis; vacancy, Chas. H. Webster; Sch. Insp.—Chas. A. Van Deventer.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—G. Helms; Clk.—B. M. Coffin; Treas.—Gilbert Goodhue; H. C.—Chas. Randels; J. P.—Herman Shaver; Sch. Insp.—Frank O. Dodge, G. D. McCollum; Dr. Com.—Noah Greene; Review—Jerry Shaver, Chas. Coston.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—G. Helms; Clk.—B. M. Coffin; Treas.—Gilbert Goodhue; H. C.—Lyman W. Fidler; J. P.—Chas. T. Eno; Sch. Insp.—Jay Griffith; Review—F. W. Curtis.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—G. Helms; Clk.—Geo. G. Ingledue; Treas.—B. M. Coffin; H. C.—L. Fidler; J. P.—J. A. Griffith; Sch. Insp.—Frank W. Hetzman; Dr. Com.—Edward A. Brown; Review—Chas. W. Coleman, Elias Sanders.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Gilbert Goodhue; Clk.—Geo. G. Ingledue; Treas.—B. M. Coffin; H. C.—Frank M. Hetzman; J. P.—Robert McClure; vacancy, Thos. B. Wiles; Sch. Insp.—Noah Greene; Review—Moses L. Pendell.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—G. Helms; Clk.—B. M. Coffin; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—Wm. I. Cobb; J. P.—Herman Shaver; Sch. Insp.—Frank M. Hetzman; Dr. Com.—Wm. Ching; Review—Geo. W. Presler, Terry Eldred.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Binnie M. Coffin; Clk.—Noah Greene; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—Wm. I. Cobb; J. P.—Thos. Richards; Sch. Insp.—Chas. W. Coleman; Review—Gilbert Goodhue.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—B. M. Coffin; Clk.—Rob. Gamble; Treas.—John L. Smith; H. C.—Wm. I. Cobb; J. P.—Alonzo Ellsworth; vacancy, C. T. Eno; Sch. Insp.—F. M. Hetzman; Dr. Com.—G. Helms; Review—Chas. W. Coleman.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Jonathan Gidley; Clk.—Rob. Gamble; Treas.—John L. Smith; H. C.—Chas. W. Coleman; J. P.—Jerome L. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Reuben S. Brown; Review—Frank O. Dodge.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—J. Gidley; Clk.—Rob. Gamble; Treas.—Jotham Allen; H. C.—Walter G. Whiton; J. P.—Chas. A. Van Deventer; vacancy, Albro Curtis; Sch. Insp.—John H. Showers, Melvern Sanders; Review—Duncan McKenzie, L. D. Baker.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—J. Gidley; Clk.—Bernard L. Case; Treas.—John L. Smith; H. C.—Walter G. Whiton; J. P.—Albro Curtis; vacancy, N. M. Showers; Sch. Insp.—Ed. J. Hasbrook, Percy Allen; Review—Dean S. Parker.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Bernard L. Case; Treas.—Sheridan Somerville; H. C.—Samuel K. Simmons; J. P.—Chas. H. Webster; Sch. Insp.—Robert Brown; Review—Jesse Guthrie.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Bernard L. Case; Clk.—Ernest Muscott; Treas.—Walter G. Whiton; H. C.—Geo. Gidley; J. P.—Albro Curtis; Sch. Insp.—A. H. Webster; Review—Gilbert Goodhue.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—B. L. Case; Clk.—E. Muscott, Treas.—Walter L. Whiton; H. C.—L. W. Fidler; J. P.—C. A. Van Deventer; Sch. Insp.—R. H. Brown; Review—Duncan McKenzie, Ira Sayles.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—B. L. Case; Clk.—Frank Shaver; Treas.—Ernest Muscott; H. C.—Melvern Sanders; J. P.—N. M. Showers; Sch. Insp.—T. Bloss; Review—Rob. Gamble.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Ernest Muscott; H. C.—L. W. Fidler; J. P.—Chas. H. Webster; Sch. Insp.—R. H. Brown; E. R. Allen.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Rob. Gamble; H. C.—D. McKenzie; J. P.—Albro Curtis; Sch. Insp.—Jay Allen; Review—B. L. Case, Albert Smith.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Rob. Gamble; H. C.—Duncan McKenzie; J. P.—Peter McAdam; vacancy, H. W. French; Sch. Insp.—Robert Brown; Review—N. W. Waddell.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—B. L. Case; H. C.—Walter G. Whiton; J. P.—N. M. Showers, Jesse Guthrie, Newton L. Case; Sch. Insp.—Archie Walter; Review—C. A. Van Deventer.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—B. L. Case; H. C.—Walter G. Whiton; Overseer—Melvern Sanders; J. P.—Newton L. Case; Sch. Insp.—Wm. McKenzie; Review—Ernest Muscott.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—John L. Smith; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Frank Herron; H. C.—C. J. Shepard; Overseer—Theo. Bloss; J. P.—Wm. T. Clark; vacancy, C. A. Van Deventer; Review—Robert Brown.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—B. L. Case; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Frank Herron; H. C.—Claude D. Knapp; Overseer—Jesse Guthrie; J. P.—Wm. T. Clark; vacancy, Rob. Gamble; Review—Duncan McKenzie.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—B. L. Case; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—Robert Gamble; H. C.—C. D. Knapp; J. P.—N. M. Showers; vacancy, F. A. Herron; Review—R. H. Brown.

**April, 1912:** Sup. — B. L. Case; Clk. — Percy Allen; Treas. — Rob. Gamble; J. P.—N. L. Case; vacancy, Archie Walter; Review—F. A. Herron; one year, Ernest Muscott; H. C.—C. D. Knapp.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—B. L. Case; Clk.—Percy Allen; Treas.—B. M. Coffin; H. C.—Frank Shaver; O. of H.—Jacob Peters; J. P.—Archie Walter; Review—Ernest Muscott.

Vote on Woman Suffrage: Yes, 71; no, 138.

Vote on Co. Road System: Yes, 24; no, 192.

### Supervisors.

Melancton Pettit, Oct. 24, 1855; '56, '59, '60.
Oscar A. Everden, 1857, '61.
Reuben Coffin, 1858.
Louis Hetzman, 1862, '63, '64, '65, '66, '70, '71.
Daniel F. Muscott, 1867, '68.
Lewis S. Brooke, 1869.
Isaac N. Coleman, 1872, '73, '74, '75, '76.
John M. Everden, 1877, '78, '82.
Jeremiah Shaver, 1879.
Jesse Pepple, 1880, '81, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87.
Gaylord Helms, 1888, '89, '90, '91, '92, '94.
Gilbert Goodhue, 1893.
Binnie M. Coffin, 1895, '96.
Jonathan Gidley, 1897, '98, '99.
John L. Smith, 1900, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09.
Bernard L. Case, 1901, '02, '03, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Alanson B. Bailey, Oct. 24, 1855.
Oscar A. Everden, 1856.
Reuben Coffin, 1857, '61, '62, '65, '73, '74.
Wm. W. Comstock, 1858.
B. E. Sawtelle, ap. Nov. 24, '58.
Wm. C. Beckwith, 1859, '60.
Philip P. Allen, 1863.
Reuben C. Haight, 1864.
Wm. D. Scott, 1866.
Lewis S. Brooke, 1867, '68.
Alanson Jeffery, 1869, '70.
Chas. H. Webster, 1871, '72.
John W. Coffin, ap. July 18, '74; '75.
Wallace W. Wetherwax, 1876, '77.
Abraham W. Russell, 1878, '80.
Cortez C. Clark, 1879.
Isaac N. Coleman, ap. Feby, '81; '81, '82.
Gaylord Helms, 1883, '85, '86.
Marion F. Curtis, 1884.
Robert Gamble, 1887, '88, '96, '97, '98.
Binnie M. Coffin ,1889, '90, '91, '94.
Geo. G. Ingledue, 1892, '93.
Noah Greene, 1895.
Bernard L. Case, 1899, '00.
Ernest Muscott, 1901, '02.
Frank Shaver, 1903.
Percy Allen, 1904, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Levi H. Haight, Oct. 24, 1855.
Philip P. Allen, 1856, '57, '58, '61.
Isaac N. Coleman, 1859, '60, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71.
Jacob N. Decker, 1862.
John Knight, ap. Aug. 21, '62.
Chas. C. Johnson, 1863.
Theron Finney, 1864.
Reuben C. Haight, 1865, '66.
Harvey Cady, 1872.
Spencer Monroe, 1873, '74, '75, '76.
Daniel C. Johnson, 1877.
F. W. Curtis, 1878, '79.
Harvey Rice, 1880.
D. F. Muscott, 1881, '82.
Matthew Toles, 1883, '84.
Robert Gamble, 1885, '86, '05, '06, '11, '12.
Jonathan Gidley, 1887, '88, '94, '95.
Geo. J. Coleman, 1889.
Gilbert Goodhue, 1890, '91.
Binnie M. Coffin, 1892, '93, '13.
John L. Smith, 1896, '97, '99.
Jotham Allen, 1898.
Sheridan Somerville, 1900.
Walter G. Whiton, 1901, '02.
Ernest Muscott, 1903, '04.
Bernard L. Case, 1907, '08.
Frank Herron, 1909, '10.

## COLEMAN.

Isaac N. Coleman helped to organize the Township of Emerson and was for many years identified with its growth and development into one of the best townships of the county. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, December 2, 1832. He was the son of Isaac and Emma (Piper) Coleman, natives of Germany and New England, respectively. Our subject removed to Lenawee County, Michigan, in January, 1853, and on September 8th of the same year he was married, at Litchfield, Hillsdale County, to Louisa J., daughter of David and Louisa (Ketch) Moon, natives of New England. She was born in Niagara County, N. Y., November 8, 1836. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, with their first born —George J.—came to Gratiot County in the spring of 1855, locating in Emerson Township. They were among the first settlers, and consequently became familiar with all of the hardships as well as the pleasures of life in the wilderness.



ISAAC N. COLEMAN.

At the first township election held October 24, 1855, Mr. Coleman was elected one of the justices of the peace, and in the course of time he held all of the principal offices of the township—clerk, treasurer, supervisor—several terms each. He was a man of strict integrity, possessing the confidence and respect of his constituents in the fullest degree. He enlisted as a soldier in the Civil War, being a member of Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry, the company composed wholly of Gratiot soldiers. He served nearly four years. Late in life he suffered the amputation of a leg as a result of ailments brought on by army life. He died August 24, 1896, at the home of his daughter in Pasadena, California, where he had gone for the benefit of his health.

Children came to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman as follows: George J., Charles W., Ozro E., S. Effie, Frank A., Ray N., Earl. Frank and Earl are deceased. Mrs. Louisa J. Coleman, the mother, died October 17, 1908, at the home of her son, George J. She was a woman of sturdy and positive character who fought the battle of life bravely through Gratiot's starvation period, and through the depressing war times, with fortitude and with comparative success.

Mr. Coleman was a Republican in politics, and in religious belief he and Mrs. Coleman were devoted members of the Adventist Church.

## DAILY.

John Henry Daily, farmer, residing on section 17, Emerson, was born at Eaton Rapids, Mich., November 25, 1844. His father, John Daily, Sr., was born in County Cork, Ireland. His mother, Ellen Daily, was a native of Belfast, Ireland. The parents were married in the State of New York, afterward emigrating to Michigan. They came to Gratiot County in 1858, settling in the woods, on section 16 of Emerson. Their six children were born as follows: Lorenzo Daily, born in the State of New York in 1836; James Daily, born in 1839, in New York State; John H., born in Eaton Rapids, Mich., in 1844; Hugh Daily, born in Eaton Rapids, November 26, 1846; Mary Jane Daily, born in Dewitt, Clinton County, Mich., 1849; Ellen Daily, born in Dewitt, 1852.

John H. Daily came to Gratiot County with his parents in 1858. He was married at Ithaca, May 10, 1894, to Elvina Bliss, who was born June 20, 1873, daughter of Ezra and Alwilda Bliss, the former born in England in 1842, the latter born in Ireland in 1853. They settled in Lafayette, on section 9 in 1877. Their children are as follows: Ornan W. Bliss, born in New York, 1871; Elvina Bliss, born in New York, June 20, 1873; Franklin Bliss, born in New York, 1875; Hila Bliss, born in Gratiot County, 1877; Cora Bliss, born in Gratiot, 1879.

John H. Daily and wife have children with birth-dates as follows, all born in Emerson: Emma Daily, born February 25, 1895; Hugh Daily born December 23, 1896; Floyd Daily, born October 22, 1898; Clarence Adelbert Daily, born June 4, 1901; Johnnie Rufus Daily, born September 30, 1904; Ellen Alwilda Daily, born October 17, 1910.

Mr. Daily served his country three years as a soldier in the Civil War. He is an Odd Fellow, a member of Emerson Lodge No. 375, for the past 23 years. He also belongs to St. Louis Lodge No. 188, F. & A. M. He is one of the hardy and honest pioneers of the county and has done his share of the hard work required to transform a wilderness into a fertile and prosperous portion of the state. He relates some of his experiences in the early days as follows:

"We wintered the first winter in a shanty, and built a house in the spring of 1859. I tell you it was a wild place. I remember one frosty morning we heard a wolf howl. My father put his hands to his mouth and howled, and in less than five minutes the woods seemed to be alive with wolves. My mother begged of him to stop or they would have the wolves right in the house. I want you to remember there were no roads, only winding tracks through the woods, along on the highest places, to get to Ithaca and St. Louis.

"Emerson cemetery is in the northeast corner of section 17. That was the highest place they could find. I remember the first burial that took place. It was that of the wife of Thomas Reed who lived two miles south of Emerson center. A rough box answered for a coffin; the best they could do. They had to make six miles around to get to the cemetery. The men carried it on their shoulders. My father went to meet them with his oxen and wagon. When they got along at a place back of Albert Smith's place they got stuck. The water came into the wagon box. Rather than take the coffin out, the men jumped into the mud and lifted till they got the wagon out. The men were Samuel Newton, Parks Allen, Wm. Imisson, Ransom Allen, B. F. Stocum, Jerry Shaver and Wm. Preston.

"When I got home from the service, in 1865, the old shanty we lived in had begun to leak pretty bad. By that time they had got a saw mill in St. Louis, but the next thing was how to get the lumber home. Andrew Thompson was the only man who had a wagon, and you had to speak for it two or three days in advance. He charged 25 cents a day whether you used it or not. I got the lumber home and was taking the wagon home when one of the tires dropped off and down went the wheel. By chance I had an ax with me, so I cut a pole for a tongue and made a cart of the hind wheels. Then I loaded on the pieces and started for Kinkerter's, the only wagon makers. They lived one mile north of Ithaca. They charged me $8 for fixing the wheel. If I had been compelled to pay for the use of the wagon all the time they were fixing the wheel it would have cost me $25.

"These incidents give something of an idea of life in a new country."

## SMITH.

John L. Smith, a prominent farmer, and for several years supervisor of Emerson Township, is well known throughout the county, and highly esteemed wherever known. He has been a resident of the township since July, 1872. He was born near Forres, Morayshire, Scotland, February 9, 1856; the third in a family of five children. His brother, James, is a resident of Edinburgh, Scotland, and has been in the employ of one company there for over thirty years. His older sister, Jane, is the wife of J. S. Bocock who is a school teacher in Brandsby, in the North Riding in Yorkshire, England. Next is John L., our subject; then Bessie, who died in infancy; Margaret, the youngest, now married to William Cameron, of Wilmot, South Dakota, who has extensive farming interests there.



JOHN L. SMITH.

John L. Smith was reared in Scotland, receiving a good education. At the age of sixteen he came to the United States and to Gratiot County. For five consecutive years he worked for James Riddle, one of the early settlers of Emerson Township. By strict economy he was enabled to buy the land on which he now lives. It was then all woods and very heavily timbered, but by dint of much hard work it has been cleared of timber and stumps, is now well underdrained with tile and has become a very productive farm. The buildings are large and commodious.

Mr. Smith was married in Oakland County, Michigan, to Miss Katie R. Foote, a native of Milford, in that county, and to this union one son—Clair—was born, July 20, 1887. He is now twenty-five years old and is a resident of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Mrs. Smith left an old-settled section of country to begin married life in a new county, and to face all the privations incident to pioneer life. And right nobly did she do her part. But at last, after all the hard labor was over, and when a fine new house was near to completion, she succumbed to an attack of inflammatory rheumatism, April 21, 1906, and was laid to rest in the Breckenridge cemetery. She and her husband have been devoted members of the local Presbyterian Church; and she has been sadly missed in many ways, in the councils of that body as well as in the Sunday school.



MRS. JOHN L. SMITH.

In the summer of 1906 Mr. Smith visited his native country and the north part of England, spending nearly three months there. He came back thoroughly satisfied that there is no country like the United States; no better state than Michigan; no county superior to Gratiot—the county in which he has lived since 1872, with the exception of two years in Oakland

County, and two years in the State of Washington where he was engaged in the lumber business.

For several years Mr. Smith has been prominent in the official affairs of his township and county. In 1896 he was elected township treasurer, and was re-elected in 1897. He was again elected treasurer in 1899, and in 1900 he was elected supervisor, serving one year. Again in 1904 he was elected supervisor of his township, and in that position his townsmen kept him continuously for six years. These facts attest the respect and confidence in which he is held by his fellow-citizens of the township. As showing his standing as a member of the board of supervisors, it is no more than justice to mention that he was elected chairman of the board in 1906, by a Republican board; and unusual occurrence; again in 1908, and in 1909 he was elected chairman.

In the election of 1908, Mr. Smith was the Democratic nominee for county treasurer; and when the ballots were canvassed it was found that he had received the highest vote of any condidate on the ticket with the exception of that for sheriff. This fact emphasizes the confidence reposed in him by the citizens of the county at large. At the state convention of his party in March, 1909, Mr. Smith was nominated as one of the members of the state board of agriculture. His party being largely in the minority in the state, his defeat was but the fate of the entire ticket.

Fraternally, Mr. Smith affiliates with Emerson Lodge No. 375, I. O. O. F., Peterman Tent K. O. T. M. M. of Breckenridge, and Union Camp No. 1, Woodman of the World, Niles, Mich. In his own school district he has been director for fourteen years. In matters pertaining to the welfare of the county and of his fellowmen generally, he has always been found on the side that was for the betterment of the toiling masses, and always energetic in promoting conditions likely to be of lasting benefit to the taxpayers. He was a member of the first new-court-house-building-committee that got the construction well under way. As chairman of the board of supervisors at the time of the controversy, litigation and legislation which resulted in the adoption of the present system of managing the county funds, by which the taxpayers are saved about $2,000 a year, he did valiant service in behalf of the reform, and was largely responsible for the victory of the people in the matter.

August 20, 1910, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Lenore Case, daughter of Newton L. and Mary (Blackwell) Case. She was born November 1, 1880, in Lorain County, Ohio. Children have been born to John L. and Lenore Smith as follows: J. Kenneth, born May 22, 1911; Mary Rachel, born May 27, 1913.

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## EICHORN.

This is the family history, briefly told, of one of Emerson Township's energetic and successful citizens. Henry Eichorn lives on section 16 of the township mentioned, and is the owner of 278 acres of land, mostly improved, with good buildings, and what is a valuable and attractive consideration, it is all paid for, thanks to hard and persistent work by himself and family.

Henry Eichorn is one of a family of five children—four boys and one girl. The parents, John Eichorn and Sophia (Beever) Eichorn, were born in Leipsic, Germany. The father was a policeman in his native city for several years. After their marriage, the parents emigrated to America, landing at New York after a tedious voyage lasting seven weeks, in a sail boat, this being more than fifty years ago, before the days of steam navigation as

we now have it. They were people with limited means, but full of hard work. The father worked on a railroad for a while and then removed to Pennsylvania and engaged in work in the coal mines until he had accumulated enough money to buy an 80-acre farm. After clearing part of this and putting up some buildings, he came to the conclusion that the land was more suitable for coal mining than for agricultural purposes, and so he sold it and removed to Adrian, Mich. This was in 1860. At the breaking out of the Civil War, he would have joined the army, but owing to partial deafness he was unable to do so.

In the year 1865 John Eichorn removed with his family from Adrian to the wilds of Gratiot; "into a howling wilderness with no roads and only blazed trees to show the way." A tract of 120 acres on section 16—the "school section"—of Emerson Township, was bought. There were no buildings, so the family moved into the school house at Emerson Center; which was the "center" all right enough, but far from being the fine and prosperous locality that it now is. Then all hands went to work, and after building the log house and other buildings, and getting some land cleared, starvation still seemed probable, for the land was so wet it was about impossible to raise anything. It was about an even bet whether they would get out or stay and conquer. They stayed and conquered.

The family of John and Sophia Eichorn: John F., born in Pennsylvania, April 23, 1856; Henry, born in Pennyslvania, August 4, 1859; Ella, born in Pennsylvania, May 2, 1861; William, born August 27, 1864, in Emerson; Albert, born in Emerson in 1868. John F. Eichorn died in August, 1902. All the rest reside in Gratiot County. The father, John Eichorn, died March 18, 1901. Sophia Eichorn, the mother, died at the home of her son William, November 23, 1909.

Henry Eichorn was married to Josephine Anderson, November 20, 1882. She is the daughter of Alfred and Elizabeth Anderson, of Emerson, and was born in Canada. Children have been born to this couple as follows: Ella, born September 25, 1883; Alfred, January 18, 1865; Mary, April 12, 1886; Lotta, March 7, 1888; Leslie, October 16, 1891; Robert, July 22, 1893; Grace, June 11, 1896.

Ella is married to Roscoe Coleman. They have a daughter—Violet—born November 12, 1906. Mary is married to Lloyd Mann. They have—Harvey, born April 14, 1904; Florence, April 2, 1910; Glenn, October, 1911. Lotta was married to George Crittenden, August 1, 1910. They have a son, born May 26, 1911. All reside in Emerson.

Mr. Eichorn takes much interest in local affairs—political, social and educational. He has been a careful, but progressive, school officer in his district for more than twenty years.

In telling of his early experiences in Gratiot, Mr. Eichorn seems to have a most vivid recollection of rattlesnakes. Musingly he remarks that "rattlers used to be very numerous in Emerson during those early times. One day when I was cradling wheat, I heard a loud noise suggestive of rattlesnakes, and on investigating I found two big fellows curled up close together. With the help of John and father the live snakes of Emerson were then and there reduced by two. Judging by their size they must have been pioneers. That summer I killed no less than eight of them. One of them came pretty near doing me up. I was drawing logs to be made into rails. In reaching under a log to get hold of the chain, a big rattler which was concealed there, showed his opposition to the proceeding, by biting me on the hand. I got to Dr. Scott as soon as possible, and he saved my life with whiskey. I never drank so much whiskey in all my life," says Henry. "The last one I killed was nine years ago. He had eight rattles,

and I guess he was the last one in the county. Anyway, it was the last one I have seen; and if there is a snake around, I am sure to see it."

Mr. Eichorn has passed through many experiences as a pioneer, but he has come out ahead, and is now enjoying the results of his hard labors.

## WONNACOTT.

George Wonnacott, now of St. Louis, Mich., was born aboard ship while his parents were enroute from England to America, December 6, 1832. His father, Arscott Wonnacott, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1812. His mother, whose maiden name was Ann Sanders, was born in England in 1802. They were married January 1, 1831. Eight children came to justify this union. Following are their names: Grace, born October 30, 1831; George, our subject, Mary Ann, Eliza, Fanny, John, Thomas and William. John died in the army during the Civil War, and is buried at Nashville, Tennessee. Besides George only two — Thomas and Eliza — are living.



GEORGE WONNACOTT AND WIFE.

George Wonnacott was married to Louisa Lincoln, November 16, 1858, at St. Thomas, Ontario. She was born in New York State, January 10, 1839, daughter of Charles Lincoln who was born in Vermont, and who was a cousin of President Abraham Lincoln. Her mother, who was Elizabeth Bailey, was of English descent. There were ten children born to Charles and Elizabeth Lincoln, as follows: John, Melinda, Joseph, Mary, Jesse, Elvira, Annie, Charles, Louisa and Augustus. All are deceased excepting Melinda, of Dakota, Dr. Charles, of Pontiac, Augustus, of Saginaw, formerly of Ithaca, and Louisa, wife of our subject.

George Wonnacott's early life was spent near St. Thomas, Ontario, on his father's farm. In the fall of 1854 he located 160 acres of land on section 18, Township of Lafayette, this county, built a shanty and cleared seven acres during the winter. In the next five seasons he walked 75 miles each season for a chance to work in haying and harvesting. In the fall of 1857 he sowed seven acres of wheat, and it was killed by frost in the following June.

After his marriage, as above narrated, Mr. Wonnacott brought his wife to his wilderness home, in February, 1859. They came to Corunna by railroad, and from there to Chesaning by stage, thence to St. Louis by wagon, thence following Bad River to where Edgewood now is, thence up

the creek to their home where everything was ready for keeping house. They had the best house in Lafayette Township. It was 16 by 20 feet in size, and built mainly with an ax and auger; (so he says, and he is a truthful man). All the lumber and shingles were split and fashioned with an ax. On one of his trips to Corunna he brought back a board to make a door for his shanty. The furniture was all home-made. Here he brought his wife to be met only by the welcome of a cat; and the cat was frightened at the unusual sight of a woman. Here was born their oldest child, Clara Ellen, August 24, 1859. Charles William was born July 26, 1861. Then, in 1863, they sold the farm to David and John Zimmerman, and went to Livingston County, thence to Canada on a visit, where Clara died March 25, 1864, and Jesse Melvin was born July 25, 1864.

Coming back to Michigan they bought the west half of the southwest quarter of section 28, Emerson, of John Jeffery, for $360. While the mother was on a visit to Canada, Ida Jane was born, February 28, 1867. Arthur Henry was born February 16, 1869. George Edward was born January 28, 1872. Willie Earl was born May 22, 1874. Freddie Glenn was born December 4, 1877. Carrie Pearl, the youngest was born January 11, 1880.

In 1876 Mr. Wonnacott traded his farm in Emerson to Elder Moss for his farm on section 25, Arcada. This farm he sold to Daniel W. Altenburg in 1883, and bought on section 9, North Star; afterward—in 1884—going to section 33, North Star, to the William J. Marshall place; thence in 1885 to section 36, Newark—the C. C. Kryder farm; thence in 1891 to section 15, Emerson, to the A. J. Hatfield farm; thence in 1896, back to the Altenburg farm, section 25, Arcada; thence, in 1903, to section 20, Emerson, where they lived several years enjoying the comforts of a good home. November 16, 1908, the worthy couple celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding, with 55 relatives present, and a very interesting occasion it was, heartily enjoyed by all, and by none better than by the genial couple, the principal subjects of this sketch, and the principals in the golden wedding celebration. The picture herewith presented, shows Mr. and Mrs. Wonnacott as they appeared on that occasion.

In furnishing facts for his sketch Mr. Wonnacott indulges in some more reminiscences: In the year 1862 he took part in 78 house-raisings and logging bees. In the fall of 1856 he left home at eight o'clock one morning, and it was four o'clock in the afternoon when he got to Ithaca, being hindered by the fire and smoke which were so bad that fall. On his way home he killed a bear and took it to Mr. Imisson's and dressed it, giving the carcass to the family, as they had nothing to eat but leeks. The smoke was so bad it nearly choked the cattle, and you could hear them wheeze forty rods away. "I took a gallon of bear's oil to save the lives of Emery Allen's cattle," says Mr. Wonnacott; presumably to oil up their breathing apparatus. There was but one building in Ithaca the first time he was there, and it was the same with St. Louis. When he went to St. Louis to mill, the water was so deep in the woods on the way, he had to put sticks across the top of his wagon-box and put his grist on top of the sticks to keep it dry. Summing up his troubles and to show how the recollection operates on his mind, Mr. Wonnacott says, "I would not pass through again what I have passed through, for the best 160 acres of land in Gratiot County." And that is about equivalent to saying that $30,000 wouldn't tempt him.

Mr. and Mrs. Wonnacott have been residents of St. Louis about three years, having bought the William Rose residence property in the south part of town.

## WEBSTER.

Charles H. Webster was born May 28, 1844, at Wellington, Ohio, where he lived and attended the village school until he was thirteen years of age, when he went to work on a farm by the month. In the spring of 1861 he began as an apprentice in the shop of his uncle, E. S. Tripp, to learn the trade of a carriage painter. On the 25th of July of that year, having passed his 17th birthday, he enlisted in Capt. Lindsley's company—Company H—of the 2nd Ohio Cavalry, "for three years or during the war." He served in the Southwest under Gen. Blunt, and participated in a number of engagements. The first was with Quantrell's Guerrillas at Independence, Missouri, February 22, 1862—the Lone Jack raid which lasted seven days and nights. The next were, Newtonia, Mo., Fayetteville, Ark., second battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., then Brownsville, Ark., where Price's army was driven across the Arkansas River in November of that year. The regiment was ordered back to Camp Chase, Ohio, in December, 1862, where it remained until early the next spring, when it was assigned to Burnside's 9th Army Corps in Kentucky.



CHARLES H. WEBSTER.

In August, the regiment crossed the Cumberland Mountains into East Tennessee, where, with his regiment, Mr. Webster served through all of the engagements of that strenuous campaign, ending with the siege of Knoxville.

January 1, 1864, Mr. Webster re-enlisted for three years. The regiment was then sent back to Camp Chase, Ohio, where the members received a 30-day furlough to recruit and fill up the depleted ranks. In the spring of 1864 the regiment was assigned to the Potomac Army and crossed the Rappahannock May 2nd. Two days later the regiment was assigned to Sheridan's Cavalry Corps, 3rd Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jas. H. Wilson, serving through the Wilderness, Cold Harbor and on to Richmond.



MRS. C. H. WEBSTER.

June 18th the regiment started on the famous Wilson Raid to destroy Lee's communications, south. After ten days and nights of hard work, the subject of this sketch was badly wounded at Stony Creek Station, twenty miles below Petersburg. The following day he was left on the field with the other wounded, was captured and taken to Petersburg, and later to Libby Prison. He was afterward released on parole and joined his regiment at Winchester, Va., December 25th. The regiment now belonged to Gen. Custer's 3rd Division, Gen. Wilson having been assigned to the Army of the Cumberland.

Mr. Webster took part in all of the engagements of his regiment up to April 1, 1865, when he was again wounded, at the Battle of Five Forks,

Va. Seven days later he joined his regiment at Farmville, or Sailors' Creek, and was present at the surrender of Gen. Lee.

After the Grand Review at Washington, the regiment was sent West again, where it remained until its final muster-out. Mr. Webster was discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, September 18, 1865, having served continuously from July 25, 1861.

On the 22nd of October, 1865, Mr. Webster reached Ithaca, Mich., and later he purchased 200 acres of land on section 27, Emerson Township, paying the government $1.25 per acre. Here he worked during the next year and then clerked in the store of Nelson & Church during the winter, afterward clerking for Frank Shepard and John Jeffery, and again in the winter of 1868 for Nelson & Church.

December 28, 1868, he was married to Marie E. Church, daughter of Rev. Lafayette Church. To this union five children were born: Addie E., December 4, 1869, died November 4, 1886; Arthur L., August 5, 1872, died September 13, 1874; Albert H., October 28, 1874; Alta C., November 19, 1879, died November 26, 1879; an infant who died at six days of age.

In the spring of 1869, Mr. Webster moved to his farm in Emerson. In the spring of 1873 he went to work for Gen. N. Church at his mill four miles north of Ithaca, and remained in charge as superintendent until 1886. He then resided on his farm on section 7, Emerson, until his health failed, when he disposed of the farm and, in the spring of 1904, moved to Alma where he lived till September, 1910, when he moved to Tacoma, Washington, where he still resides—819 South G Street.

Mr. Webster always maintained a good standing as a citizen. He is a staunch Republican and was elected clerk of his township in 1871 and '72, was elected justice of the peace in 1869, '89, '00 and '04, resigning when he moved to Alma.

## ENO.

Charles T. Eno, of Emerson Township, was born in Cairo, Green County, N. Y., July 22, 1830. His father's name was Isaac Eno, born in Connecticut, died in New York State. The mother was Hannah (Smith) Eno, daughter of Michael and Mary Smith. She was born in the State of New York. Charles T. Eno was the only child of his parents. He was married in the Township of Catskill, Green County, April 23, 1853, to Miss Phebe A. Jones, who was born September 3, 1835. Her parents were Cornelius and Elizabeth (Turner) Jones.

Mr. Eno attended the common schools until he was fifteen years of age, and thus obtained a fair education in the usual branches taught in those days. After his marriage he removed—in 1855—to Michigan, stopping in Kent County where he remained two years, and then removing to Clinton County, remaining there about two years. Then—in 1860—he moved back to the State of New York. While in Michigan during the years mentioned, the great forest fires occurred, and Mr. Eno will never forget the fall of 1856, rendered dismal as it was by the dense smoke that prevailed. At that time St. Johns was the western terminus of the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad, and Mr. Eno says, "the streets of St. Johns were full of logs and stumps; and Ithaca was too young to be noticeable." All of which is true, for it is all down in the records and can also be vouched for by the oldest inhabitants.

After their return to New York State Mr. Eno—in 1862—entered the army and served until the close of the war, being connected with Company D, 80th N. Y. Volunteers. In the spring of 1876 he removed with his family to Gratiot County and settled on section 35 of Emerson Township,

and there he has resided till the present time, owning 40 acres, with good buildings and all the modern conveniences for carrying on agricultural pursuits.

There have been eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Eno, four of whom are still living. Theodore Eno, born January 15, 1854, is unmarried, and lives at home. Willis Eno, born June 9, 1860, married Frances E. Bingham. Their son, Charles J., was born December 28, 1890. Frances E. Eno died January 30, 1912. The husband, Willis Eno lives in Lansing, Mich. Jerome Eno is married to Maggie M. Uhrbrock and resides in Emerson. They have one son—Louis S.—born December 20, 1905. Curtis Eno married Miss Flora C. E. Uhrbrock. They reside in Greenbush, Clinton County, Michigan.

In the days of his young manhood and on through middle life, Mr. Eno followed the business of teaching in the common schools, his term of service covering a period extending from 1849 to 1880; his field covering territory in New York State, and Gratiot and Clinton Counties, in Michigan. He says he was a typical old-time "pedagogue." He has been a member of the M. E. Church for the past forty-five years and has held many local offices of trust in his community and township. He and his wife, his faithful companion for about sixty years, are living a quiet life in their old age, and it is the hope of all who know them that they have yet many happy years before them.

## GUTHRIE.

Joseph A. Guthrie was born in Chenango County, N. Y., December 12, 1815. His parents, Nathan and Abbie (Richardson) Guthrie, were natives of New England. They both died while Joseph was yet a child. He acquired a common school education and became a teacher. Later he studied medicine, and in 1842 secured his diploma, thereafter practicing his profession, and after his migration to Gratiot in 1856, dividing his time between doctoring, and clearing his wild land on sections 14 and 15, Emerson Township.



DR. JOSEPH A. GUTHRIE.

Dr. Guthrie acted as clerk of the first session of circuit court ever held in the county, that of September 15, 1858, held at Alma. He served as justice of the peace several years, and was elected one of the county coroners in 1856, '72, '74 and '76. He was an active and influential citizen.

Our subject was married July 16, 1844, at Sandy Hill, N. Y., to Eunice Town, who died in 1846. He next married Emma M. Convis, and they became the parents of Justus N., Jesse C. and Ella C. Dr. Guthrie died December 3, 1892. Justus N. Guthrie was born at Byron, Mich., May 21, 1848. He was married December 14, 1875, to Annie Gamble, daughter of the late Robert and Esther Gamble, of Emerson. Justus N. Guthrie and wife are residents of Ithaca. His aged mother, now about 84 years of age, lives with them. Jesse L. Guthrie was born at Byron, Mich., September 9, 1850. He married Anna C. Sutton, of Emerson, November 30, 1872. They reside in Emerson. Ella C. Guthrie was born in Emerson, March 26, 1860. She married John Fitzgerald, May 11, 1880. They live in Coe, Isabella County, Mich.

## GREENE.

Noah Greene, a farmer owning and occupying an 80-acre farm on section 14 of Emerson Township, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, November 2, 1857. He is the son of Solomon Greene who was born in the State of Ohio, December 6, 1831. His mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Eddy, was also born in Ohio, December 25, 1834. Their family consisted of eight children, three of whom died young. The father had one brother who went to California by the overland route in an early day. He married there and afterward came to his death by drowning. Mr. Greene's father died July 24, 1894, his mother passing away in 1877 at the early age of about 43 years.

Noah Greene has two brothers and two sisters living at the time of this writing, namely, Amanda Markham, born in 1854; Maggie L. Baxter, born February, 1868; John W., born November 23, 1860, and Sherman, born April, 1873.

In his early days Mr. Greene lived in various localities, his parents doing more than an average amount of moving about the country, living some time in Virginia, and then returning to Ohio and locating in Wood County, on land purchased of R. B. Hayes, who was afterward president of the United States. At the age of about 18 years Mr. Greene learned the carpenters' trade, a fact which he says cost him many a hard day's work later on.

November 16, 1882, Mr. Greene came to Gratiot County, and on the 30th of the same month was married to Amelia J. Briner, of Arcada Township, who, with her parents, had recently removed to this county from Wood County, Ohio. She was born in Seneca County, Ohio, October 6, 1856, daughter of J. D. Briner and Mary A. Briner. After his marriage Mr. Greene worked at his trade several years, and gained a reputation for doing good work. In 1884, his father, having sold his farm in Ohio, came to Gratiot, and Mr. Greene then bought the farm which has ever since been his home.

Mr. Greene lays no claim to being a pioneer, but he came to Gratiot County early enough and has lived here long enough to witness great changes in the appearance and in the condition of things in the county, and has done his share to bring about the great changes.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene became the parents of three sons. Lester was born August 27, 1883, in Arcada Township. June 27, 1900, he was drowned while sailing on the Great Lakes. George B. was born May 17, 1892, in Emerson. He and his brother, Stanley W., who was born July 11, 1893, live at home. They are both graduates of St. Louis High School.

Mrs. Amelia J. Greene passed away October 26, 1907, after a long and tedious illness, sincerely mourned by a devoted family and a large circle of friends.

As a proof of the confidence reposed in Mr. Greene by his townsmen, it seems proper to mention that they have repeatedly placed him in positions of trust and responsibility. He has been an officer in the schools several years, and was township drain commissioner in the years 1890-'91, school inspector in 1893, and township clerk in 1895.

November 1, 1910, Mr. Greene again entered the matrimonial state, Miss Ella M. Weiss, of Tiffin, Ohio, becoming his bride. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Weiss, and was for a number of years a teacher in the schools of Tiffin and Seneca County.

## DAILY.

Hugh Daily whose residence is on section 9, Emerson, was born in Auburn, N. Y., November 26, 1846. His father was John Daily, born in Ireland. He died in the army during the Civil War soon after the Battle of the Wilderness, in which he was engaged. Hugh Daily's mother was Ellen (McDonald) Daily, also born in Ireland. She died about the year 1885. Their children were Lorenzo ("Jack"); James (killed in the army); John; Hugh; Mary Jane Healy, now of St. Louis; Ellen Fulton, now of Maple Rapids.

Hugh Daily settled in Emerson in 1858, and did his share as a pioneer. He, together with his father and three brothers were soldiers in the Civil War. Five soldiers from the same family is a circumstance not often equaled; a record perhaps never excelled in Gratiot County.

Mr. Daily was united in marriage (first) to Nora Slater, daughter of John and Lucinda Slater, of Lafayette Township. Children born to them were Thomas, Richard, Lucy, Ellen and John. Mrs. Lucinda Daily, the wife and mother, died October, 1893. Mr. Daily was married, (second) to Mrs. Nancy Simmons, whose maiden name was Adams, August 24, 1897. Children have been born to this union as follows: Ruth, James, Hannah Jane, and Mary Marie. Mrs. Nancy Daily was first married to Isaac Simmons, and one daughter—Exie—was born to them. She is married to Will De Peel, lives in Ithaca and they have a son, Raymond.

Mr. Daily had the misfortune to suffer a stroke of paralysis on the 27th of April, 1913. It was a severe stroke, but he is slowly recovering from its effects. He furnishes some interesting reminiscences of the early years in Gratiot as he experienced them, as follows: "We came to Gratiot County by ox-team in the fall of 1858, by way of Maple Rapids, moving into a shingle-shanty until we could build a log house. When we moved from the shanty to the new house we had to break the ice in front of the oxen. The shanty was located on the farm where L. D. Baker now lives. The new house was located on section 16, where Henry Eichorn now lives. In the winters the snow was awful deep; but we didn't have to turn out for automobiles. I helped to chop out lots of roads on section lines; took jobs ditching, and otherwise improved the time. We used to have good times those days. Neighbors were scarce, but they were neighbors when they met. Spelling schools and surprise parties and sleigh-riding with ox-teams were some of the amusements in winter time. We used to haul shingles to St. Johns and bring back goods for the merchants of Ithaca and St. Louis. One time there were four of us with teams going to St. Johns—Parks Allen, Jerry Shaver, Herman Shaver and myself. We stopped over at Coleman's, four miles this side of St. Johns. The next morning Herman and I ran four miles to see the cars, leaving our ox-teams in charge of the others. We had never seen a railroad. We saw the railroad that morning, but the cars had gone before we got there; but it was quite a treat to seen even the railroad. Afterward I worked on the railroad that came into St. Louis.

We used to have great times at the log house raisings and the logging bees. The pumpkin pies and the jammed taters were great. Wild game was everywhere—deers, bears and wild turkeys, and plenty of wolves, panthers and lynx."

But times are changed. The automobile has taken the place of the ox-cart and sled; and there is nothing wilder in Hugh's neighborhood than the gentle sheep and the docile, peaceful and friendly swine; all as harm-

less and domestic as Hugh himself, in his afflictions. May he regain his health and become "himself again", is the earnest wish of all his many friends.

Hugh Daily's army experiences were with Company B, 16th Mich. Infantry, in which he served one year. He was brought up in the Roman Catholic faith, and is an adherent to the doctrines of Christianity as exemplified by that Church.

## HUBER.

It is a pleasure to write the history, though briefly, of Henry Huber, an enterprising farmer located on section 33 of Emerson Township. He has a fine 60 acres of land that is capable of and does produce in satisfactory abundance the various crops that usually occupy the time and attention of the agriculturists of Gratiot County. The buildings compare favorably with the average, the barn being especially noticeable as one of the best among the good ones in the vicinity.

Henry Huber was born in Osceola County, this state, March 22, 1872. He is the son of Henry and Amelia (Gigax) Huber, both of whom are still living, as are also his five brothers, John, Fred, Charles, Solomon and Alpha, and his sister Emma. November 29, 1884, the family moved from Oscola County to Gratiot, settling on section 7 of Newark Township, on a piece of land that was a part of the David Diller farm. There they lived till the fall of 1888 when they moved to a farm in the woods on section 33 of Emerson Township, the farm that is now owned by C. Bloss. At that time there were but two acres cleared, and the house was but a small board shanty. They built the log house that is still standing on the farm, and cleared up 35 acres.

In the fall of 1893 Henry Huber bought out the interests of the other members of the family, and afterward, in 1898, sold the place to Will Aumaugher. He then bought out Ed. Allen, on section 33. On the 1st day of January, 1902, Mr. Huber was married to Miss Hattie Huntoon at her home in Beebe. The next day they went to keeping house on the farm that he had previously bought, and where they still live. Mrs. Huber was born in Bridgeville, this county, May 26, 1884, the daughter of Delbert and Melissa (Doan) Huntoon. The parents now live in Lafayette Township. Mrs. Huber has two brothers, George and Frank Huntoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Huber have an interesting family of three sons and one daughter. Delbert was born November 5, 1902; Frank was born May 23, 1905; Burl, born February 27, 1908; Hazel Melissa was born June 20, 1912.

Henry likes to refer to his varied experiences as a resident in a new county; experiences that have run all the way from good to bad. But his is that jovial sort of disposition that inclines to dwell on what he terms the joyful incidents of his life. One incident that seems to have a prominent place in his memory "harks back" to the Christmas eve of 1889, when Mose Ackles hitched up his oxen and took the women and children of the whole neighborhood to a Christmas tree at the Hetzman school house, five miles away, the men all walking behind. Nothing so striking about it, only as it shows the readiness of the pioneers to make the most of their meager opportunities for recreation and amusement; and a five-mile ox-team ride in the night over the roads of those times, for pleasure, may well be taken as proof that their amusements were not so numerous as to become burdensome in those days. And it is enough to make one shudder to think what their cares and trials must have been if a ten-mile walk such as Henry and the other devoted men took that night can be designated as "joyful."

## SHAVER.

Jerry Shaver, section 17 of Emerson Township was born in Delaware County, N. Y., November 19, 1822. He is a son of Jacob and Sally (Kinch) Shaver, of Delaware County, N. Y., and grandson of John and Elizabeth (Parks) Shaver, the former born May 19, 1763, the latter born May 13, 1763. Jacob Shaver came to Gratiot in 1856, settling on 80 acres, section 2 of Emerson, and remained there until his death, July 21, 1873, at the age of 77 years. His wife, Sally Shaver, lived but two months after his death, passing away in her 77th year.

Jerry Shaver was the tenth in a family of eleven children born to Jacob and Sally Shaver. Now in his 91st year he is remarkably well preserved, considering his advanced age, getting about quite lively and without the aid of a cane. His wife, now deceased, whose maiden name was Ursula Sawtell, was one of twelve children born to Richard and Cordelia (Reid) Sawtell. She was born in Chenango County, N. Y., September 27, 1826, and died at her home in Emerson, August 25, 1909, aged nearly 83 years. Her father who was a physician, died in the State of New York in 1842. Her mother came to Michigan after the death of her husband, and died at the home of her daughter Ursula in 1865. Jerry Shaver and Ursula Sawtell were married May 30, 1846, in Canisteo, Steuben County, N. Y. Four children were born to them. William died in infancy. Herman D., born March 2, 1848; Mary A., born July 21, 1850, died January 10, 1870; J. Frank, born June 2, 1864.

Henry Huber was born in Osceola County, this state, March 22, 1872, who died in Isabella County in 1909. They are the parents of three children —Lillie, Vern and Daisy. Lillie married C. A. Sanderson, and lives at Beebe, this county. Vern married Mayme Herr, of Emerson and lives at Princeton, California. Daisy lives with her parents. Herman D. Shaver and family lived in Michigan until 1906 when they moved to California. They now own a farm and reside in the Sacramento Valley.

**Frank Shaver,** born in Emerson Township, June 2, 1864, has lived until the present time on the same farm on which he was born. He was united in marriage in 1889 to Edna Brown, daughter of Edgar A. and Mary (De Peel) Brown, of Emerson, Rev. C. A. Jacokes performing the ceremony. From this union three children have been born—Irl, born May 4, 1892; Carl, born January 30, 1894; Marjorie, born December 4, 1896. Irl is now a resident of Princeton, California, where he went in 1909 for the benefit of his health.

Jerry Shaver, the father, came to Michigan from the State of New York, with his family, in 1855. He lived in Ingham County one year and then—in 1856—came to Gratiot and settled on wild land, section 17, Emerson Township, where he still resides with his son Frank. He and his family were here all through the "starvation times", and, with many others, suffered many of the hardships and privations that fell to the lot of those early settlers; hardships difficult to exaggerate in the telling, and which none of them ever desired to have duplicated. The aged pioneer has always enjoyed the confidence and good will of his townsmen. Politically he has always been a Democrat. Officially he has served his township acceptably as supervisor. The oldest son, Herman, was elected justice of the peace in 1890, and was re-elected in 1894.

Frank Shaver has served his township as clerk, and is now serving in the important office of highway commissioner. He is prominent in secret society work; a member and Past N. G. of Emerson Lodge No. 375, I. O. O. F., and has been secretary a number of terms; is Past Ch. Patriarch of

Ithaca Encampment No. 106, and a Past Com. of Gratiot Canton No. 11, and is a member of Ithaca Camp No. 4713, M. W. A. Also a member of the school board of his district. His esteemed wife is prominent in D. of R. circles and is also a member of Oak Leaf Camp No. 1227, R. N. A.

## COSTON.

Charles H. Coston, owning and occupying the old Coston homestead on sections 2 and 11, of Emerson, was born in that township November 18, 1858. His father, Jotham Warner Coston, was born in Steuben County, N. Y., June 10, 1818, son of John and Margaret (Budlong) Coston, both natives of Connecticut. His mother, Sarah Ann (Shaver) Coston, was born in Delaware County, N. Y., August 20, 1820. J. Warner Coston was next to the youngest of a family of 15 children. He and Sarah Ann Shaver were married in Canisteo, Steuben County, N. Y., February 22, 1844.

Warner Coston removed with his family to Michigan in 1855, settling first in Ingham County, and in 1856 coming to the wilds of Gratiot, settling on sections 2 and 11 of Emerson, when there was but one enighbor within four miles of them. That neighbor was Dr. Joseph A. Guthrie. There they spent the remainder of their lives, and there they passed through all of the varied experiences that fell to the lot of the early settlers in the county; experiences, some of which left pleasant memories; others left memories not so pleasant. Mr. and Mrs. Coston were for many years and to the time of their deaths, professing christians and church members. Mrs. Coston died July 29, 1887. Mr. Coston died May 26, 1901.

Two children were born to Warner and Sarah Ann Coston: John J. was born in Canisteo, N. Y., March 25, 1847. He was married to Renna A. Coston, April 11, 1871, at Bath, Clinton County, Mich. She is a daughter of Nelson and Alma Coston. They live in Owosso, and have one son—Leslie—born in Emerson July 4, 1880.

Charles H. Coston, the second and younger son of Warner and Sarah Ann Coston, was born, as above mentioned, in Emerson, November 18, 1858. His boyhood was spent after the usual manner of farmers' sons in a new country—helping in the strenuous work of the farm and attending winter terms of the district school. He was married September 18, 1888, to Miss Stella C. Somerville, of Emerson, daughter of David and Rebecca Somerville. She was born in Cambria County, Penn., December 30, 1862. Her father, David Somerville, was born in Cambria County, March 25, 1833, and died in Emerson July 4, 1896. The mother, Rebecca Somerville, died in Emerson, December 6, 1912. They removed from Pennsylvania to Indiana in 1881. Three years later they removed to section 10 of Emerson, and there they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Somerville was a soldier in the Civil War.

Charles H. Coston and wife are the parents of children as follows: Anna L., born December 20, 1889; Wayne W., September 27, 1891; George W., December 13, 1898; Charles Russell, April 5, 1901.

Anna L. Coston was married to John Walker, March 16, 1913. They live in Bethany.

Wayne W. Coston married Martha Patterson, March 9, 1913. They, and the two younger children—George W. and Charles Russell—live at home with their parents.

Charles H. Coston is an industrious, thorough-going and successful farmer, and he and his family enjoy the esteem of the community.

## HETZMAN.

William H. Hetzman, successful farmer and breeder of pure-bred live stock and poultry, residing on section 13, Emerson, has long been identified with the agricultural, educational and religious interests of Gratiot County. His parents—Louis and Martha (Hands) Hetzman, in the year 1859, located on a piece of swamp land (appropriately so called at that time) in Emerson, heavily timbered and at times pretty well covered with water. On this farm William H. was born, January 1, 1872. Here he grew to manhood, receiving a good common school education which he has added to materially by private study and research, especially along the lines of stock-breeding and general farming. This farm which he helped to clear, drain and otherwise improve, and which he now owns, has all his life been his home, and it has come to be one of the most productive in the county. He was one of the first to erect a silo and adopt scientific methods in dairying and stock breeding.

Louis Hetzman was born and educated near Belfort, France, March 8, 1827. At the age of 17 he came to America, locating in New York where he learned the trade of a cabinet maker. He worked at the trade in New York, Philadelphia and other eastern cities, in the meantime gaining proficiency in speaking and writing the English language, also learning to speak German. Coming to Michigan he located at Concord, where he worked at cabinet making and undertaking.

About the time that young Louis left France, a little girl, destined to become his wife, but at that time only eight years of age, accompanying her mother—her father, John Hands, gardener and florist, being then deceased—left her birthplace, Banbury, England, to undertake what proved to be a six-weeks voyage, their destination being Guelph, Canada. Here she became a member of the family of her uncle, Martin Dew. After growing to womanhood she came to Concord, Mich., where her mother then resided. There she was married to Louis Hetzman. They removed to the "north woods" in 1859, settling on section 13, Emerson, as stated. This place was their home until their deaths, the father passing away February 23, 1898, the mother March 8, 1909. Children were born to them as follows: Mary E., now Mrs. Marion Curtiss, of Emerson, born at Concord; Alice E., now Mrs. O. L. Maxson, of Wheeler, born in Emerson; Frank M., long a resident of his native township, Emerson, now a farmer, of Eaton County; Amos V., born in Emerson, is a farmer of that township; John L., a farmer, of Emerson, his native township; William H., principal subject of this sketch; Emma, twin sister William H., died in infancy.

Here this resolute and worthy couple lived and endured all the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life, far from towns and railroads, and even wagon-roads as we know them, with a courage and a spirit of hope and cheerfulness that never failed. No language can adequately express a fitting tribute to the unselfish spirit with which they devoted themselves to the best interests of their children and the community in which they lived.

Louis Hetzman served his township many years as supervisor, and in other official capacities. Mrs. Hetzman, one of those rare spirits born to be a scholar and poetess, but denied, by circumstances, the blessings of a good education, was, nevertheless, a woman of real culture, and was best loved and appreciated by those who knew her best.

William H. Hetzman was married August 31, 1898, to Miss Eva C. McClure, who was born in Logan County, Ohio, July 18, 1868, daughter of Alonzo C. and Sarah J. (Leggit) McClure. Mr. McClure served with distinction in the Civil War, and twice barely avoided capture only by the

most heroic bravery. He served his county as commissioner seven years—1888 to 1895. A farmer owning about 300 acres of land; prominent and influential in his community.

To Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hetzman have been born children as follows: Martha G., Marion C., Ruth A., William Lowell and Lois Gail.

## SHOWERS.

Nathan M. Showers, the subject of this sketch, was born October 2, 1842, in De Kalb County, Indiana. His father, Daniel Showers, was born in Russellville, Albany County, N. Y., May 17, 1804. He removed to Indiana in 1839, settling in De Kalb County. He was married to Hannah Campbell, and to this union there were nine children born. The mother dying in 1850, the father married Mrs. Mary Ann (Chaffee) Cook, removing, soon afterward, to Noble County, Indiana. Three children were born to this union.

After clearing up a large farm, in which work Nathan contributed his share, the father, Daniel Showers, died at the age of 83 years. Hannah (Campbell) Showers, mother of Nathan, was born December 3, 1804, in Newborough, Orange County, N. Y. She died at the age of a little over 45 years.

Nathan M. Showers enlisted in the military service of his country in 1861, as a member of Co. H, 30th Indiana Vol. Infantry. Near the close of his three-year term he re-enlisted, and, returning home on furlough, he was married to Eunice L. Bangs on the 24th of January, 1864. Returning to the front, he served until the close of the war, as first corporal in his company. He was twice wounded, once at Pittsburg Landing and again at Murfreesborough. The last time, while helpless on the field of battle, the ground on which he lay was fought over twice by detachments of cavalry. Besides the two battles mentioned, Mr. Showers took part in the following: Shiloh, Siege of Cornith, Lavergne, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge. In the Atlanta campaign in Northern Georgia he was under the enemies fire for 100 days continuously. Later he participated in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and took part in a number of smaller engagements.

Receiving an honorable discharge, Mr. Showers returned home in December, 1865, and settled on a part of the home farm, remaining there till 1876, when he removed to Michigan, settling in Emerson Township, Gratiot County, on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 22, where he still resides.

Mrs. Showers, whose maiden name was Eunice L. Bangs, as heretofore stated, was born September 30, 1843, in DeKalb County, Indiana. Her father, Heman Bangs, was born in Bennington County, Vermont, June 14, 1813, removing to Indiana in 1840. He was married November 22, 1842, to Catharine E. Chaffee. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom are living. Heman Bangs died in Richland Township, De Kalb County, Indiana, May 31, 1902, aged nearly 89 years. His wife, Catharine (Chaffee) Bangs died at the same place in 1900, aged 78 years. Heman Bangs was one of the first settlers in Richland Township, De Kalb County, Indiana, and one of the foremost workers in the U. B. Church. He was the son of Nathaniel and Julia (Elwell) Bangs, and was of English descent. His great grandmother accompanied her 16 sons to the place of enlistment, and saw them enrolled in the service of their country in the Revolutionary War. She died at the age of 104 years. Heman Bangs' father died at the age of 97 years.

Nathan M. Showers and wife have been the parents of nine children, three dying in infancy. Of the six growing to manhood and womanhood, three—Daniel D., Ida C. and Maurice G., have passed to their reward. John H., Mettie M. and Miles N. are living. John H. was married November 23, 1890, to Aura L. Curtiss. Mettie M. married L. Mead Cramer, March 30, 1892. Miles N. married Edna Presler, September 8, 1901. There are twelve grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Showers have always been active and respected citizens in the locality in which they reside. Mr. Showers is serving his third term as justice of the peace. In 1866 he became a member of the U. B. Church, afterward joining the M. E. Church and has faithfully and satisfactorily filled all the local offices in his church and Sunday school.

## SHOOK.

Mortimer G. Shook, late resident on section 3, Emerson, now residing near Wolverine, Mich., was born in Bethany Township, November 6, 1872, being the fourth, in their regular order, of the children of John J. and Eliza (Chase) Shook. John J. Shook, the father, was born in Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., March 20, 1829. The mother was born June 11, 1839, in Oneida County, N. Y. They were married in Bethany, this county, April 21, 1861. The family resided in Bethany until Mortimer was eleven years of age, and then—in 1883—removed to Emerson Township.

Shortly after his marriage John J. Shook took leave of his bride and other friends in answer to his country's call for volunteers to put down the rebellion that was inaugurated that spring. He enlisted in Company I, Third Mich. Cavalry. After serving two years he was wounded at Petersburg, Virginia and was sent home for treatment. After recovering from his wound he returned to his regiment and served eight months more, to the end of his term of enlistment. He was a participant in several battles and skirmishes, acquitting himself as a true and loyal soldier. He was honorably discharged, and, returning to his home, resumed his occupation as a carpenter, which trade he followed as long as his health would permit. He died March, 1904, in his 75th year.

To John J. and Eliza Shook five children were born in the following order: Alfred H.; Walter B.; Bessie M.; Mortimer G., who furnished the data for this family history; Carrie E. Mortimer G. Shook was married in Alma, May 29, 1897, to Miss Edith E. Clark, daughter of Gardner and Mary (Fenton) Clark, of Alma. Gardner Clark was born in Merrillsville, Madison County, N. Y., November 28, 1834. His wife, Mary Fenton, was born February 19, 1847, in Oneida County, N. Y. To them were born seven children as follows: George G., Ashley J., Mary E., Lillian A., Edith E., Francis A., and Florence M. Edith E. lived at home until her marriage to Mr. Shook. After their marriage they resided on the old homestead in Emerson, engaged in agricultural pursuits for more than fourteen years.

December 20, 1911, Mr. Shook sold his Emerson farm, and on the 13th of March, 1912, removed to a farm of 120 acres which he purchased, lying three and a half miles southeast of Wolverine, Cheboygan County, Mich., where he still lives, engaged in farming. His aged mother, who lived with him and whom he cared for loyally, died in Emerson, October, 1910, aged 77 years.

While a resident of Emerson Mr. Shook was connected with the I. O. O. F., No. 375, of Emerson, and also with the Ancient Order of Gleaners. He is a reliable citizen and he and his estimable wife are justly popular in their community.

## BELLOWS.

This sketch records some of the principal events in the life of Edwin R. Bellows, a prominent farmer residing on section 20, Emerson Township. Starting at the beginning of his career, he was born in Eaton County, Mich., January 16, 1859. His father, Ralph Bellows, was born in New York, September, 1815, and died in Gratiot County, February 11, 1863. His mother was Jane (Terry) Bellows, born March 28, 1822, the first white child born in Pontiac, Mich. She died in Gratiot, March 2, 1870.

Ralph and Jane (Terry) Bellows were the parents of children as follows: Minerva J., born in Genesee County, Mich., October, 1843; Emma, born in Marshall, Mich., January 25, 1846; Charles J., born February 28, 1849, in Eaton County, Mich.; Mary H., born in Eaton County, November 29, 1850, died August 25, 1862, in Gratiot County; George W., born in Eaton County, November 14, 1852, died December 7, 1874, in Gratiot; Austin J., born in Eaton County, August 17, 1854; James B., born in Eaton County, September 3, 1856; Edwin R.; Ralph W., born in Gratiot County, June 22, 1862; Myrtie E., born in Gratiot County, January 14, 1864.

Minerva J. Bellows married Parks Allen, of Emerson, now deceased. Their children were—Ella J., Ernest R., Percy C., J. Alton, Blanche G., Ray and Pearl. Parks Allen is now deceased. Mrs. Minerva Allen resides in Ithaca.

Emma G. Bellows married Philip P. Allen. They had children—Leland W., Cecil W., Tessie M., Rexford E. Philip P. Allen is deceased.

Edwin R. Bellows came with his parents to Gratiot County December, 1860. They settled on section 29, Emerson. By the death of his father in 1863 and of his mother in 1870, he was left an orphan at the age of eleven years. After living one year with his sister, Mrs. Parks Allen, he went to Eaton County and lived with his uncle, Jonas Bellows, and attended the country schools during the winters. At the age of seventeen he went into the lumber woods and worked at the lumbering business the next ten winters.

May 8, 1886, Mr. Bellows was united in marriage, at Maple Rapids, Mich., to Mary E. (Stocum) De Peel, of Emerson. She was born March 17, 1858, in Portage County, Ohio, daughter of B. Frank and Alice F. (Brace-Hopkins) Stocum, the former born in Rome, N. Y., May 28, 1828, the latter in Herkimer County, N. Y., September 4, 1827. B. F. Stocum and family, coming to Gratiot County in 1868, settled in North Shade Township where they remained one year and then removed to section 20, Emerson, where Mr. Stocum died September 13, 1894. Mrs. Stocum passed away at the home of her son in Jackson, Mich., April 24, 1903. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Stocum, besides Mrs. Bellows, are—Ernest E., born November 4, 1861, in Portage County, Ohio; Walter E., born July 8, 1873, in Gratiot County.

After his marriage, Mr. Bellows settled on a new farm in New Haven Township which he cleared up, and where he remained for thirteen years. He then purchased the homestead farm of his wife's parents, section 20, Emerson, where he and his family have since resided.

Children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bellows as follows: Shirley M., May 31, 1891; Mabel M., October 5, 1894; Paul B., July 29, 1899; T. Aileen, June 9, 1901. The children are all at home.

Mr. Bellows has often been the choice of his party for official positions, but being a Democrat, he lasted, he says, about as long as the proverbial snowball in — hot weather.

**Melancton Pettit** came to Gratiot County in 1855 from Ohio and took up a tract of land in Emerson Township where he resided until his death, August 5, 1866. His wife, Jane (Thorpe) Pettit passed away January 25, 1865. Mr. Pettit, was prominent in the early history of Emerson being one of the inspectors of election at the first election held in the township, the special election of October 24, 1855, at which 11 votes were cast and all for Mr. Pettit for supervisor. He was re-elected in '56, '59 and '60. As a member of the board of supervisors he was active and trustworthy, and was made chairman of the board in '59 and '60. He took a leading part in the strife over locating the county seat, putting in his efforts in behalf of Ithaca.

**Isaiah Allen** came to Gratiot in 1855, and with his five sons settled in Emerson Township. The Allens took a leading and honorable part in Emerson affairs many years, and members of the second and third generations are well maintaining the honorable example set by their pioneer ancestors. The sons were Isaiah Jr., Philip P., Ransom, Parks and Ira S. Isaiah Allen, Sr., was present at the first election—that of October 24, 1855—and was chosen highway commissioner. He died in 1869 at the age of 64 years. Ransom Allen was elected school inspector in '55, '57 and '70, justice in '71, '81 and '84. He is the only one of the five brothers still living, a resident of Ithaca. Philip P. Allen was chosen treasurer four years.

**William Imisson** was a popular and prominent early settler in Emerson; said to have been the very first settler. It was the intention to name the township in his honor, but by an unfortunate blunder it was written 'Emerson" in the record, instead of "Imisson," and it was allowed to stand. Mr. Imisson, the wife, died August 25, 1887, at the home of her son-in-Isabel Immisson, the wife, died August 25, 1887, at the home of her son-in-law, Samuel Newton, aged 81.

Justice demands a long list of distinguished names to represent only a portion of Emerson's notable pioneers not otherwise fairly dealt with in these pages. The list, however, will have to be limited: Oscar A. Everden, (see sketch of John M. Everden); Alanson B. Bailey; Isaac Preston; William Preston, (still living, a resident of Ithaca); Reuben Coffin; Daniel F. Muscott; Louis Hetzman; Reuben C. Haight; John Knight; Warner Coston; Samuel Newton; Theron Finney; Spencer Monroe; Erastus C. Farrington, (was present at the first election in Emerson, and still living, surprisingly vigorous, on the land—section 30—selected by him in the fall of 1854. He is in his 90th year); Jesse Sherck and son, Joseph F; Delbert Davis; Jesse Pepple served seven years as supervisor, commencing in 1880; Geo. W. Presler; Duncan McKinzie; John L. Smith commenced in 1900 and served seven years as supervisor; Gaylord Helms filled the position six years; Bernard L. Case is serving his sixth year; Benjamin E. Van Deventer and his sons; Chas. A. Van Deventer was the Republican candidate of register of deeds in 1898; John Mull came to Emerson in 1861, settling on section 5. He served in the Civil War, as also did his son, William, who lost his life in the service. The other sons—Joel, Edwin and John, also the father, are all deceased. The Curtis brothers—Albro, Waldo, Seneca and Francis—came to Emerson in 1862, and were among the most hardy, upright and energetic of the pioneers.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Allen, Mrs. Jane,** March 2, 1870, aged 48.

**Allen, Parks,** July 22, 1897, aged 61. He settled on section 19, in 1854. An energetic citizen of strict integrity. The mourning relatives at his funeral numbered over 50, and the procession was over half a mile long.

**Bell, Mrs. Lottie S.,** Dec. 2, 1873, aged 29. Daughter of Sheriff W. H. Pratt.

**Burnham, Harrison,** June 26, 1883, aged 48. He was a pioneer of St. Louis, with his father, Jacob Burnham.

**Brown, W. H.,** June 22, 1885, aged 49.

**Beard, Rev. Elijah,** Sept. 15, 1894, aged 87. He came to Gratiot in 1855; a minister in the Christian Church, serving a very useful purpose in the county's primitive days. A very kindly and conscientious man.

**Beard, Mrs.** wife of Rev. Elijah, Dec. 12, 1898, aged 88.

**Bailey, Frank E.,** at his home, the Finney place, three miles north of Ithaca, Aug. 12, 1899, aged 45, leaving a wife and two children. The widow afterward married Elmer Quimby, and murdered the two children.

**Borton, Samuel,** at the home of his son, B. B. Borton, Sept. 18, 1902, aged 78.

**Brown, Alva,** July 6, 1911, aged 36. An exemplary young man, son of Edgar A. Brown.

**Coffin, Reuben,** July 1, 1874, aged 64. He came to Emerson in 1856, and was popular among the pioneers. He served as supervisor, clerk and justice of the peace.

**Cramer, Mrs. Priscilla,** Aug. 30, 1882, aged 87.

**Coston, Warner,** May 26, 1901, aged 83. A valued citizen who settled on section 11 in 1856.

**Coston, Mrs. Sarah Ann,** July 29, 1887, aged 68. Wife of Warner Coston and an estimable woman.

**Curtis, Mrs. Sylvia,** Dec. 19, 1894, aged 88. Widow of Waterman F. Curtis, and mother of Albro, Waldo, Seneca and Francis Curtis who settled in Emerson in 1862.

**Cochran, John,** Dec. 17, 1890, aged 58.

**Crosby, Virgil,** May, 1907, aged 57. He was son of Emery Crosby, a prominent early settler, and county clerk in 1858.

**Coffin, Hannah H.,** January 9, 1903, aged 80; widow of Reuben Coffin; among the earliest settlers.

**Curtis, Waldo,** January 13, 1907, aged 66. One of the hardy pioneers.

**Curtis, Albro,** May 15, 1911, aged 71. A hardy pioneer and a veteran of the Civil War.

**Devereaux, Theodore,** at the home of his son, Alden, at Beebe, Aug. 6, 1909, aged 85. An esteemed pioneer, justice of the peace in 1857.

**Edgar, Stewart,** Oct. 12, 1889, aged 70. A conscientious and reliable pioneer.

**Erickson, G.,** July 13, 1899, aged 61.

**Eichorn, John,** March 18, 1901, aged 76.

**Eichorn, Mrs. Sophia,** at the home of her son, William, Nov. 23, 1909, aged 78; widow of John Eichorn.

**Fisher, Mrs. Fannie E.,** wife of Daniel Fisher, Nov. 4, 1911, aged 38 years. Only child of ex-Sheriff Jas. P. King and wife. She left a husband and six children to mourn the loss of a good wife and mother.

**Gamble, Robert,** February 15, 1880, aged 62 years.

**Gamble, Mrs. Esther,** Nov. 18, 1903, aged 90 years; widow of Robert Gamble; old residents of Emerson, formerly of St. Louis. .

**Griffith, James,** Nov. 23, 1908, aged 72. An old soldier, and a resident of Emerson more than 50 years.

**Greene, Mrs.** estimable wife of Noah Greene, Oct. 26, 1907.

**Griffith, Jay A.,** at Pasadena, California, Jan. 1913, aged about 58 years. He was son of the late Daniel Griffith, a pioneer of Emerson, who died in St. Louis, May, 1907. Jay had lived in California about three years, going there for the benefit of his health.

**Hendershott, Wm. W.,** January 5, 1895, aged 57.

**Hetzman, Louis,** February 23, 1898. A reliable pioneer who was entrusted with many important public duties—was school inspector, drain commissioner, justice; was supervisor six years.

**Houlden, Wm.,** February 24, 1907, aged 78. A worthy pioneer.

**Hetzman, Mrs. Martha,** March 8, 1909, at the age of 75 years.

**Hiller, Mrs. Caroline,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. J. Bare, Nov. 21, 1910, aged nearly 77. Her husband, John Hiller, died in 1899.

**Houlden, Mrs. Hannah,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Geo. Kitchen, Dec. 7, 1912, aged 76. Her husband, Wm. Houlden died in 1907. They were highly esteemed citizens, settling in Emerson in 1880.

**Johnson, W. B.,** May 16, 1888, aged 84.

**Johnson, Mrs. J. R.,** February 19, 1884, aged 63.

**Jennings, Mrs. Elizabeth,** May 25, 1910, aged 76. Widow of Wm. Jennings, who died in 1875.

**Kitch, Wm.,** Nov. 24, 1877, aged 58.

**Knapp, Lewis,** July 25, 1887, aged 78. A pioneer.

**Kostenbader, Daniel,** April 29, 1892, aged 77.

**Knapp, Mrs. Henry S.,** Oct. 9, 1895, aged 62.

**Knapp, Henry S.,** Oct. 19, 1899, aged 70. An old teacher and worthy citizen.

**Knapp, Peter,** Aug. 6, 1906, aged 65. A resident of the county many years, coming here from Riverdale.

**Lewis, Mrs. Wm.,** Sept. 7, 1895, aged 63.

**Lewis, Wm.,** Nov. 9, 1907, aged 80. Respected pioneers who settled in 1868 on the farm where they died.

**Lewis, Walter W.,** son of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Lewis, at the home of his parents in Emerson, April 30, 1913, at the early age of 20 years. His death was greatly regretted.

**Mygrant, John H.,** February 25, 1888, aged 51. A leading citizen who settled first in Ithaca, later removing to a farm in Emerson.

**McDonald, Alex.,** Nov. 18, 1877, aged 49.

**McArthur, Isabella,** June 4, 1882, at the age of 82 years.

**Mull, Edwin E.,** Aug. 8, 1883, aged 48, son of John Mull, Sr., who settled here in 1861.

**Muscott, Daniel F.,** March 9, 1885, aged 74. A pioneer of 1854, treasurer and supervisor of his township, and several years keeper of the county farm.

**Mull, John, Sr.,** March 13, 1888, aged 77. One of the pioneers of 1861.

**McArthur, James,** May 21, 1890, aged about 60. Located in Emreson in 1856. Had no relatives; left property of $6,000 value.

**Mull, Mrs. Eliza,** widow of John Mull, Sr., March 5, 1894, aged 87.

**Mull, John, Jr.,** April 19, 1907, aged 58.

**Muscott, Theodore W.,** July 19, 1911, aged 68 years. One of Emerson's meritorious citizens, son of Daniel F. Muscott.

**Newton, Samuel,** April 27, 1894, aged 63. He came in an early day and was an active and reliable citizen; father of nine children, Supervisor Fred C. Newton of the second ward, St. Louis, being one of them.

**Newton, Mrs. Samuel,** February 13, 1894, aged 60 years. She was a daughter of Wm. Imisson, the pioneer whose name formed the basis for the name of the township.

**Newcomb, W. C.,** February 25, 1895, aged 91; at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Ira Livingston.

**Pepple, Jesse, Sr.,** February 4, 1869, aged 63; father of Jesse and Isaac Pepple, well-known residents of Ithaca.

**Preston, Mrs. Isaac,** March 29, 1876, at the age of 72. A pioneer, coming here in 1854.

**Preston, Isaac,** February 16, 1880, aged 86, at the residence of his son William. Isaac Preston was one of the election inspectors at the first election held in the township, that of October 24, 1855, at which 11 votes were cast.

**Pendell, Moses L.,** June 20, 1894, at the age of 60 years. An energetic and trustworthy citizen.

**Parks, Horatio D.,** Nov. 13, 1897, aged 67. A valued pioneer.

**Putnam, Wm. A.,** Sept. 29, 1901, at West Branch, where he had lived a year. He was an old settler in Emerson, standing well in his community.

**Putnam, Mrs. Lydia,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Geo. J. Coleman, Dec. 8, 1907, aged 67; an estimable woman, widow of Wm. A. Putnam.

**Parker, Dean S.,** February 27, 1911, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Sturgis, Norman, Oklahoma, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, accompanied by his wife. A respected old resident of Emerson, aged 71 at his death.

**Posey, Mrs. Sarah E.,** wife of David Posey, Dec. 11, 1911, aged 58 years. Well known in Emerson where they took up their residence in 1892.

**Ryckman, Mrs. Alevia F.,** esteemed wife of Theodore Ryckman, Nov. 13, 1872, aged 22 years.

**Ramsey, Jas. F.,** January 17, 1879, aged 16; result of pistol-shot accident of the previous September. Son of Abner Ramsey.

**Ramsey, Abner,** Sept. 20, 1896. A settler here in 1871.

**Ramsey, Mrs. Nancy A.,** Nov. 19, 1908, aged 82; widow of Abner Ramsey.

**Randels, Charles,** at his home in Ohio, Aug. 25, 1899. He had formerly been a respected resident of Emerson for several years.

**Shaver, Lewis,** February 21, 1870, aged 51 years.

**Simmons, Permelia,** Oct. 14, 1889, aged 82.

**Smith, Josephine,** wife of Albert Smith, and daughter of Daniel and Nancy Griffith, January 4, 1890, aged 37.

**Sanders, Samuel,** February 2, 1890, aged 64.

**Stacey, Calvin S.,** March 17, 1891, aged 42.

**Smith, Mrs. Ella C.,** wife of Albert Smith, Dec. 5, 1905, aged 48.

**Snedicor, Samuel,** Dec. 14, 1893, aged 80 years. A valued pioneer.

**Snedicor, Mrs. Helen,** widow of Samuel Snedicor, at the home of her son Marshall, Chicago, March 15, 1910, aged 71 years.

**Stocum, B. F.,** Sept. 13, 1894, aged 67.

**Stocum, Mrs. B. F.,** at the home of her son, in Jackson, Mich., April 24, 1903, aged 77. Residents of Gratiot County dating from 1868.

**Somerville, David,** July 4, 1896, aged 63.

**Sullivan, Timothy,** May 6, 1907, aged 65.

**Shaver, Mrs. Ursula A.,** wife of Jerry Shaver, Aug. 25, 1909, aged nearly 83 years. They were among the earliest and best of the pioneers, coming here in 1856.

**Spear, John,** Sept. 12, 1909, aged 66.

**Stacey, Mrs. Ann,** widow of John Stacey, January 23, 1909, at the age of 56 years.

**Spear, Gideon,** April, 15, 1913, aged 65 years. He settled in Emerson in 1880, and was a citizen highly esteemed.

**Thompson, Mrs.,** wife of Samuel D. Thompson, Aug. 9, 1891, aged 54.

**Thompson, Samuel D.,** February, 1908, aged 75. Respected early settlers.

**Traver, Bushnell,** pioneer and old soldier; January 10, 1894, aged 60.

**Tyler, John B.,** March 11, 1903, aged 72.

**Van Buskirk, Mrs.,** January 5, 1889, aged 58; wife of Ira S. Van Buskirk, many years in the hotel business at Ithaca.

**Van Buskirk, Ira S.,** February 18, 1891, aged 69. Popular landlord; father of George, Will and Fred Van Buskirk. Came to Gratiot in 1867.

**Valentine, George,** May 28, 1879, aged 60.

**Woodward, Allen,** March 5, 1884, aged 67. Came here in 1872.

**Welper, N. B.,** Dec. 14, 1890, aged 83.

**Whiton, Mrs. Ellen,** wife of J. B. Whiton, April 18, 1903, aged 74.

**Whiton, Josiah B.,** at the home of his son, W. G. Whiton, April 6, 1911, aged 85. They settled in Emerson in 1875. He was an old soldier and highly regarded.

**Whiton, Mrs.,** estimable wife of Walter G. Whiton, March 31, 1910, aged 45.

**Wilkins, Mrs.** respected wife of Irving T. Wilkins, Oct. 11, 1910, at the age of 45 years.

**Walsworth, Mrs. Jane L.,** at the residence of her grandson, Harrison Vernon, Emerson, February 24, 1912, aged 90 years.

## EMERSON FIRES.

1884, June 23—B. F. Stocum's barn was struck by lightning and destroyed, together with its contents; some insurance.

1897, January 23—The residence of Charles Coleman, with its contents, was burned.

1897, Sept. 27—A. Augustine lost a barn and its contents by fire.

1898, Dec. 17—The large barn of Wallace Irving was burned, together with a horse, two cows, a yearling, hay, oats and other property. There was some insurance.

1904, June 30—During a severe storm lightning struck the barn of Ernest Allen, and it was burned with most of the contents. Insured.

1904, Nov. 29—The house of Joseph Sanders, at Beebe, was burned, and most of the contents also.

1906, July 6—Bert Failing's house burned at midnight, caused by the explosion of an incubator lamp. The house and contents were destroyed, the family barely escaping.

1907, April 21—The residence of E. C. Farrington, a mile and a half north of Ithaca, was burned, together with most of the household goods. There was some insurance.

1907, July 17—S. P. Miller lost his barn and granary, a horse, seven hogs, wagon, three buggies, grain and farming tools, by fire. Loss, $1,600; partly covered by insurance.

1909, Feb. 11—The residence of George Williams was burned, morning of Feb. 11th, with the household goods. No insurance.

1909, Sept. 11—Henry Cook lost his barn and its contents, by fire. Partly covered by insurance.

1911, Feb. 9—The residence of Will Tubbs, of Emerson, was destroyed by fire, together with its contents.

1912, Sept. 8—Lightning struck the barn of C. C. Noe and it was burned, together with seven horses, a cow, 50 tons of hay, 1,200 bushels of oats and much other property. There was some insurance.

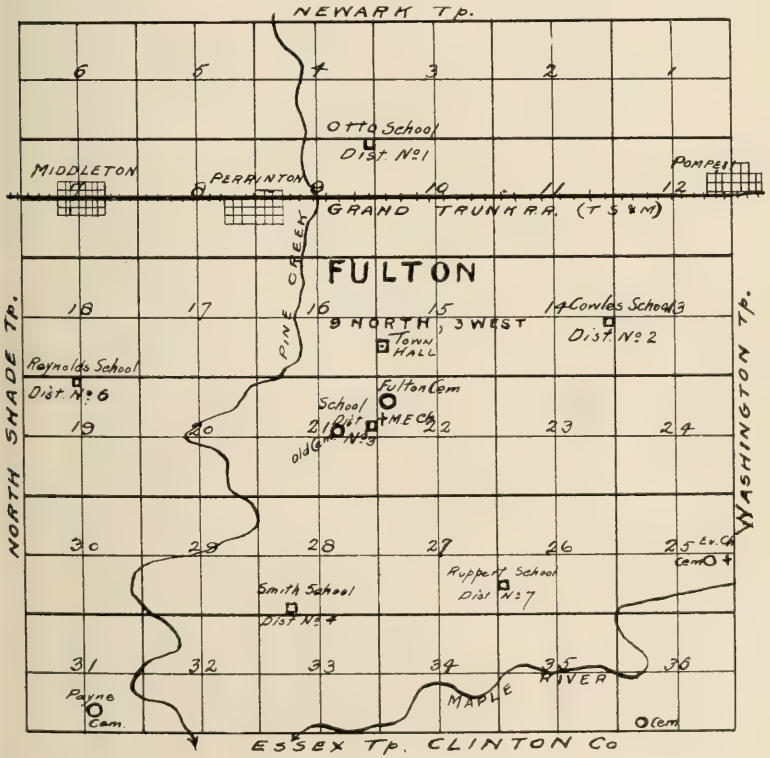
1913, June 6—Lightning struck C. K. Overmire's barn, in Emerson, and the barn was destroyed by fire with some of the contents.

1913, Sept. 7—Barn of Martin Marzolf, of Emerson, was struck by lightning and was destroyed by fire, with the contents, including four horses, grain, machinery, etc. There was some insurance.

## FULTON TOWNSHIP.

As has heretofore been recorded in these pages, Fulton was the first township of the county to secure a permanent settler. The township is described as town 9 north, range 3 west, and got its name from three brothers named Fulton who were the next settlers after Arnold Payne. The surface is gently rolling as a rule, and is drained by Maple River on the south and by Pine Creek which takes a course across the township from north to south. The Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon railroad cuts across the township east and west a mile and a half south of the north line, and no farmer in the township has more than eight miles to go to find a market in the township for his produce; and the southeast corner is only about ten miles from St. Johns.

But right here and now, I am taking advantage of the fruitful researches into Fulton's early history, by W. W. Dalgleish, for a long time a leading citizen of the township, but for the past five years residing in California. In September, 1907, Mr. Dalgleish read a paper on that subject before the Gratiot County Pioneer Society, the main portions of which I take the



liberty to "crib", with due apologies; apologies for the "crib" but not for the article, for it is well worthy of perusal, and may prove a happy change, in the opinion of the reader. Mr. Dalgleish's article follows:

"What is now the Township of Fulton, in its state of nature was an unbroken forest. Timber of most varieties found in the state grew in its forests, and as a rule was of immense size, showing that the soil was strong and vigorous, and promising to the early settlers, farms capable of producing immense crops. There were a few acres of pine, growing on the banks of Pine Creek, on section 16. The township in general was covered with hardwood, interspersed with some varieties of soft wood. Maple River and Pine Creek, with their tributaries, were the outlets for the surplus water of the township. These streams were well supplied with fish of various sorts, capable of supplying the tables of the early settlers with a gratifying variety of food.

"The Township of Fulton was for some time attached to and was considered a portion of Essex, in Clinton County. All elections were held in Essex at the homes of Hiram Benedict and Jas. Sowle, alternately or by appointment.

"In 1846, Arnold Payne, with his family, moved from Ingham County to section 31 of Fulton and took up land for a home. His was the first white family to settle in Fulton, and they were also the first settlers in the county. Nicholas and Robert Fulton and Nelson Johnson came a little later, but before 1850, and took up land for homes, and, next to Arnold Payne, were among the first settlers. Parmer R. Phillips came in 1849 and located land on the south side of Maple River, moving on in 1851. Benjamin Cowles, Wm. H. Laycock, Lehman Johnson, Whipple Martin and several others came to the township during the years 1850, '51, '52 and '53.

"Arnold Payne, the most conspicuous figure among Fulton's early settlers, brought a family of a wife and thirteen children. He carved out homes for himself and his numerous family. He took up a large tract of land on section 31, and erected a good-sized log house for a home, and then he and the boys commenced to clear off the land and put in crops. Mrs. Payne lived but a short time to share the trials and enjoy the fruits of pioneer life. On February 25, 1850, she died and was buried on a part of the farm now known as the Payne cemetery. This was the death and burial of the first white person in Fulton, and probably the first in the county.

"We can scarcely imagine at this late day, the inconveniences, the labors and trials of those early settlers. No roads, no schools, no churches, and poor markets a great distance away; for them farther away than Saginaw or Lansing are for the present inhabitants of the township. Hiram Benedict, on Benedict's Plains, Clinton County, kept a few of the common necessaries of life, such as flour, meats and a few groceries.

"One of the many trials the pioneers had to endure is well illustrated in the following incident: In the second year of Arnold Payne's residence here, he raised the first frame barn erected in the county. When the frame was ready to be raised, he set out to find help to raise it. By inviting all the male residents for miles around, he got the promise of thirteen men. Along Maple River at this time there were encamped about 2,000 Indians, most of them up the river, on the south side of sections 35 and 36. Mr. Payne went to the chief, who was a French half-breed, and asked him to send, if he could, some help to raise the building, and he said he would do so. He told him the day and the hour when they would be needed, and at the appointed time ten big, strapping fellows marched up in Indian file. Mr.

Sowle, the boss carpenter, greeted them kindly, and when ready got them arranged about the first bent to be raised, along with the thirteen white brothers, and commenced business. Everything moved along nicely until the bent was up as high as it could be lifted without pike poles. The bent was shored up with timbers provided for the occasion, then the pike poles were arranged as was necessary to complete the work of setting up the bent to an upright position. In the meantime the ten braves had lined up behind the others and had a consultation among themselves. Doubtless they thought there was a trap being laid to hurt or frighten them, and they flatly refused to lift another pound. The men coaxed and pleaded with them to help push up the bent, but they were unmovable, and soon departed in their boats as they had come.

"What was to be done now was a puzzle. The barn was about 34 by 50, and the timbers were a foot square. Finally, as a last resort four daughters and the mother came to the rescue. By the exercise of much ingenuity, and employing every possible device the work was finally accomplished; but not in one day. Just imagine, today, thirteen men and five women going out to do such a piece of work as they had to do! If duly advertised they would have more spectators and be of more interest than any of the Sunday base ball games of today.

"The first white child born in the county, was James Fulton, now (1907) living in Maple Rapids, aged about 61. The first school house was known as Payne's school house. It was erected in 1853, one-half mile north of the Payne corners, and is now converted into a dwelling house. The first teacher was Miss Jeannette Grace, daughter of John W. Grace, and now the wife of Gaylord Helms, of Ithaca. The first school house built on the east side of Pine Creek was erected in 1854, on the corner of section 11. The first teacher was Maria Hawkins, afterward the wife of Horace Sowle, of Essex. Preaching services were held occasionally in each of those school houses by Rev. H. T. Barnaby and Rev. M. Teed, both of North Star Township.

"The first wedding in the township was that of Jas. Carpenter and Lucy Payne, daughter of Arnold Payne, in the winter of 1852.

"During the period between 1846, when the first settler located, and 1855 when the township was organized by itself, many changes had taken place. Several families had moved in and settled in the southwest portion of the township, among whom were the Martins on the west side of Pine Creek, and on the east side were Wm. Laycock, Ben. Cowles, Rowell Smith, Peter and Daniel Helms and others. With these changes, there being population sufficient to effect an organization, Fulton set up housekeeping by herself. During these years there had been hundreds of families moving into various parts of the county, and all, or nearly all had to pass through Fulton, as there were no fords over Maple River available except at Maple Rapids, or about a mile further down stream, since known as the Mosier Ford. Nearly all moved with ox teams. They were entering an almost unbroken wilderness, and places to stay over night were scarce. There was an Indian trail running zig-zag from Maple Rapids to the Indian Mission in Bethany, and all traveled that road. Arnold Payne's was the first stopping place in the county, and, though house room was none too ample for a large family, room was made for all who came. As many as fifty would be fed there sometimes at one meal, and once at least thirty-six people with their teams remained over Sunday.

"The next stopping place was at Ben. Cowles', at the corner of section 16, the farm now owned by A. C. Gillett. Who has not heard of Ben.

Cowles! His shanty, 16 by 20, was big enough for all that came. Although rough in speech and uncouth in garb, he was a man with a heart large enough to take in all who were in need or in distress. No one was ever turned from his door, if in any way he could give help. And anyone suffering the blues would soon be cured by listening to his side-splitting stories, and start anew on the journey with lighter hearts and higher resolves. These were not the only ones who showered hospitality upon the weary ones moving into the county. Every latch-string hung on the outside, and all were welcome. They were not doing this merely for the pay, for many were too poor to pay; but all were welcomed alike.

"Two other men came into Fulton in the early '50s who were a great help to those trying to make themselves homes. They were A. J. and T. J. Morse, brothers, from Lenawee County. They settled on section 4 and built a small saw mill on Pine Creek. Though a small affair, it was of great benefit to many in converting their logs into necessary lumber to erect homes for themselves.

"The first town meeting, special, was held at the home of Ben. Cowles, November 2, 1855, to elect officers for the remainder of the year. There were 29 votes cast. Wm. Norton was elected supervisor, J. P. Rathbun clerk, Marcus Serviss treasurer, Peter Helms highway commissioner, Jas. A. Cassada justice of the peace. The latter held this office most of the time until his death, a few years since. Elections were all held at private houses till about war time, when houses of the residents could no longer accommodate the voters, and then the school houses were used for the purpose.



THE JAMES VALLANCE ROUND BARN.

"There need not be much said about the hard times of '57, '58 and '59. It was something that affected the whole county, but perhaps was worse in the northern part, as the settlers there were farther from the base of supplies than were those of Fulton. Will say that 'Starving Gratiot' has outlived all that the phrase implies.

"I will now come down to the Civil War period; the time that tried mens souls. Fulton, like all other loyal communities must and did furnish strong young men to uphold the flag. The population had grown to be of some importance, and their power must be felt at the seat of war. From

1846 to 1861, many families had settled in the township, until from a voting population of 29 in 1855, there were cast 83 votes at the spring election of 1861. No doubt there were many more voters, but that, according to the records, was the vote cast. Nearly every family sent a father or son to the country's defense. One family of thirteen sent five sons and four sons-in-law, and Uncle Jacob Helms sent four sons and two sons-in-law; and so it went, until at the time of the draft in 1864 there were only nine men liable to military duty in the entire township. I have found the names of 70, and doubtless there were others of the bone and sinew of the young and vigorous manhood of the township that either gave their lives or the best years of their lives that we might enjoy the blessings of a truly free country.

"What anxious days, weeks and even years, were spent here in the north over the fate of loved ones wearing the blue on southern soil, or worse, a thousand times worse, in those vile prison pens in the south. A good many lie buried in southern soil; others, broken in health, drag out a miserable existence with us; and many others fill premature graves in our cemeteries here in our midst. In '65, after the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, those that were left came trooping home to take up the duties of life again as they laid them down in '61, '62 and '63.

"This ends my story, such as it is. No doubt there are inaccuracies, as it is hard to arrive at the exact truth at this late day, when but little or no record has been kept."

## FULTON ELECTIONS.

**Nov. 2, 1855:** On this date occurred the first election in Fulton Township. It was a special election, called to organize the township and elect township officers. The election was held at the house of Ben. Cowles, on section 15. Ben. Cowles was a prominent and popular pioneer, who remained a resident of the township until his death in 1890.

There were 29 votes cast at this first election, and but one ticket in the field. The result was as follows:

Sup.—Wm. Norton; Clk.—J. P. Rathbun; Treas.—Marcus Serviss; H. C.—Peter Helms, John Gardner, Simeon Gray; J. P.—Benj. Cowles, Levi Smith, Jas. A. Cassada; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Norton, Marcus Serviss; Overseers of the Poor—Geo. Penoyer, Chester Townsend; Const.—Simeon Gray, Merrick Corps, Dennis Glover.

Feby 16, 1856, the township board appointed Wm. L. Sutherland, treasurer, to fill vacancy, and Thos. Matheson and John Grace to fill vacancies for overseers of the poor. The record fails to show what caused the vacancies—whether death, resignation or removal from the township.

**April, 1856:** The vote jumped up to 70 at this election. Sup.—Whipple Martin; Clk.—Benj. Cowles; Treas.—Alfred Cowles; H. C.—Washington Clark; J. P.—Levi Smith, Wm. L. Sutherland, Marcus Serviss; Sch. Insp.—Jas. H. Lewis; Overseers of Poor—John Grace, Levi Smith.

**1857:** Sup.—Henry P. Howd; Clk.— Simeon Howe; Treas.—Andrew S. Laycock; H. C.—Jas. W. Martin; J. P.—Lyman T. Cassada, Nathan Minard; Sch. Insp.—Henry P. Howd; Directors of Poor—Ashbel W. Herrick, Geo. W. Wileox.

The township was divided into 12 road districts and overseers were elected as follows: Arnold Payne, John S. Gardner, Jas. Sanford, Henry Porter, Conrad Westenhaver, Geo. Roderick, Jackson Morse, Parmer R. Phillips, Gilbert E. Hall, John Deline, John Tinklepaugh.

The meeting voted contingent money $150, and "for fencing and preparing burial grounds, $75—$50 to be laid out as near the center of the town as possible, and $25 at Arnold Payne's".

**1858:** Sup.—Lyman T. Cassada; Clk.—Simeon Howe; Treas.—Andrew S. Laycock; H. C.—A. J. Morse; J. P.—G. W. Clark; Sch. Insp.—C. D. Boardman; Overseers of Poor—Asa Arnold, 48; Nathan Minard, 48; D. Helms, Jr., 48; H. W. Musser, 49. No record as to how the ties were settled.

**1859:** Sup.—Lyman T. Cassada; Clk.—Jas. A. Cassada; Treas.—Andrew S. Laycock; H. C.—H. W. Musser; J. P.—Nathan Minard; Sch. Insp.—Alison Jenne; O. of Poor—Ben. Cowles, Joseph Bentley.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—Lyman T. Cassada; Clk.—Simeon Howe; Treas.—A. S. Laycock; J. P.—Jas. H. Lewis, A. Jenne.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—L. T. Cassada; Clk.—Geo. C. Bassett; Treas.—A. S. Laycock; H. C.—A. J. Norton; J. P.—Edward N. Du Bois; Sch. Insp.—A. Jenne.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—L. T. Cassada; Clk.—A. W. Herrick 59, J. A. Cassada 59; Cassada won the tie; Treas.—A. S. Laycock; H. C.—Roswell Jones; vacancy, Oscar F. Baker; J. P.—L. T. Cassada; vacancy, A. S. Cowles, 55; Wm. R. Price, 55; Price won the draw. Wm. R. Price represented the township as supervisor at the January session, 1863. Sch. Insp.—G. W. Price.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Roswell Danley; Clk.—Jas. A. Cassada; Treas.—Robert Fulton; H. C.—Jas. H. Lewis; J. P.—Chas. E. Webster; Sch. Insp.—Wakely J. Coleman.

**Dec. 28, 1863:** A special election was held Dec. 28, 1863, to vote on the question of issuing bonds for the purpose of raising money to pay $150 to each volunteer or drafted man, for the federal army. The vote was, yes, 64; no, 6. The record shows the following as having received the bounty: Nelson P. Herrick, Henry A. Johnson, Wm. H. Helms, David Helms, Samuel Helms, Gilbert E. Hall, Harry H. Carr, Nelson Smith, Egbert Rathbun, Jacob Grubaugh, Jas. Brown.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—L. T. Cassada; Clk.—Jas. A. Cassada; Treas.—Robert Fulton; H. C.—Daniel C. Johnson, 59; A. J. Norton, 59; and Norton won the office; J. P.—Roswell Danley, 60; Jas. H. Lewis, 60; and Danley won the prize; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Price.

A vote was taken, which carried, giving each volunteer for the township, $100.

A special election was held Jan. 23, 1865, to vote on raising—by bonding—sufficient to pay $400 to each volunteer, drafted man or to those furnishing substitutes; and to pay $400 to each of the following: Hiram Cowles, Wm. F. Collister, Chas. Kellogg, Joseph Harlock, Roswell Jones, Martin H. Baker, Henry Stitt, Merritt Wilcox, Wm. H. Laycock, Gaylord Helms, Alison Jenne, Winfield Stitt.

The vote was 47, yes; 27, no.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—L. T. Cassada; Clk.—Jas. A. Cassada; Treas.—Robert Fulton; H. C.—Thos. Helms; J. P.—Daniel C. Johnson; vacancy, Wm. L. Herman; Sch. Insp.—Dwight Stitt.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Chas. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Robert Fulton; H. C.—Andrew T. Wardwell; J. P.—L. T. Cassada; Sch. Insp.—Stephen M. Boyle.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Chas. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Robert Fulton; H. C.—Alison Jenne; vacancy, Gaylord Helms; J. P.—Geo. W. Price; Sch. Insp.—Dwight Stitt.

Oct. 31, 1867, the board appointed H. S. Gardner, treasurer, vice Robert Fulton, deceased.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Dwight Stitt; H. C.—Wm. K. Miller; J. P.—Wm .R. Price; Sch. Insp.—Henry J. Ridenour; vacancy, J. Wakely Coleman.

The meeting voted $150 to be expended in grading down three hills on the banks of Pine Creek; presumably in the highway.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—Addis C. Gillett; Treas.—Dwight Stitt; H. C.—Alvin Hodges; J. P.—Parmer R. Phillips; Sch. Insp.—J. Wakely Coleman.

**April, 1870:** The township cast 170 votes at this election. Sup.—Roswell Danley; Clk.—Gaylord Helms; Treas.—Dwight Stitt; H. C.—J. W. Coleman; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; vacancy, C. E. Webster; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Price.

Nov. 18, 1870, the board appointed C. E. Webster supervisor, vice R. Danley. The record is silent as to the cause of the vacancy.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—Gaylord Helms; Treas.—Oscar F. Baker; H. C.—Emmett Himes; J. P.—W. W. Dalgleish; Sch. Insp.—Ed. N. Pierce; Dr. Com.—Lincoln L. Smith.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Oscar F. Baker; H. C.—Dwight Stitt; Sch. Insp.—G. Helms; Dr. Com.—D. Stitt.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Dwight Stitt; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Andrew J. Norton; H .C.—G. Helms; J. P.—C. E. Webster; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Willoughby; Dr. Com.—J. A. Cassada.

Stitt resigned during the year, as supervisor, and C. E. Webster was appointed to the vacancy.

The township meeting voted $700 to build a town hall, and a building committee was appointed consisting of Roswell Jones, P. W. Creaser and Wm. R. Price.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—G. Helms; Treas.—A. J. Norton; H. C.—John T. Swigart; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; 2 yrs, G. W. J. Willoughby; 1 yr, Philip W. Creaser; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Cassada.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—Alvin Hodges; Treas.—Lyman Crowley; H. C.—J. T. Swigart; J. P.—J. T. Swigart; Supt. Sch.—W. W. Dalgleish; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Willoughby.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Lyman Crowley; H. C.—J. T. Swigart; J. P.—G. W. J. Willoughby; Supt. Sch.—Thos. J. Hoxie; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Willoughby; Dr. Com.—Finley Dodge.

The building committee was appointed, and instructed to purchase one-fourth acre of land within 80 rods of the center of the township, for a town hall site.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Lyman Crowley; H. C.—J. T. Swigart; J. P.—C. E. Webster; Supt. Sch.—T. J. Hoxie; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Willoughby; Dr. Com.—J. B. Willoughby.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Nathaniel Walker; Clk.—John M. Trask; Treas.—Lyman Crowley; H. C.—Ira W. Montague; Supt. Sch.—W. W. Dalgleish; Sch. Insp.—G. W. J. Willoughby; Dr. Com.—J. B. Willoughby.

Nov. 23, 1878, the board appointed J. T. Swigart clerk vice J. M. Trask, removed from the township.

Dec. 7, 1878, the board appointed G. W. J. Willoughby highway commissioner vice Ira W. Montague, resigned.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. B. Willoughby; Treas.—Alvin Hodges; H. C.—Thos. B. Musser; J. P.—Robert M. Swigart; Supt. Sch.—W. W. Dalgleish; Sch. Insp.—G. W. J. Willoughby.

The question of a $4,000 tax to build a county jail and sheriff's residence carried by a vote of 240 to 9.

May, 1879, the board appointed J. T. Swigart highway commissioner vice T. B. Musser, resigned.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Nathaniel Walker; Clk.—R. M. Swigart; Treas.—Alvin Hodges; H. C.—Ed. N. Pierce; J. P.—Jas. N. McMannis; Supt Sch.—Henry L. Laycock; Sch. Insp.—Arden Howe; Dr. Com.—Ed. N. Pierce.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—David H. Payne; Treas.—Henry Stitt; H. C.—Ed. N. Pierce; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; 3 yrs, J. T. Swigart; 2 yrs, John S. Seaver; Supt. Sch.—John S. Seaver; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Price.

**April, 1882:** Supt.—C. E. Webster; Clk.—J. A. Cassada; Treas.—Henry Stitt; H. C.—Ed. N. Pierce; J. P.—Henry Read; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo W. Loomis; vacancy, John S. Seaver; Dr. Com.—Ed. N. Pierce.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—Milton M. Lewis; Treas.—Joseph Sidel; H. C.—Ed. N. Pierce; J. P.—G. W. Clark; vacancy, Philip W. Creaser; Sch. Insp.—A. W. Loomis.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—Milton M. Lewis; Treas.—Joseph Sidel; H. C.—Jas. H. Lewis; J. P.—P. W. Creaser; Sch. Insp.—Orin G. Tuttle; Dr. Com.—Cornelius A. Franks.

April 20, 1884, Jas. A. Cassada was appointed census enumerator.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—Milton M. Lewis; Treas.—Oscar F. Baker; H. C.—Theo. O. Daniels; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; Sch. Insp.—Harley J. Garlock.

May 7, 1885, board appointed M. S. Howell highway commissioner in place of Theo. O. Daniels.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—A. W. Loomis; Treas.—Oscar F. Baker; H. C.—M. S. Howell; J. P.—Joseph Sidel; Sch. Insp.—A. N. Howe; Dr. Com.—J. A. Crawford.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—A. W. Loomis; Treas.—L. Lincoln Smith; H. C.—John S. Wright; J. P.—John S. Seaver; vacancy, Geo. H. Newton; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Hoxie; vacancy, Thos. B. Creaser; Review—L. L. Smith, Wm. L. Herman.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—J. B. Willoughby; Treas.—L. Lincoln Smith; H. C.—John S. Wright; J. P.—J. T. Swigart; Sch. Insp.—P. W. Creaser; Dr. Com.—Jesse A. Crawford.

Nov. 16, 1888, board appointed Geo. H. Newton treasurer vice L. L. Smith, resigned. When Newton declined, Milton M. Lewis was appointed.

Nov. 20, '88, board appointed Myron Troop drain commissioner vice J. A. Crawford, resigned.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—J. B. Willoughby; Treas.—Geo. H. Newton; H. C.—John S. Wright; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; Sch. Insp.—Walter L. Hoxie.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Henry Stitt; Clk.—J. B. Willoughby; Treas.—Jonathan Snider; H. C.—W. C. Stitt; J. P.—Geo. H. Newton; Sch. Insp.—Wm. E. Hoxie; Dr. Com.—Myron Troop; Review—L. L. Smith, Oscar A. Waldorff.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Jas. W. Payne; Clk.—T. C. Chidester; Treas.—Jonathan Snider; H. C.—W. C. Stitt; J. P.—Isaac S. Seaver; Sch. Insp.—Walter L. Hoxie; Review—Nat. Walker.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Jas. W. Payne; Clk.—T. C. Chidester; Treas.—Wm. H. Davis; H. C.—Geo. Osborn; J. P.—J. T. Swigart; vacancy, Nat. Walker; Sch. Insp.—Simeon A. Howe, Walter L. Hoxie; Dr. Com.—Chas. Dodge; Review—John W. Otto, Nat. Walker.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—T. C. Chidester; Treas.—Clem. Naldrett; H. C.—Nat. Walker; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Davis; Review—P. W. Creaser; Dr. Com.—Henry McLean.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—John L. Richard; Treas.—Jas. W. Payne; H. C.—Chas. Dodge; Sch. Insp.—J. W. Howe; Review—Nat. Walker; Dr. Com.—G. W. Groom.

Board appointed J. T. Swigart census enumerator; H. S. Phillips, assistant.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—Frank E. Durfee; Treas.—I. S. Seaver; H. C.—Chas. Dodge; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Davis; Review—J. B. Resseguie.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—H. S. Phillips; Treas.—Chas. Dodge; H. C.—Geo. Osborn; Sch. Insp.—H. L. Laycock; Review—P. W. Creaser; Dr. Com.—W. H. Trask.

Dec., '96, board appointed F. E. Durfee, supervisor vice Read, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Frank E. Durfee; Clk.—Wm. H. Davis; Treas.—Chas. Dodge; H. C.—Robert Wininger; J. P.—J. A. Cassada; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Hoxie; Review—J. B. Willoughby.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—F. E. Durfee; Clk.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—I. S. Seaver; H. C.—Robert Wininger; Sch. Insp.—J. M. Hoxie; Review—P. W. Creaser.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—F. E. Durfee; Clk.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—Jas. Cushman; H. C.—Jas. R. Bolyard; J. P.—John Henry Campbell; Review—John S. Seaver.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Fred Read; Clk.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—G. M. Willoughby; H. C.—Jas. Otto; J. P.—J. T. Swigart; Sch. Insp.—J. M. Hoxie; Review—Frank Conley.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Fred Read; Clk.—T. J. Hoxie; Treas.—Wm. H. Davis; H. C.—J. Snider; J. P.—Chas. B. Doan; vacancy, G. M. Willoughby; Sch. Insp.—Frank R. Himes; Review—P. W. Creaser

**April, 1902:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—John H. Zion; Treas.—W. H. Davis; H. C.—H. L. Doan; J. P.—J. D. Smith; vacancy, John Rule; Sch. Insp.—Thos. B. Creaser.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—Roy C. Dodge; Treas.—A. N. Arnold; H. C.—A. T. Willert; J. P.—F. T. Isham; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Osborn; Review—Robert S. Cushman.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—Roy C. Dodge; Treas.—I. B. Kinney; H. C.—Geo. W. Crom; J. P.—Ernest H. Naldrett, W. L. Herman; Review—H. Collett.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—Roy C. Dodge; Treas.—Wm. Mertz; H. C.—Geo. S. Otto; J. P.—Howard Wood; Review—Geo. Osborn; Sch. Insp.—W. L. Herman.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Chas. B. Doan; Clk.—W. H. McRae; Treas.—Wm. Mertz; H. C.—J. W. Cushman; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Wininger; Review—Geo. Osborn.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Chas. B. Doan; Clk.—W. H. McRae; Treas.—Roy C. Dodge; H. C.—J. Snider; J. P.—W. B. Foster; Sch. Insp.—E. R. Laycock.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Chas. B. Doan; Clk.—C. Frank Otto; Treas.—Roy C. Dodge; H. C.—J. Snider; J. P.—A. J. Preston; Overseer of High.—Elmer Stead; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Wininger; Review—Geo. Osborn.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Frank R. Himes; Clk.—C. F. Otto; Treas.—Wm. Mertz; H. C.—J. Snider; Overseer of High.—Fred A. Willert; J. P.—

Arthur C. Stead; vacancy, C. W. Kinney; vacancy, J. L. Richard; Review—R. S. Cushman.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Frank R. Himes; Clk.—C. F. Otto; Treas.—Wm. H. Davis; H. C.—J. Snider; Overseer—Jesse D. Walker; J. P.—W. B. Foster; vacancy, Truman Harris; Review—Jesse D. Walker.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Frank R. Himes; Clk.—C. F. Otto; Treas.—Wm. H. Davis; H. C.—Jonathan Snider; O. of H.—Geo. Phippeny; J. P.—Chas. Wesley Kinney; vacancy, Wm. L. Herman; Review—R. S. Cushman.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—F. R. Himes; Clk.—Wm. H. Davis; Treas.—Fred Read; H. C.—J. Snider; O. of H.—Geo. Phippeny; J. P.—Elmer Stead; Review—Roy Randall.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Frank R. Himes; Clk.—Wm. H. McRae; Treas.—Fred Read; H. C.—Ervey Laycock; O. of H.—Geo. Phippeny; J. P.—Preston Dalgleish; vacancy, Arthur Stead; Review—Robert S. Cushman.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 136; no, 126.

County Road System: Yes, 101; no, 159.

### Supervisors.

Wm. Norton, Nov. 2, 1855.
Whipple Martin, 1856.
Henry P. Howd, 1857.
Lyman T. Cassada, 1858, '59, '60, '61, '62, '64, '65.
Wm. R. Price, ap. Jan., 1863.
Roswell Danley, 1863, '70.
Chas. E. Webster, 1866, '67, '68, '69, '71, '72, ap. '73; '74, '75, '76, '77, '79, '81, '82.
Dwight Stitt, 1873.
Nathaniel Walker, 1878, '80.
Henry Stitt, 1883, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90.
Jas. W. Payne, 1891, '92.
Henry Read, 1893, '94, '95, '96, '02, '03, '04, '05.
Frank E. Durfee, ap. '96; '97, '98, '99.
Fred Read, 1900, '01.
Chas. B. Doan, 1906, '07, '08.
Frank R. Himes, 1909, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

J. P. Rathbun, Nov. 2, 1855.
Benj. Cowles, 1856.
Simeon Howe, 1857, '58, '60.
Jas. A. Cassada, 1859, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '73, '74, '76, '77, '82.
Geo. C. Bassett, 1861.
Addis C. Gillett, 1869.
Gaylord Helms, 1870, '71, '74.
Alvin Hodges, 1875.
John M. Trask, 1878.
John T. Swigart, ap. 1878.
J. B. Willoughby, 1879, '88, '89, '90.
Robert M. Swigart, 1880.
David H. Payne, 1881.
Milton M. Lewis, 1883, '84, '85.
A. W. Loomis, 1886, '87.
T. C. Chidester, 1891, '92, '93.
John L. Richard, 1894.
Frank E. Durfee, 1895.
H. S. Phillips, 1896.
Wm. H. Davis, 1897, 1912.
Chas. Dodge, 1898, '99, '00.
T. J. Hoxie, 1901.
John H. Zion, 1902.
Roy C. Dodge, 1903, '04, '05.
W. H. McRae, 1906, '07, '13.
C. Frank Otto, 1908, '09, '10, '11.

### Treasurers.

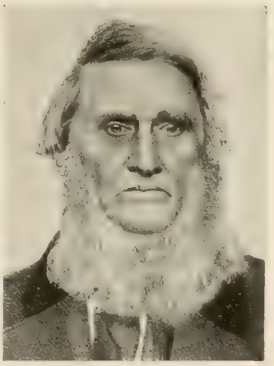
Marcus Serviss, Nov. 2, 1855.
Alfred Cowles, 1856.
Andrew S. Laycock, 1857, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62.
Robert Fulton, 1863, '64, '65, '66, '67.
H. S. Gardner, ap. 1867.
Dwight Stitt, 1868, '69, '70.
Oscar F. Baker, 1871, '72, '85, '86.
Andrew J. Norton, 1873, '74.
Lyman Crowley, 1875, '76, '77, '78.
Alvin Hodges, 1879, '80.

Henry Stitt, 1881, '82.
Joseph Sidel, 1883, '84.
L. Lincoln Smith, 1887, '88.
Milton M. Lewis, ap. 1888.
Geo. H. Newton, 1889, '90.
Jonathan Snider, 1891.
Wm. H. Davis, 1892, '01, '02, '10, '11.
Clem. Naldrett, 1893.
Jas. W. Payne, 1894.
Isaac S. Seaver, 1895, '98.
Chas. Dodge, 1896, '97.
Jas. Cushman, 1899.
G. M. Willoughby, 1900.
A. N. Arnold, 1903.
I. B. Kinney, 1904.
Wm. Mertz, 1905, '06, '09.
Roy C. Dodge, 1907, '08.
Fred Read, 1912, '13.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

### PAYNE.

Arnold Payne and his family are conceded to have been the first settlers in Gratiot County. Arnold Payne and Loana (Parker) Payne, his wife, natives respectively of Rhode Island and New York, were married in New York State, and in 1832 came to Michigan, settling in Washtenaw County, where they remained four years, and then removed to Livingston County, and later to Ingham County. In the winter of 1846, they came, with their thirteen children to Gratiot County and took up a large tract of land on section thirty-one in the township later known as Fulton. They built a log house and commenced clearing their land, and on that farm Arnold Payne spent the remainder of his life, passing away on the old homestead November 24, 1879. Loana Payne, the first wife, died February 25, 1850. In 1853 Mr. Payne was married to Mrs. Mary (Bussell) Dickerman, who died August 31, 1865.



ARNOLD PAYNE.

The names of the thirteen children of Arnold and Loana Payne were as follows: Alma, Lucy, Mary, Perry, Arnold, Abigail, James L., Day and Dwight, (twins), Eliza, David H., Albert B. and Thomas R. Several of the descendants are still residents of the county.

To know something of what it meant to settle with a family of fifteen, on section 31 of township 9 north, 3 west, in the year 1846, it must be remembered that that location was scores of miles from anything like a settlement of any importance.

Although some of the commonest and most indispensable supplies could be procured at Maple Rapids, the place was but a frontier trading post established in 1835. It was not until 1852 that steps were taken to form a settlement and establish a station that could by any stretch of the imagination be called a market. "In 1852 Wm. A. Hewitt, one of the first settlers of Dewitt, Clinton County, came in and occupied about 240 acres of land, and commenced the construction of a dam and sawmill which were completed in 1853. During the latter year he platted a village, established a store near his mill, and was elected supervisor of Essex;" quoting from a history of Clinton County. After 1852, when landlookers and

settlers began to push their way into the wilds of Gratiot County, Arnold Payne's log house proved a haven of comfort and necessity, as it was practically the last human habitation this side of the Straits of Mackinaw, and it was located on the Old Indian Trail that led up through the county, and frequently alluded to in this volume.

An interesting and valuable paper read at the pioneer meeting of 1907 by W. W. Dalgleish, giving pointers of early Fulton history, refers at considerable length to Arnold Payne and his settlement on the borders of civilization, so to speak, and is given in full elsewhere in this volume.

More extended details of Mr. Payne's doings as a pioneer are given in the department devoted to Gratiot County in its earliest days.

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## READ.

Fred H. Read was born August 13, 1871, in Fulton Township, Gratiot County, Mich., on what is known as the James Jenne farm. His father, Henry Read, was born in England, February 26, 1848, son of Henry and Sarah A. (Ranger) Read. Henry Read, the grandfather, died in England in the year 1853, and the grandmother soon afterward came to America bringing the young son, Henry. They settled first in Ohio, afterward removing to Gratiot County, settling in Fulton Township, where the son grew to manhood. In the year 1869 he was married to Mary E. Haines, in Fulton Township. She was born in Ohio, September 15, 1851, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Lewis) Haines, natives of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, respectively. She died March 29, 1908.

Fred H. Read, the subject of this sketch, was the oldest of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Read. Robert, the second child was born July, 1875, and died in 1876. Bessie F. was born March 3, 1880. Lewis E. was born April 6, 1887.

Fred H. Read was married to Bessie E. White, at Pompeii, Gratiot County, June 5, 1896. She is daughter of Hiram H. and Amelia (Hamilton) White and was born in Cranbrook, Canada, February 12, 1876. Her father was a native of Canada, born April 27, 1848, and her mother was born in Almont, Canada, January 16, 1856, and died September 18, 1890. She was a daughter of the late Dr. John Hamilton, for many years in active practice at Pompeii.

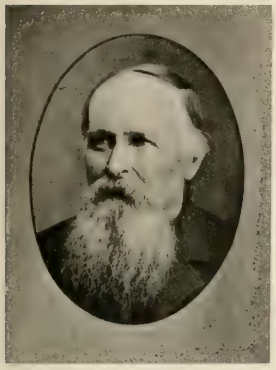
Bessie E. (White) Read was the oldest child in the family of Hiram H. White, and the oldest grandchild of Dr. John Hamilton. The other children are Henrietta A. Kinsel, born October 25, 1878; John Henry White, born August 7, 1880; Mabel L. White, born November 24, 1882, died in 1884; George Arthur White, born June 26, 1886; Lillian Pearl White, born August 30, 1888.

Fred H. Read and wife are the parents of two children—Pauline A., born November 22, 1896, and S. Maurine, born October 8, 1898. Since reaching manhood Mr. Read has followed the occupation of farming on his farm on section 14, Fulton Township, excepting a four years' residence in Pompeii, and one and one-half years in British Columbia where he was engaged in railroad construction. In March, 1911 he returned to Gratiot and to the farm where he now resides.

Mr. Read and family are held in high esteem by all. In the spring of 1900 Mr. Read was elected supervisor of his township, and was re-elected in 1901. In April, 1912, he was chosen township treasurer, and was re-elected in 1913. All his official duties are performer conscientiously and with ability, and to the entire satisfaction of his townsmen.

## HERALD.

On a farm of 80 acres, located on section 6, Fulton Township, lives Frank G. Herald, the subject of this biographical sketch, with his good wife and their two interesting children. He is the son of Albert A. and Emma E. (Bradstock) Herald, both of whom are dead, the latter passing away December 9, 1902, the former remaining till August 4, 1905, when he, too, passed on to the other world.



ALBERT A. HERALD.

Albert A. Herald, son of Henry Herald, was born in Lorain County, Ohio, April 8, 1844, and lived with his parents until July 4, 1870, when he was married to Miss Emma E. Bradstock. The lady who became his wife was the daughter of George and Christina (Remer) Bradstock. The former was born in Herefordshire, England, August 11, 1812, coming to America at the age of 21 years, and settling in Lorain County, Ohio, where he lived to the time of his death which occurred March 12, 1891. His wife, Christina, was born April 27, 1828, in Pennsylvania. They were united in marriage in 1847, and nine children was the result, six of whom are now living. They are as follows: John, George, William and Frank Bradstock; Minnie and Lydia Jackson. The dead are Emma E. Herald, Eliza White and Mary Jackson.

Albert Herald was of a family of six children, as follows: John; Mary, who is married to Carey Schinder, of Vermillion, Ohio; Isaac and Oscar Herald, of Avon, Ohio, and Homer Herald, whose residence is unknown.

In the fall after his marriage—that is, in 1870—Albert Herald moved with his wife from Ohio to Gratiot County, locating on section 6 of Fulton Township. Here he bought 80 acres of land right in the woods. Log buildings were put up to do duty till better ones could be afforded and put up later on. Then came the clearing of the land, sixty acres being gradually but quite rapidly cleared and put in condition for crops. This called for strenuous and persevering exertion on the part of the parents and children, the result showing up in due time in the form of new frame buildings in place of the original log structures, and a well-cultivated and productive farm.



MRS. A. A. HERALD.

Mr. Herald, as the years passed, took time for some recreation, indulging in hunting and fishing, spending several falls in the Upper Peninsula, engaged in the sport; and he was always successful, invariably bringing home some of the wild game that he went after, and always enjoying the experience immensely.

In the meantime three children were born to Albert and his wife Emma. Frank G. was born in Fulton, June 25, 1871. Mina H. was born in Fulton, February 25, 1873, and William was born in the same township, August 21, 1884. Frank G. Herald spent his boyhood days in the manner usual to youths in a new country—getting a common school education and aiding in the work on the farm. On the 24th of December, 1901, he was married to Miss Cora Gilmore, of Gladwin County, Mich., daughter of Rev. Moulton Powell Gilmore and Mary Edith (Babbitt) Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore was born October 31, 1846, in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and in the year 1871 was married to Mary Edith Babbitt, of Ashtabula County, Ohio, who was born in that county August 16, 1852. Mr. Gilmore has been a minister of the gospel for more than 34 years. He and his wife are the parents of nine children, six of whom are now living.

Cora (Gilmore) Herald was born in Fulton Township, this county, April 11, 1885. She and her husband, Frank G. Herald, are the parents of two children. Ray L. was born September 5, 1903, and Ruth B. was born February 28, 1905.

Returning now to a further consideration of the family of Albert A. and Emma E. Herald: Mina H., the second child, remained at home until her marriage to Clayton White of Middleton, this county. He being a sailor on the lakes, they spent a few years in Milwaukee, but in 1906, they bought a farm near Middleton where they now reside. They have one child—Wilfred—born May 25, 1905, in the Village of Middleton. William Herald, third child of Albert A. and Emma E. Herald, lived at the family home until his mother's death, which occurred December 9, 1902, after which he went to Lorain County, Ohio, where he worked for his uncle until called home on account of the severe illness of his father who passed away August 4, 1905. He then returned to Ohio, where—in 1906—he married Miss Mabel Shepard. He then returned to this county, purchasing a 40-acre farm in North Shade, near Middleton. There they lived one year and then removed to Pittsfield, Ohio.

Frank G. Herald is a worthy representative of worthy parents. Albert Herald and Emma, his wife, were among the county's most respected citizens. Both were consistent members of the United Brethren Church, and both are held in kindly remembrance by all their acquaintances in the place where they so long resided.

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**Lyman T. Cassada** made an honorable record in Fulton's early history. He was born in New York State July 27, 1819, son of James and Abigail (Kenyon) Cassada. He came to Gratiot County in 1850, stopping on section 31 of Fulton Township, where he remained a resident until his death, April 30, 1870. Mr. Caassada soon took a position as one of the most enterprising of the pioneers and won the confidence of his fellow citizens so thoroughly that they made him their supervisor in 1858 and retained him in that position seven years. He also served three terms as justice. In 1860 his party (Democratic) showed its confidence in his ability and integrity by making him its candidate for county treasurer, and though defeated with the rest of his ticket the record shows that he ran considerably ahead of his ticket.

**James A. Cassada** took an active part in Fulton Township affairs in the early days and extending down as late as into the '80s. And still later he was prominent as a citizen of the Village of Perrinton. He was born September 10, 1828, in Tioga County, N. Y., son of James and Abigail Cassada. In 1852 he was married in Monroe County, Mich., to Clarissa W., daughter of Matthias and Eunice Gardner. In 1855 they settled on section 32, Fulton

Township, and tackled the pioneering problem. The record shows that Mr. Cassada took a hand in official affairs. He was township clerk 13 years, running from 1859 to 1882, and elected justice of the peace no less than six times. He was president of Perrinton Village in 1901. He passed to the other world March 7, 1905, at the age of 76 years. His wife, Clarissa W., died July 22, 1890, aged 62.

**Charles E. Webster,** now and for more than 25 years a resident of Ithaca, and previously for about the same length of time a resident of Fulton Township where he was prominent in a business way and officially, was born in Clinton County, Mich., April 2, 1839. His father, Lyman Webster, was an early settler in Grand Rapids, later removing to Ionia County, and still later—in 1837—to Essex Township, Clinton County, where he was one of the first settlers, and a prominent citizen many years. Charles E. Webster settled on section 12, Fulton Township, in 1862, and in due course of time transformed his landed possessions, which he extended to embrace tracts on sections 11 and 13, into a flourishing farm. In an offcial way Mr. Webster started in as justice of the peace in 1863. In 1866 he was elected supervisor, and was kept in that office most of the time until 1882, serving in that capacity 14 years. He was the candidate of his party (Democrat) for county treasurer in 1872, and for sheriff in 1866, '68, '70, '78 and '80, and was Fusion candidate for representative in 1888. He has served as superintendent of the poor several terms, and in various capacities in the Ithaca Village government, including that of president in 1904. He was married January 1, 1861, to Josephine E. Campbell, daughter of Cornelius Campbell, of Washington Township. Children born to them were Carrie E., Birdella I. and Cornelius S.; only the first-named now living.

**Parmer R. Phillips** settled on section 35, Fulton Township, in 1851, and remained a resident of Gratiot County until his death; two years in St. Louis while he was proprietor of the stage line from St. Louis to St. Johns, and several years at Ithaca. He was one of the superintendents of the poor several years, being first appointed in 1879. His death occurred June 17, 1898, at the age of 75 years.

There is an unsually large number of Fulton citizens entitled to recognition in this connection if it were possible to give every deserving one the time and space in a single volume. With no invidious discrimination intended, the following are mentioned as being among the most deserving: James, Robert and Nicholas Fulton, for whom the township was named, and who came in 1847, the first settlers after Arnold Payne; Isaac Jones was a candidate for sheriff on a mixed ticket at the first election, November, 1855; Ben. Cowles, who came in 1853, a genial, generous, eccentric and very popular pioneer, who passed away at the home of his son, Arthur, October 14, 1890. His wife survived until April 25, 1905, passing away at the age of 94. Oscar F. Baker, (see sketch); Warren W. Baker, who came in 1854 and died May 16, 1902, aged 80; William Norton who was the first supervisor; Whipple Martin who was the second supervisor; Alvin Hodges who came in 1864 and died March 18, 1882; Simeon A. Howe, a pioneer of 1854, who died January 29, 1895; Douglas Hyatt; Roswell Danley who came in 1858; Finley Dodge, who came in 1858; G. Washington Clark, who settled on section 12, in 1854, Democratic candidate for county treasurer in 1874, and Greenback candidate for county treasurer in 1878, died April 19, 1901, aged 68; Simeon Gray, who came in 1854, died October, 1874, aged 47; John C. Grace who died February 7, 1860; John E. Densmore who came in 1858, and died August 9, 1910, aged 73; Joseph Sidel who came in 1868, and died January 27, 1895, aged 61; William and Philip W. Creaser;

William H. Laycock; J. B. Willoughby, Democratic candidate for sheriff in 1894, (see sketch); Lyman Crowley; Thomas J. Hoxie, came to Fulton in 1863, died at his home on section 22, March 6, 1912, aged 69 years; Nathaniel Walker, came in 1859, died May 18, 1912; Henry Stitt, came in 1862, was supervisor eight years, died February 12, 1903; Dwight Stitt, Democratic candidate for register of deeds, 1870, for representative in '74, and for treasurer in '76; Albert Tuttle, an early settler, who died January 30, 1896, (see sketch of O. G. Tuttle); Daniel Helms, came to Fulton in 1853, died March 26, 1891, aged 81, (see sketch of Gaylord Helms); James K. Jenne, settled in Fulton in 1865, removed to Ithaca in 1886, and died May 12, 1889, aged 45; James Otto, came to Fulton in 1855, father of Ara, Ira, Amasa, Alma, Perry, Ampter, Leroy and Zelma, died August 28, 1908, aged 75; John W. Otto, brother of James and son of George Otto, was county treasurer in 1892 and '94, father of George, Charles and Cora, died in Ithaca, January 1, 1901, aged 63 years; George Otto, Sr., died at the home of his son, John W., October 8, 1899, aged 89; Conrad Westenhaver, came to Gratiot in 1854, settling first on section 36, Newark, but soon removing to section 22, Fulton, died August 22, 1909, aged 87; Andrew S. Laycock; Henry Read, county treasurer in 1896, (see sketch); Frank E. Durfee; C. Frank Otto; William H. Davis; C. Wesley Kinney, (see sketch); John B. Ressegnie, (see sketch); Frank R. Himes, Democratic candidate for county clerk in 1912; Frank E. Stroup, Republican candidate for representative in 1896; George M. Willoughby, Democratic candidate for sheriff in 1900; Henry S. Phillips; Ira W. Montague, came in 1867, settling on section 11. He was a leading citizen in his township, and an ex-soldier. After his removal to Ithaca in the late '80s he served several terms as county superintendent of the poor. Died in Ithaca, April 18, 1913, aged 80 years. Wm. H. Laycock came in 1853. He and his wife celebrated their 60th anniversary December 19, 1912. They are parents of eight children. Mr. Laycock served as a soldier in the Civil War. W. W. Dalgleish, now living in California.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Benson, Seth P.,** April 17, 1867, aged 87.

**Boyle, Mrs.,** wife of Stephen M. Boyle, July 15, 1868, at the age of 30 years.

**Beebe, Gideon,** Dec. 28, 1883, aged 78 years.

**Brown, Mrs. Sophia,** February 11, 1885, aged 100 years.

**Broadbeck, Solomon,** March 7, 1888, aged 45.

**Burt, Benjamin,** July 30, 1904; an aged pioneer.

**Burch, J. H.,** April 3, 1906, aged about 70.

**Baker, Mrs. O. F.,** at Milwaukee where she was visiting, March 26, 1909. (See sketch of Oscar F. Baker.)

**Barrus, Jas. C.,** July, 1908, aged 80 years. A respected citizen of Pompeii from 1876.

**Boardman, Cyrus,** at his home in Middleton, March 27, 1910, aged 82. Coming to Fulton in 1857, he was a teacher in those early days, and taught the first winter term ever taught in Fulton.

**Bolyard, Jas. K.,** at his home in Fulton, February 26, 1912, at the age of 67 years; a resident since 1876, and blessed with many friends.

**Boots, Chas. H.,** April 24, 1912, aged 83. He was a soldier in the Civil War; a resident of Fulton since 1868.

**Boyle, Stephen M.,** at his home in Maple Rapids, May 18, 1912. A Civil War veteran; settled in Newark in 1859, and in Fulton the next year; was especially active in temperance work.

**Carr, Wm.,** Sept. 1, 1895, aged 74. He came to Gratiot in 1860, settling on section 14, Fulton. A respected and vigorous citizen, father of 17 children.

**Clark, Mrs. Dorothy,** in Perrinton, February 11, 1904, wife of John O. Clark; old residents of North Shade, settling on section 12, in 1865.

**Cowles, Mrs. Ben.,** April 25, 1905, aged 94.

**Creaser, Wm., Sr.,** Sept. 17, 1873. Came to Gratiot in 1869. His wife, Emily, died March 11, 1883.

**Creaser, Philip W., Sr.,** April 25, 1907, aged 75 years. Son of Wm. Creaser, Sr. Settled in Fulton in 1869.

**Clark, Mrs. Mattie L.,** wife of G. Wash. Clark, April 20, 1877, aged 43. They settled here in 1854.

**Carlin, Martin,** January 22, 1886, aged 74.

**Chaffin, Mrs.** Margaret G., February 16, 1887, at the home of her son Charles, aged 82.

**Chidlester, Thaddeus C.,** January 2, 1906. He was clerk of the township three years, and was postmaster of Perrinton several years.

**Clark, Burr,** in Montana, Dec. 25, 1909, aged 47. Son of G. Wash. Clark.

**Creaser, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of the late Wm. Creaser, Sept. 2, 1911, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry W. Kinsel, at Ithaca, aged 83. An esteemed pioneer of Fulton Township, settling there in 1871.

**Cuson, Mrs. Sarah,** Dec. 1, 1910, at Elyria, Ohio, where she had resided a few years. One of the three original members of the M. E. Church in Middleton.

**Crismore, Henry,** Aug. 1, 1903, aged 71.

**Creaser, Caroline A.,** May 31, 1910, aged 72.

**Casteel, Jesse,** at Middleton, August 18, 1913, aged 87 years; at the home of his nephew, John First. A resident here over 40 years.

**Dodge, Mrs. Caroline,** wife of Finley Dodge, Oct 29, 1879, aged 42. They came to Fulton in 1858.

**Dodson, Geo .W.,** May 8, 1893, aged 59.

**Daniels, Wm.,** Sept. 5, 1895, aged 78.

**Dunning, Alex.,** June 17, 1911, aged 70. Thirty years a resident of Fulton.

**Deline, Cornelius A.,** July 1, 1910, aged 79.

**Eggleston, Albert A.,** March 18, 1890, aged 55. Settled here in 1865.

**Ellsworth, Elijah,** at the home of his nephew, Oscar Bentley, March 16, 1904, aged nearly 77. Came here in 1860.

**Evans, Alonzo H.,** at his home in Old Pompeii, Dec. 13, 1912, aged 77 years. He had been a resident in the house where he died, more than 50 years. He was a carpenter, and highly regarded.

**Fulton, Robert,** Oct. 28, 1867, aged 48. One of the earliest settlers, the township being named for him and his brothers. Was township treasurer in 1863 and 1867.

**Fulton, J. N.,** May 21, 1899, aged 76. A pioneer, the township having been named for him and his brothers. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Barstow, of Maple Rapids, and five hours later he—Rev. Barstow—was a corpse, havings died suddenly with heart disease to which he was subject.

**Fulton, Mrs. Abigail,** Dec. 7, 1908, in Maple Rapids, aged 84; widow of Nicholas B. Fulton, one of the original Fulton ,brothers.

**Franks, Mrs. C.,** wife of Geo. S. Franks, at her home near Middleton, January 8, 1907, aged 71.

**Freeman, John,** at the residence of his son, L. M. Freeman, January 9, 1908, aged 88 years.

**Fockler, Mrs. Matilda (Boyd),** at the home of her son Henry in Middleton, Aug. 20, 1912, aged 75. She came to Gratiot in 1863, her husband, James Fockler, passing away in 1903.

**Grace, Mrs. Amelia,** April 4, 1876, aged 74; a pioneer, widow of John C. Grace.

**Grubaugh, Harriet,** Oct. 17, 1894, aged 68.

**Guyton, John,** a prominent citizen of Perrinton, Dec. 13, 1901, aged 57.

**Helms, Samuel,** April 4, 1869, aged 50.

**Helms, Thomas,** April 4, 1869, aged 30.

**Herrick, A. W.,** Nov. 29, 1896. Settled here in 1854. His wife, Maria, preceded him to the other world by several years.

**Howe, Mrs.,** wife of Simeon A. Howe, Sept. 26, 1890, aged 59. Pioneers of 1854.

**Huntoon, Samuel L.,** Aug. 1, 1891, at the age of 68 years. A pioneer.

**Harlock, Joseph,** July 2, 1892, aged 55. A veteran of the Civil War and a resident since 1864.

**Himes, Sanford L.,** Nov. 24, 1894, aged 76.

**Hamilton, Dr. John,** at his home in Pompeii, July, 1908, aged 77. A man of high standing in the community, a resident since 1876.

**Howell, Mrs. M. S.,** at her home in Middleton, Dec. 9, 1910, aged 60. An esteemed resident since 1866.

**Hooker, Geo.,** at the home of his nephew, George Hooker, Fulton, February 14, 1911, aged 69.

**Hoffman, Peter,** at Perrinton, January 10, 1911, aged 73. An old resident and old soldier.

**Hoxie, Mrs. Thos. J.,** Sept. 27, 1911, aged 67. An esteemed resident since 1862. She left a husband and six children.

**Hoxie, Thos. J.,** at his home in Fulton, March 6, 1912, aged 69, surviving his wife but a few months. They came to Gratiot in 1863, and with their children always maintained a high standing in the community.

**Hoxie, Walter,** July 23, 1905, aged 39. A successful teacher, son of Thos. J. Hoxie.

**Harris, Mrs. Eliza Ann,** wife of Lionel W. Harris, at her home in Pompeii, March 29, 1913, aged 72 years. She was among the earliest settlers in St. Louis, this county, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Vliet, and had many friends.

**Jones, Simon,** July 15, 1880, aged 85.

**Jackson, W. W.,** Nov. 7, 1904, aged 72. A settler here in 1865.

**Jenne, Herbert A.,** at Owosso, June 23, 1911, aged 40, a native of Fulton, son of James K. Jenne. He left a wife and two small children.

**Kellogg, Charles,** Sept. 13, 1884 aged 58.

**Keller, Mrs. John,** February 22, 1892; an aged old settler.

**Killam, Philander B.,** Dec., 1907, 1907, aged 71.

**King, Mrs. Jane,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John R. Hudson, Middleton, May 4, 1911, aged 80 years.

**Kellogg, Joseph F.,** Aug. 5, 1912, aged 58. Came with his parents in 1866.

**Kinney, Chas. Wesley,** at his home in Middleton, Jan. 16, 1913, aged 71 years. (See sketch).

**Loomis, Alonzo,** Nov. 7, 1878, aged 69; father of Abial S. and Alonzo W. Loomis; came to Gratiot in 1858.

**Loomis, Mrs. Lydia,** widow of Alonzo Loomis, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Avery Sooy, Dec. 26, 1891.

**Leddick, Mrs. Nancy,** Sept. 22, 1889, aged 67.

**Lewis, Robert,** a pioneer of Fulton, Oct. 10, 1897, aged 83.

**Laycock, Laura,** Aug. 28, 1907, aged 76.

**McMannis, Elizabeth,** wife of J. N. McMannis, Sept. 20, 1873, aged 33 years.

**Morse, Thos. J.,** February 21, 1888, aged 58.

**Martin, Mrs. Edgar,** at her home near Pompeii, February 9, 1911, aged 45, leaving many friends; daughter of Fred Sequard.

**Mikesell, Wm.,** Feb. 19, 1910, aged 79.

**McKinney, Albert E.,** at his home in Pompeii, March 6, 1913, aged 77 years. A respected pioneer, coming here in 1858. Six children survive him; also the wife, who was formerly the widow of Stillman Smith, of St. Louis, this county.

**Montague, Ira W.,** in Ithaca, April 18, 1913, aged 80 years. He was a soldier in the Civil War and came to Gratiot in 1867, settling in Fulton, where he remained many years. He removed to Ithaca about the year 1890, and served with credit as county superintendent of the poor several years.

**Metzger, Henry,** at his home in Pompeii, Sept. 2, 1913, aged 63 years.

**Norton, Andrew J.,** Oct. 6, 1899. A pioneer of Fulton.

**Oliver, Daniel,** April 28, 1883, at the home of his son-in-law, George W. Price, aged 95 years.

**Otto, George,** at the home of his son, John W. Otto, Ithaca, 1899, in his 89th year. Settled in Fulton in 1855.

**Patterson, James,** January 18, 1879, aged 64.

**Payne, Mrs. Dwight L.,** at Pompeii, April 19, 1894, aged 57; daughter of Cornelius Campbell, pioneer of Washington.

**Payne, Dwight L.,** Dec. 1, 1910, aged 79; at his home in Perrinton; a veteran of the Civil War, son of Arnold Payne who was the first settler in Fulton.

**Price, Henry,** at Perrinton, Nov. 16, 1896, aged 82. One of the pioneers of '56.

**Price, John,** June 4, 1898, at an advanced age.

**Price, Geo. W.,** Nov. 12, 1899, at Pompeii, aged 65. A respected pioneer, coming to Fulton in 1861.

**Phillips, Mrs. Louisa M.,** widow of Parmer R. Phillips, Oct. 24, 1903, aged 73.

**Payne, Henry,** January 30, 1909; a resident of Fulton many years. Died in Mobile, Alabama, where he was seeking better health.

**Payne, Day C.,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Caesar, Feb. 8, 1913, aged 81 years. He was a son of Arnold Payne, and settled in Fulton Township with his father's family in 1846, the first family to settle in the county. His wife, who was Miss Prudence Randolph, died in 1907. Five children survive. He was very much respected.

**Reynolds, Roswell,** March 17, 1879, aged 85. He was a veteran of the War of 1812.

**Reynolds, Mrs. Marie,** at the home of her son, John T. Swigart, March 27, 1889, aged 77; widow of Roswell Reynolds. A noble and self-sacrificing pioneer who came to Gratiot in 1855.

**Ruppert, Geo. Morris,** February 9, 1909, aged 57. He came with his parents to Gratiot in 1856. Two marriages brought him some depressing experiences, but, though somewhat eccentric in his make-up, he was of a kindly and genial disposition.

**Reynolds, Lewis,** March 27, 1907, aged 80 years.

**Rule, Adam Henry,** April 10, 1908, aged 76.

**Reynolds, Willett,** March 5, 1910, aged 76. Settled in Fulton in '56.

**Stitt, Mrs. Laura,** widow of John Stitt, at the home of her son Winfield, Dec. 28, 1878, aged 78 years.

**Seaver, Mrs. Mamie,** March 6, 1880, aged 23 years; esteemed wife of Isaac S. Seaver.

**Sidell, Mrs. Joseph,** April 22, 1886, aged 52.

**Sebring, Sylvester,** January 10, 1895; a veteran of the Civil War.

**Shaffer, H. W.,** Oct. 10, 1895, aged 55; a Civil War soldier.

**Sheller, Samuel,** March 10, 1893, aged 74.

**Sooy, Noah,** Dec. 19, 1891, aged 75.

**Swigart, Mrs.** Ella A., wife of John T. Swigart, April 2, 1901; an estimable lady who left a multitude of friends.

**Swigart, Robert M.,** June 3, 1910, aged about 60. An early resident of Fulton, later of Clinton County where he was sheriff in the late '80s.

**Strouse, Rebecca B.,** May 22, 1909, aged '82; widow of Edmund Strouse.

**Steadman, Geo. P.,** January 10, 1908, aged 74.

**Sheridan, Patrick,** May 18, 1911, aged 86. A well-known pioneer.

**Stone, Alfred,** at Perrinton, Oct. 5, 1912, aged 90 years. He settled in Essex, Clinton County in 1847 where he resided till his removal to Perrinton in 1881. He was three times married and left a wife and seven children.

**Townsend, Mrs. Delight,** July 2, 1878, aged 80 years; wife of Chester Townsend, and mother of Homer L. Townsend, the second sheriff of the county. She settled in Fulton in 1853.

**Townsend, Almon,** Sept. 18, 1909, at Middleton, aged 61.

**Taylor, Dr. Frederick,** at his home in Carson City, Mich., May 2, 1913, aged 51 years. He was a popular physician at Middleton for a period of ten years, removing to Carson City in 1899.

**Wagner, Mrs. T.,** March 24, 1878, aged 62. A pioneer of '56.

**Wagner, Edward,** Nov. 6, 1886, aged 75. Came in 1867.

**Willoughby, Geo. W. J.,** June 3, 1881, aged 73. A respected pioneer, father of J. B., C. B. and Geo. M. Willoughby.

**Wilbur, John P.,** April 17, 1891, at Middleton, at the age of 62 years.

**Westenhaver, Mrs. Rebecca,** Nov. 10, 1891, aged 65; wife of Conrad Westenhaver, who died in 1909. They came to Fulton in 1854, and were among the most popular of the early settlers.

**Wang, Mrs. Naomi,** wife of Joseph Wang, Dec. 26, 1896, at the age of 70.

**Wang, Joseph,** February 5, 1900, aged 80. Came from Germany in 1838 and to Gratiot in 1856.

**Wood, Henry,** February 14, 1905, aged 64. An 1854 pioneer.

**Williams, Mrs. Mary Ann,** wife of Wm. Williams, at her home in Middleton, April 24, 1911 ,at the age of 77 years. They settled in New Haven in 1860, removing to Middleton in 1898.

**Willoughby, Mrs. J. B.,** at the home of her son, G. M. Willoughby, in Texas, Aug. 14, 1911. (See sketch of J. B. Willoughby.)

**Wilbur, Mrs. W. P.,** at her home near Middleton, January 6, 1912.

**Wilbur, Edgar,** near Middleton, May 17, 1912, aged 45 years.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1875, June 13—Fire destroyed W. M. and C. N. Russell's sawmill, on the morning of June 13, together with the machinery and other contents; also about 35,000 feet of hardwood lumber. Loss, $2,000 and no insurance.

1878, Sept. 27—T. B. Musser's barn was struck by lightning and consumed by fire, with all its contents. No insurance.

1879, March 31—The house of Ben. Cowles, the well-known pioneer, was burned with most of its contents.

1881, Feb. 19—The farm residence of A. C. Gillett was destroyed by fire.

1885, March 6—Fire destroyed the residence of Emmett Himes, with the greater part of its contents. Insured.

1886, Oct. 27—Milton Lewis lost a barn by fire, with its contents. Loss, $500; insurance, $375.

1888, April 4—The barn of James Lewis was struck by lightning and totally destroyed by fire, with all its contents, including eight head of cattle.

1890, April 24—The Central House, in Middleton, owned by Mrs. Hattie Cole and occupied by John Minnick, was burned, together with a good share of the contents. No insurance.

1900, April 6—Fire gave Pompeii probably the hardest scorching it ever had, burning Seaver Bros.' general store, C. R. Peters' implement store and J. D. Gilleo's drug store. Loss, about $12,000, and insurance about one-half that amount. The present Seaver block now occupies the place of the buildings destroyed.

1908, Aug. 3—The barn of Henry Spaulding, containing 40 tons of hay, was destroyed by fire; struck by lightning. There was some insurance.

1909, Feb. 7—The farm house of John Wang, was burned with all its contents while the family was away. Partially covered by insurance. The same house was unroofed and otherwise greatly demoralized in the big cyclone of 1902.

1910, Dec. 8—The house of Charles Rhynard, near Perrinton, burned with part of the contents. Insured.

1911, April 6—Fire destroyed three buildings in Pompeii, at about 2 o'clock a. m.—John Wang's meat market; the postoffice building, owned by Postmaster Wm. Foster, and the building owned by the Grand Rapids Brewing Co., occupied as a pool and billiard room by Henry Doan. Nearly all of the contents of the buildings was saved. There was some insurance.

1911, June 17—Early in the morning, fire destroyed six business places on the east side of the main business street in Middleton—a barber shop, a doctor's office, a millinery store, a pool room, an agricultural implement store and a grocery. The loss was estimated at $8,000, with a fair amount of insurance. The fire fighting appliances of the village being limited, the fire-fighters worked at a disadvantage. Families living in some of the second stories were in considerable peril, but all were rescued.

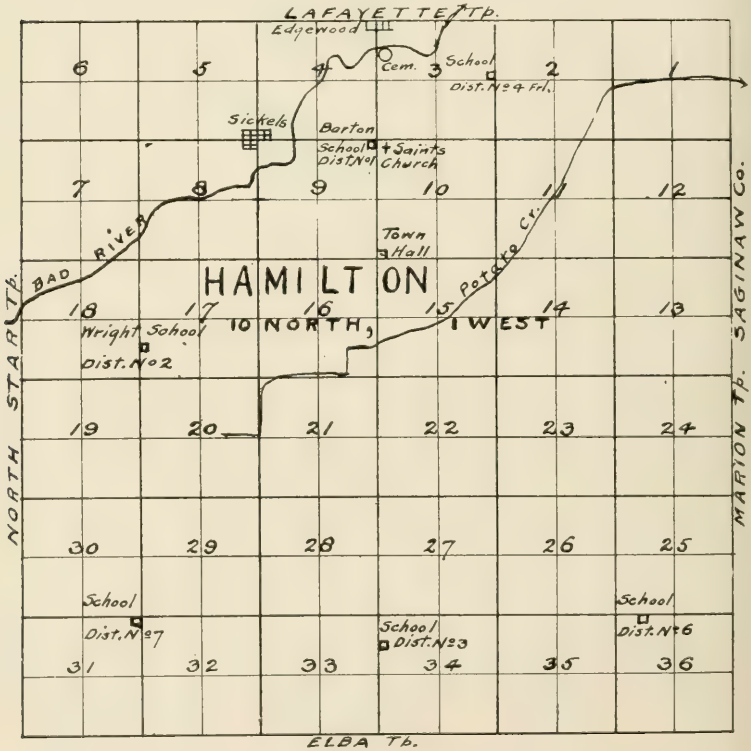
1911, Dec. 3—A fire at Middleton, Sunday forenoon, destroyed the Middleton Record office and the Bert Case blacksmith shop adjoining. Editor C. M. Newton succeeded in saving a portion of his printing outfit and material, but the big press could not be moved, and it was ruined. The contents of the blacksmith shop were saved. There was some insurance on the print shop and material, but the blacksmith shop was not insured.

1913, July 16—W. L. Baker's barn, between Perrinton and Middleton, was struck by lightning and consumed.

## HAMILTON TOWNSHIP.

Hamilton had some first settlers in 1854. Among them were Dr. John R. Cheesman, Wm. Barton, Elijah Curtis, the latter being the first supervisor of the township. Dr. Cheesman left the township in 1857, and afterward became a resident of St. Louis. Settlement was slower in Hamilton than in some of the other townships, probably for the reason that it was far removed from the principal settlements that sprang up at the center of the county and on Pine River, Hamilton being one of the townships extending to the eastern county line. The technical description is town 10 north, range 1 west.

Much of Hamilton's surface is level. Quite a proportion of the soil is sandy and light. These sandy portions were the homes of heavy pine forests which yielded much revenue to the speculators who were able to buy up the land when it was cheap. The pine lands with the light soil lie mainly in the eastern and southeastern part of the township, the west and north portions having a heavier and better soil for agricultural purposes. There are many fine farms in this portion; farms that compare favorably with those of any other part of the county.



The average distance to market for the farmers is greater than that of most of the other townships, as there is no railroad through it. Ashley is convenient to a considerable portion of the people of Hamilton, but the northeast corner of the township lies eleven or twelve miles from Ashley, and about the same distance from Wheeler. The north branch of Bad River furnishes drainage for the northern parts of the township, Potato Creek also aiding in the eastern part.

Much local information relative to Hamilton is given in other departments of this volume. The sections following also give valuable information as to who took an active part in the township business, and thus incidentally naming a large proportion of pioneers.

The little Village of Sickels, located in the northwestern part, furnishes a trading point for a large scope of country. And the same may be said of Edgewood lying on the Hamilton and Lafayette line.

## HAMILTON ELECTIONS.

Here are the names of the 18 electors who cast their ballots at the first election held in Hamilton Township, April 7, 1856:

Joseph Goodwin, Michael Kimmel, Joseph T. Stetson, John Hoffer, John S. Templeton, John Good, Chas. Holiday, John R. Cheesman, David Bell, Samuel Barton, Henry Simmon, Barney Whetstone, Daniel H. Curtis, John H. Johnson, Wm. Crane, Elijah Curtis, Lorenzo Badgeley, Stephen Drummond.

**April, 1856:** Sup.—Elijah Curtis 12, John R. Cheesman 6; Clk.—Daniel H. Curtis 17; Treas.—Elijah Curtis; H. C.—John S. Templeton 17, David Bell 17, Wm. Crane 8, John Hoffer 8; Crane won in the drawing; J. P.—Wm. Barton 17, Wm. Crane 17, Elijah Curtis 17, John S. Templeton 13, John H. Johnson 4; Sch. Insp.—John R. Cheesman 17, Wm. Barton 17; Directors of Poor—Elijah Curtis 17, John Hoffer 11, John H. Johnson 4, John S. Templeton 1; Const.—Samuel Barton, Henry Simmon.

The above statement is signed by Elijah Curtis, Daniel H. Curtis and John R. Cheesman, as inspector of election.

At a special township meeting held June 28, '56, to elect a treasurer in place of Elijah Curtis who probably found that he had more offices than he could handle, there were 11 votes cast, of which Henry Simmon, for treasurer, received 9, John R. Cheesman 1, John S. Templeton 1. Among the 11 voters are two new names—Albert Tillotson and Allen Curtis. A contingent fund of $100 and a highway fund of $150 were voted.

Up to the time of the organization of the township this spring, Hamilton had been an adjunct of Duplain, Clinton County. So a joint meeting of the boards of the two townships was held Aug. 12th at the office of the clerk of Duplain, "for the purpose of apportioning all moneys, rights, credits and personal estate belonging jointly to said townships, according to the statute in such case made and provided. Present, J. D. Sickels, John T. Gleason, Jas. Kipp, and M. L. Leach, on the part of Duplain, and Elijah Curtis, John S. Templeton and Daniel H. Curtis, on the part of Hamilton. It appeared that there was in the hands of the treasurer of Duplain, belonging to the Township of Hamilton, of highway money, $158.79; of library money, $2.75, and of contingent fund, $5.57, making a total of $167.11, for which an order was given by the township board of Duplain on the treasurer of said township, payable to the treasurer of Hamilton. It also appeared that the Township of Hamilton was justly entitled to 32 volumes from the township library, and they were delivered to the clerk of Hamilton". Signed

by the two township boards. Thus Hamilton commenced housekeeping on its own account, with a little money in its purse, and with a few books for a start toward a library. The increase in population was slow, as is evidenced by the vote at the annual elections, the vote for the first nine years never rising above 19, and being as low as 8 in '64, and 9 in '65.

**1857:** Sup.—Orville M. Wood 9, Elijah Curtis 5; Clk.—Daniel H. Curtis 14; Treas.—John R. Cheesman 6, J. S. Templeton 5, Henry Simmon 3; H. C.—David Huston 8, J. S. Templeton 6; J. P.—Wm. Barton 14; vacancy, Orville M. Wood; Sch. Insp.—O. M. Wood 14, J. R. Cheesman 10, Elijah Curtis 2, David Husson 1; Overseers of Poor—O. M. Wood 14, J. R. Cheesman 10, J. S. Templeton 1; Const.—Henry Simmon 14, Daniel H. Curtis 14.

A special election was held Oct. 15, '57, to fill vacancies. Wm. Barton was elected justice of the peace for three years, and Joseph Wright for four years; scchool inspector, Wm. Barton; treasurer, Samuel H. Barton.

**1858:** Sup.—Wm. Barton 6, Elijah Curtis 6; Barton was lucky in the drawing; Clk.—Daniel H. Curtis; Treas.—Jas. B. Curtis 4, Samuel H. Barton 4, Henry Simmon 4; Barton winning the triangular contest; H. C.—Jo. Wright; J. P.—Elijah Curtis; vacancy, John Muffly; Sch. Insp.—Jas. B. Curtis; Const.—Henry Simmon, Dan. H. Curtis, S. H. Barton

**1859:** Sup.—Wm. Barton; Clk.—Geo. E. Townsend; Treas.—Henry Simmon; H. C.—Geo. W. Jennings; J. P.—Geo. W. Jennings; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Barton; Overseer of Poor—Wm. Barton, Lorenzo Badgely.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—Wm. Barton; Clk.—Geo. E. Townsend; Treas.—Henry Simmon; H. C.—David Huston, John Deeter; J. P.—John Deeter; vacancy, Geo. E. Townsend; Sch. Insp.—John Deeter; Const.—Henry Simmon.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—John Deeter; Clk.—Thos. B. Lamb; Treas.—Henry Simmon; H. C.—Moses D. Ackles, Daniel H. Curtis; J. P.—Thos. B. Lamb; 2 yrs, Jo. Wright; Sch. Insp.—David T. Huston.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Thos. B. Lamb; Clk.—Dan. H. Curtis; Treas.—John Deeter; H. C.—Wm. Barton, Jo. Wright; J. P.—Elijah Curtis; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Barton.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Thos. B. Lamb; Clk.—Francis M. Street; Treas.—Jas. B. Curtis; H. C.—Henry Simmon; J. P.—Jo. Wright, vacancy, Wm. Barton; Sch. Insp.—Thos. B. Lamb.

Elijah Curtis represented Hamilton at the January session, 1864.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Wm. Barton; Clk.—Jo. Wright; Treas.—Henry Simmon; H. C.—John Muffly; J. P.—Wm. Barton; vacancy, Hiram G. Briggs; Sch. Insp.—Dan. H. Curtis, H. G. Briggs.

By this time the township had three road districts with overseers—Elijah Curtis, G. Aumaugher, Abraham Ringle.

April 23, '64, the board appointed H. G. Briggs clerk; and on May 28, '64, Jackson Martin was appointed treasurer vice Simmon, who refused to serve.

Aug. 24, '64, the board resolved to give a township order for $100 to any volunteer or drafted man from Hamilton.

At the Nov., 1864, election, six votes were polled—three republican, three democrat. The six votes were A. J. Martin, Abraham Ringle, Hiram G. Briggs, John Muffly, Elijah Curtis and F. M. Street.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Wm. Barton; Clk.—Alanson M. Wilbour; Treas.—F. M. Street; H. C.—Elijah Curtis; vacancy, F. H. Wilbour; J. P.—Wm. Barton; 3 yrs, A M. Wilbour; 2 yrs, John Muffly; Sch. Insp.—F. H. Wilbour, Wm. Barton.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Harlow A. Joyner; Clk.—Wm. Barton; Treas.—John Deeter; H. C.—G. Aumaugher; J. P.—E. Curtis; 3 yrs, F. M. Street.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Harlow A. Joyner; Clk.—Wm. Barton; Treas.—Walter Smalley; H. C.—Samuel Lambright; J. P.—John Deeter; vacancy, Chas. Ackles; Sch. Insp.—Walter Smalley.

May 7, '67, G. Aumaugher was appointed treasurer in place of Smalley who failed to qualify.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Joseph H. Seaver; Clk.—Henry C. Mead; Treas.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—Er W. Mead; Sch. Insp.—Peter P. Lennox, Geo. W. Mead.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Jo. H. Seaver; Clk.—H. C. Mead; Treas.—H. A. Joyner; H. C.—Ed. Hyatt; J. P.—Wm. Barton; vacancy, Lewis Goodrich; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Mead, H. A. Joyner.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—J. H. Seaver; Clk.—A. B. Claflin; Treas.—G. W. Mead; H. C.—E. W. Shelly; J. P.—Sheldon Wight; vacancy, Geo. Zimmerman; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Ackles.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—Jas. B. Curtis; Clk.—Jo. Wright; Treas.—Chas. H. Ballard; H. C.—J. A. Walterhouse; J. P.—H. A. Joyner; 3 yrs, C. Ackles; 1 yr, F. A. Coats; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Walterhouse.

Sept. 16, '71, the board appointed J. L. Ringle highway commissioner vice Hyatt, removed from township.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Jas. D. Arnett; Clk.—Jo. Wright; Treas.—John Deeter; H. C.—Reuben Smith; J. P.—Harvey O. Curtis; Sch. Insp.—Henry Aumaugher; Dr. Com.—F. A. Coats. Harvey O. Curtis, who was elected justice, had for his three opponents in the race, Jas. B. Curtis, Ezra Curtis and Elijah Curtis.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—J. H. Seaver; Clk.—Marshall Sevy; Treas.—Wm. Barton; H. C.—Gilbert G. Gabrion; vacancy, John Goodhall; vacancy, J. D. Arnett; J. P.—Wm. Barton; vacancy, Wm. L. Ball; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Cox, G. Cook; Dr. Com.—F. A. Coats.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—J. H. Seaver; Clk.—H. C. Mead; Treas.—E. M. Shelley; H. C.—Silas Hill; J. P.—N. Cunningham; vacancy, E. M. Shelley; Sch. Insp.—J. H. Seaver; Dr. Com.—A. A. Gross.

A special election Oct. 18, '74, filled vacancies as follows: Clk.—Jas. B. Curtis; J. P.—Jas. B. Curtis; 2 yrs, F. A. Coats; 1 yr, G. G. Gabrion; Sch. Insp.—Harvey O. Curtis.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Jo. Wright; Clk.—H. C. Mead; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—J. H. Seaver; J. P.—H. A. Joyner; 3 ys, Wm. Ball; 2 ys, John Deeter; Supt. Sch.—G. G. Gabrion; Sch. Insp.—E. M. Shelley.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—J. H. Seaver; Clk.—G. G. Gabrion; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—David Hoag; J. P.—J. H. Seaver; Supt. Sch.—E. M. Shelley; Sch. Insp.—John L. Ringle; Dr. Com.—A. A. Gross.

April 22, '76, board appointed Wm. Kerr superintendent of schools vice Shelley.

Dec. 23, '76, the board appointed Warren Abbott supervisor vice Seaver elected register of deeds.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Silas Hill; Clk.—G. G. Gabrion; Treas.—John McLaren; H. C.—David N. Hoag; J. P.—W. R. Wight; vacancy, Lewis Husted; Supt. Sch.—W. R. Wight; Sch. Insp.—Samuel Lambright.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Silas Hill; Clk.—G. G. Gabrion; Treas.—John McLaren; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—Samuel E. Sower; vacancy, F. J. Raymond; Supt. Sch.—W. R. Wight; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Dr. Com.—Seneca M. Cole.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Silas Hill; Clk.—W. R. Wight; Treas.—Samuel Sower; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—Jas. B. Curtis; vacancy, Sam. Lambright; Supt. Sch.—F. J. Raymond.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Joseph Wright; Clk.—Edward Kimes; Treas.—Jas. B. Curtis; H. C.—Sam. Lambright; J. P.—F. J. Raymond; Supt. Sch.—C. H. Ballard; Sch. Insp.—Jo. Wright; Dr. Com.—C. H. Ballard.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—W. R. Wight; Clk.—Wm. Stahl; Treas.—Sheldon Wight; H. C.—Silas Hill; J. P.—Edmund Goodhall; vacancy, F. A. Coats; Supt. Sch.—Dan. H. Curtis; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright.

Aug. 5, '81, board appointed Wm. Sickels, supervisor, vice Wight, resigned.

Sept. 20, '81, the town house was completed and accepted.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Wm. Sickels; Clk.—C. Sherman Betts; Treas.—Sheldon Wight; H. C.—Lewis D. Lincoln; J. P.—Jas. F. Ross; vacancy, D. N. Hoag; Sch. Insp.—Robert Dillsworth, Jas. F. Ross; Dr. Com.—Dan. H. Curtis; Review—Jas. B. Curtis, Silas Hill.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Chas. A. Tarr; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—Elon P. Potter; J. P.—Jas. B. Curtis; 3 ys, F. A. Coats; 1 yr, Wm. Sickels; Sch. Insp.—Emma C. Sickels.

A special election Oct. 15, '83, filled vacancies as follows: H. C.—L. D. Lincoln; Sch. Insp.—John McLaren; J. P., 3 ys—F. A. Coats; 2 yrs, Wm. Stahl; 1 yr, Wm. Sickels.

April 1, '84, Chas. A. Tarr resigned as supervisor and Wm. Sickels was appointed to fill the vacancy.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Silas Hill; Clk.—Sheldon Wight; Treas.—John McLaren; H. C.—Wm. Stahl; J. P.—Wm. Sickels; Sch. Insp.—Mason Wight; Dr. Com.—L. D. Lincoln; Review—Wm. Sickels, Jo. Wright.

Wm. Sickels was appointed census enumerator by the board.

June 20, C. S. Betts was appointed drain commissioner in place of L. D. Lincoln.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Carroll Sherman Betts; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Wm. Cornell; H. C.—E. P. Potter; J. P.—Wm. Stahl; vacancy, C. A. Tarr; Sch. Insp.—Emma C. Sickels, Seth J. Curtis; Dr. Com.—L. D. Lincoln.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—C. S. Betts; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Jo. Wright; H. C.—Wm. Stahl; J. P.—John McLaren; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Review—E. P. Potter, Sheldon Wight.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—C. S. Betts; Clk.—Stephen A. Cornwell; Treas.—John P. Richmond; H. C.—L. D. Lincoln; J. P.—Chas. A. Tarr; vacancy, Wm. Force; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Little; Dr. Com.—Seneca M. Cole; Review—Wm. Sickels, C. A. Tarr.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—C. S. Betts; Clk.—S. A. Cornwell; Treas.—J. P. Richmond; H. C.—Chas. E. Lincoln; J. P.—Wm. Sickels; vacancy, John R. Williams; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Dr. Com.—Jas. W. Baker.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—C. S. Betts; Clk.—E. P. Potter; Treas.—John B. Rowell; H. C.—Benj. Austin; J. P.—Seneca M. Cole; vacancy, H. A. Ream; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Little; Dr. Com.—L. D. Lincoln.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Elon P. Potter; Clk.—Wm. A. Haight; Treas.—Frank A. Derry; H. C.—Benj. Austin; J. P.—John McLaren; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Dr. Com.—Samuel Barton; Review—Seneca M. Cole, Silas Hill.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Frank A. Derry; H. C.—Benj. Austin; J. P.—Henry Traver; vacancy, Wm. Stahl; Sch. Insp.—Isaac L. Huntoon; Dr. Com.—Dewitt C. Wilkinson; Review—Reuben Ringle.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—John R. Williams; H. C.—Benj. Austin; J. P.—L. D. Lincoln; vacancy, I. L. Huntoon; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Dr. Com.—Abram Weaver; Review—Silas Hill, Sheldon Wight.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—John R. Williams; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—Abram Weaver; Sch. Insp.—I. L. Huntoon; Review—Frank A. Derry.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Wm. P. Cornell; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—John McLaren; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Lambright; Dr. Com.—R. J. Dillsworth; Review—Silas Hill, F. A. Derry.

The board appointed A. L. Wight census enumerator.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Wm. P. Cornell; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—Eugene D. Webber; Sch. Insp.—Anna Derry; Review—F. A. Derry.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—John R. Williams; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—A. Hazelton; Sch. Insp.—Seth J. Curtis; Dr. Com.—Wm. Stahl; Review—Silas Hill.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—Frank Clickner; vacancy, John Hatfield; Sch. Insp.—Herbert L. Ringle; Review—John R. Williams.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—John R. Williams; Sch. Insp.—C. S. Betts; Review—Wm. Stahl.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—E. P. Potter, John B. Rowell, tie vote; Potter won; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—J. R. Williams; H. C.—D. N. Hoag; J. P.—R. J. Dillsworth; Sch. Insp.—Herbert J. Ringle; Review—Silas Hill, Jas. W .Baker.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—J. R. Williams; H. C.—Silas Hill; J. P.—John Hatfield; Sch. Insp.—Arthur Williams; Review—S. P. Pino.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—Arthur Williams; J. P.—Jas. W. Baker; Sch. Insp.—H. L. Ringle; Review—John McLaren.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Silas Hill; H. C.—A. Williams; J. P.—J. R. Williams; Sch. Insp.—D. E. Bickford, Seth J. Curtis; Review—S. P. Pino.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—A. L. Wight; Treas.—Seth J. Curtis; H. C.—John Hatfield; J. P.—D. E. Bickford; Sch. Insp.—Frank Hill; Review—C. H. Putnam.

**April, 1904:** Supt.—E. P. Potter; Clk.—Wilbur F. Markham; Treas.—S. J. Curtis; H. C.—C. H. Putnam; J. P.—J. B. Rowell; vacancy, Wm. E. Moore; Sch. Insp.—D. E. Bickford; Review—Silas Hill.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Wilbur F. Markham; Clk.—Jas. W. Baker; Treas.—Arthur Williams; H. C.—C. H. Putnam; J. P.—S. J. Curtis; vacancy, John Hatfield; Sch. Insp.—Frank Hill; Review—J. R. Williams.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Seth J. Curtis; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.—Arthur Williams; H. C.—C. H. Putnam; J. P.—J. R. Williams; vacancy, F. J. Smith; vacancy, A. D.Weaver; Sch. Insp.—M. Steadman; Review—L. G. Hull.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—S. J. Curtis; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.—L. G. Hull; H. C.—M. Steadman; J. P.—Geo. Grinnell; vacancy, S. P. Pino; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Anderson, Sr.; Review—Willard Hill.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—S. J. Curtis; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.—L. G. Hull; H. C.—M. Steadman; J. P.—C. H. Putnam; vacancy, A. Williams; Sch. Insp.—Frank Hill; Review—Robert C. Kerr.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—L. G. Hull; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.—C. H. Putnam; H. C.—M. Steadman; Overseer—S. P. Pino; J. P.—E. P. Croft; vacancy, R. C. Kerr; Review—Frank Hill.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—L. G. Hull; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.—C. H. Putnam; H. C.—Geo. Grinnell; Overseer—D. E. Bickford; J. P.—Frank Hill; Review—R. C. Kerr.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—L. G. Hull; Clk.—J. W. Baker; Treas.— Burr Betts; J. P.—N. G. Fox; vacancy, E. H. Arnold; Review—W. P. Gruesbeck; H. C.—Earl Cook.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Jas. W. Baker; Clk.—Arthur Williams; Treas.—M. N. Steadman; J. P.—Fred Bare; Review—C. H. Putnam; H. C.—Earl Cook; O. of H.—A. D. Weaver.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—J. W. Baker; Clk.—Arthur Williams; Treas.—M. N. Steadman; H. C.—A. D. Weaver; O. of H.—Edwin Hill; J. P.—E. P. Croft; vacancy, R. C. Kerr; Review—W. P. Gruesbeck.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 53; no, 70.

County Road System: Yes, 59; no, 73.

### Supervisors.

Elijah Curtis, 1856.
Orville M. Wood, 1857.
Wm. Barton, 1858, '59, '60, '64, '65.
John Deeter, 1861.
Thos. B. Lamb, 1862, '63.
Harlow A. Joyner, 1866, '67.
Joseph H. Seaver, 1868, '69, '70, '73, '74, '76.
Warren Abbott, ap. Dec. 23, 1876.
Jas. B. Curtis, 1871.
Jas. D. Arnett, 1872.
Jo. Wright, 1875, '80.
Silas Hill, 1877, '78, '79, '84.
W. R. Wight, 1881.
Wm. Sickels, ap. Aug. 5, '81; '82, ap. April 1, '84.
Chas. A. Tarr, 1883.
Carroll Sherman Betts, 1885, '86, '87, '88, '89.
Elon P. Potter, 1890, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04.
Wilbur F. Markham, 1905.
Seth J. Curtis, 1906, '07, '08.
L. G. Hull, 1909, '10, 11.
Jas. W. Baker, 1912, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Daniel H. Curtis, 1856, '57, '58, '62.
Geo. E. Townsend, 1859, '60.
Thos. B. Lamb, 1861.
Francis M. Street, 1863.
Jo. Wright, 1864, '71, '72.
H. G. Briggs, ap. April 23, '64.
Alanson M. Wilbour, 1865.
Wm. Barton, 1866, '67.
Henry C. Mead, 1868, '69, '74, '75.
A. B. Claflin, 1870.
Marshall Sevy, 1873.
Jas. B. Curtis, sp. el., Oct. 18, '74.
G. G. Gabrion, 1876, '77, '78.
W. R. Wight, 1879.
Edward Kimes, 1880.
Wm. Stahl, 1881.
C. Sherman Betts, 1882.
A. L. Wight, 1883, '85, '86, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03.
Sheldon Wight, 1884.
Stephen Cornwell, 1887, '88.
E. P. Potter, 1889.
Wm. A. Haight, 1890.
Wilbur F. Markham, 1904.
Jas. W. Baker, 1905, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11.
Arthur Williams, 1912, '13.

### Treasurers.

Elijah Curtis, 1856.
Henry Simmon, sp. el., June 25, 1856; '59, '60, '61, '64.
John R. Cheesman, 1857.
Samuel H. Barton, sp. el., Oct. 15, '57; 1858.
John Deeter, 1862, '66, '72.
Jas. B. Curtis, 1863, '80.

F. M. Street, 1865.
Walter Smalley, 1867.
G. Aumaugher, ap. May 7, 1867.
Geo. Zimmerman, 1868.
H. A. Joyner, 1869.
G. W. Mead, 1870.
Chas. H. Ballard, 1871.
Wm. Barton, 1873.
E. M. Shelley, 1874.
Silas Hill, 1875, '76, '83, '97, '98, '01, '02.
John McLaren, 1877, '78, '84.
Samuel Sower, 1879.
Sheldon Wight, 1881, '82.
Wm. P. Cornell, 1885, '94, '95.
Jo. Wright, 1886.
John P. Richmond, 1887, '88.
John B. Rowell, 1889.
Frank A. Derry, 1890, '91.
John R. Williams, 1892, '93, '96, '99, '00.
Seth J. Curtis, 1903, '04.
Arthur Williams, 1905, '06.
L. G. Hull, 1907, '08.
C. H. Putnam, 1909, '10.
Burr Betts, 1911.
M. N. Steadman, 1912, '13.

## HAMILTON BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### SICKELS.

The little Village of Sickels, about eight miles east of Ithaca, among other good things, serves to perpetuate the memory of Judge Wm. Sickels, its founder. Mr. Sickels was born in Palmyra, Wayne County, N. Y., May 30, 1824. His father, John F. Sickels, was of Holland descent, the forbears settling in the Mohawk Valley, New York State, in the late years of the 17th century. Wm. Sickels moved to Michigan with his father's family in 1836, settling in Wayne County. He supplemented a common school education with a course at the Northville, (Wayne County) Academy, after which he was engaged in farming until 1854, when he settled in Wyandotte, and later—1856—removed to Elsie, Clinton County, where he remained until January 1861, when, having been elected register of deeds the previous fall, he removed to St. Johns. In 1864 he was elected Judge of Probate and held the position four years, after which he held a position in the postoffice department at Washington several years.

In 1873 Mr. Sickels bought a large tract of land in Hamilton Township, this county and from that time until his death he was actively interested in improving his possessions, among other things erecting a large steam flouring mill, and platting a village which was given his name. Though the village never attained large proportions it has served, and still serves a purpose as a convenient trading place for the adjacent farming community.

Mr. Sickels was for a time a soldier in the Civil War, a lieutenant in Company E, 23rd Mich. Infantry.

November 8, 1846, Mr. Sickels was married to Isabel B., daughter of Dennis Kingsley, of Wayne County, N. Y. She was born March 13, 1828, in Orleans County, N. Y. Four children were born to this union—Dennis K., Annie I., Hettie E. and Wm. C.

Judge Sickels served the Township of Hamilton as supervisor in 1881 and '82. He died at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, John H. and Annie I. Winton, Ithaca, September 3, 1904. His wife, Isabel B., died July 21, 1906. Judge Sickels and wife were both energetic, public-spirited citizens who exerted an influence for good in whatever capacity they were called to serve, and are justly classed among Gratiot County's most respected citizens.

## BETTS.

Carroll S. Betts, of the Village of Sickels, was born in Palmyra, Wayne County, N. Y., March 28, 1844. His father, Seth Betts, was born in Albany County, N. Y., March 11, 1812, and died April 28, 1909, at Reading, Michigan. His mother, Mary J. (Hopkinson) Betts, was born January 18, 1814, in Wayne County, N. Y., and died February 6, 1898, at Reading, Mich. These parents were married November, 1837, and became the parents of six children as follows:

Augusta, born January 17, 1839, died January 12, 1890; Josiah, born January 8, 1842, died June 8, 1844; Carroll Sherman, principal subject of this sketch, born March 28, 1844; Aurelia, born January 17, 1847; Fannie, born April 21, 1849, died August 22, 1906; Helen, born August 12, 1852.

Carroll S. Betts was married to Ellen A. French, at Baldwinsville, N. Y., October 21, 1874; Rev. Wm. Manning officiating.

Mrs. Betts is a daughter of James and Catherine (Bauman) French, the former born September 15, 1818, in Schoharie County, N. Y., died January 5, 1890; the latter born in Schoharie County, N. Y., February 26, 1824, died October 10, 1898. Mrs .Betts is one of a family of five children, viz.: Louisa, born August 8, 1848; Henry, born February 12, 1851; Ellen A., born August 22, 1853; Elizabeth, born December 30, 1857; John, born January 4, 1862.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Betts resided at Baldwinsville until December, 1876, when they removed to Cambria, Hillsdale County, Mich. March 28, 1880, they came to Gratiot County, locating in Hamilton Township, where they have ever since resided, with the exception of two years—1894 and 1895—during which they resided in Ithaca.

Though politically in the minority party in Hamilton and Gratiot County, Mr. Betts has frequently been chosen to positions of honor and responsibility. In 1883 he served as township clerk. In the spring of 1885 he was elected supervisor of the township, and was re-elected in '86, '87, '88 and '89, thus holding the office five consecutive terms.

Since March 6, 1906, Mr. Betts has been the efficient agent and collector for the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. of Gratiot County; postoffice address, Ithaca, R. F. D. No. 3. For three years past he has been agent for the Hastings Cyclone Insurance Co. He has held a notary public's commission continuously for the past 27 years. Speaking of lodges, he has been an Odd Fellow 44 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Betts are the parents of a son—Burr—who was born in the Township of Cambria, Hillsdale County, July 10, 1877. Burr Betts was for several years one of Gratiot County's popular and successful teachers, having nine terms to his credit. Between times he aided his father on the farm. He taught his last term at Sickels, afterward entering the general store of Lewis & Yost at Ithaca, as salesman, where he remained three years. He then bought a general store at Sickels which he has since conducted.

Burr Betts was married October 13, 1898, to Myrtle Welch, who was born November 8, 1879, daughter of Adelbert and Carrie Welch, of Hamilton Township. They have a son—Carroll A. Betts—born in Hamilton Township, July 18, 1899.

Burr Betts was elected township treasurer in the spring of 1911. Declining a re-nomination, he is devoting his energies to his mercantile trade.

The Betts family, collectively and as individuals, may properly be classed among the most trustworthy and popular of Gratiot County's citizens. Their family sketch, therefore, will be considered a valuable and interesting feature of this volume.

## RINGLE.

John L. Ringle is one of the landmarks of Hamilton, having been a resident of that township since 1862. He still owns the farm located by him at that time, on section 17, and which he has occupied continuously until February, 1909, when he removed to Sickels where he now resides, and where he and Mrs. Ringle propose to take life a little easier than in the past. Nearly a half century of farm life, commencing when the land was in a state as nature fashioned it, ought to entitle one to a respite. Like a convict who has earned "good time", he is entitled to that much reduction of sentence.

John L. Ringle was born in Stark County, Ohio, in the year 1845. His father—Abraham Ringle—was born in Pennsylvania, in 1811. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Aumaugher, was born in Switzerland, coming to America when ten years of age. She died in 1854. When a young man of 19, Abraham Ringle met with a severe accident. While at work in an excavation a mass of earth fell on him, dislocating his hip and crippling him for life. He removed from Stark County to Seneca County, Ohio, in 1846, settling on 80 acres in a new country. After getting this land pretty well cleared up, he sold it and bought a 40, where he lived till the fall of 1862, when he moved with his family to this county, buying 160 acres in Hamilton Township, where he lived till his death at the age of 93 years. In coming to Michigan they moved with a horse team and an ox team. His was the first horse team in the township. In those early days most of the trading was done in St. Johns, 25 miles away, taking a day to go and a day to get back.

John L. Ringle resided with his parents till he was 24, when he took to himself a wife and went to work to make himself a home, on section 17, the farm he still owns, and on which he lived until recently, as previously stated. His marriage took place December 3, 1868, Rev. Elias Sower officiating. The bride was Miss Maria C. Hazelton, born in Macomb County, Michigan in the year 1850. Her father, John Hazelton, was born in Canada in 1830, and died in St. Johns in 1861. Her mother, Adelia (Pendell) Hazelton was born in the State of New York in 1833. They came to St. Johns in 1859. After the father's death in 1861, the family moved to Gratiot County. The daughter, Maria C., who afterward became Mrs. Ringle, attended school in Ithaca , Giles T. Brown, teacher. She afterward taught the first two terms of school in District No. 2 of Hamilton, boarding around among the patrons of the school, as was the custom in those days. She died Sept. 1, 1912.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ringle four children have been born—Arthur J., June 26, 1869, died March 14, 1871; Herbert L., August 4, 1871; Edith B., June 5, 1873; Fred D., October 6, 1876. Herbert L. Ringle graduated from the Ithaca High School and afterward took a year's course in Alma College. After teaching several terms of school, he was married, December 25, 1901, to Lodema Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Williams. They have three children—Merna La Moyne, born September 14, 1903; Maurine Lucile, born September 28, 1905; John Kenneth, born November 14, 1907. They reside in Ithaca. Edith B. Ringle received a common school education. She was married to Arthur Williams in 1892. They live a short distance south of Sickels. One child, Cecil, born in 1893, died September 2, 1895. Fred D. Ringle attended Ithaca High School, but on account of sickness had to leave before graduating. He was united in marriage to Pearl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sower, in March, 1898. They reside three miles east of Ithaca and have three children—Arthur, born October 10, 1899; Lela, March 3, 1902; Carlton, October 22, 1905.

John L. Ringle owns 120 acres of land, well improved and with comfortable and convenient buildings, showing a contrast to the conditions of half a century ago that can only be appreciated by those through whose toil and tribulations the change has been brought about. Mr. Ringle tells of their experiences in getting here from St. Johns. When they got this side of Bridgeville and about two miles south of Old Pompeii, they got stuck in the mud. They hoped to get to Jo. B. Smith's, at Pompeii, that night, but on account of the mud were compelled to go back half a mile where they were taken in for the night by Uncle Dan. Helms, and finished their trip the next day.

Mr. Ringle has always been very properly reckoned as one of the reliable and substantial citizens of the township. He has held the office of highway commissioner and was for many years school treasurer in his school district. The story of a night hunt, told by him, appears in another place in this volume.

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**William Barton** was born in Scotland, May 22, 1798. In 1814 he entered the British military service under the duke of Wellington and served nine years, being present and taking an active part in the battle of Waterloo. In January, 1822, he came to America and the next year settled in Columbiana County, Ohio, where he remained until 1854, when he came to this county and settled in Hamilton Township, one of the very earliest pioneers. He was married June 17, 1827, to Catharine Stickels, and eight children were born to them. As a resident of Hamilton Mr. Barton occupied a position in the front rank as an influential and progressive citizen, and was almost continuously kept in public office, the most important being justice of the peace (four terms) and supervisor (five terms). He died at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, A. E. Barstow and wife, Ithaca, June 21, 1888, aged 90 years. His wife, Catharine Barton, lived to the great age of 104 years, passing away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. E. Barstow, December 4, 1907. (See sketch of A. E. Barstow.)

**Elijah Curtis,** born June 6, 1802, in Cayuga County, N. Y., settled on section 3, Hamilton Township, in 1855. At the first election he was elected supervisor, treasurer, justice of the peace and director of the poor. Two months later, at a special election the voters relieved Mr. Curtis of some of his responsibilities by electing a new treasurer—Henry Simmon. Mr. Curtis continued an important factor in Hamilton affairs for a number of years; died February 2, 1888, aged 86. James B. Curtis was supervisor in 1871, also served as treasurer, clerk and justice. Daniel H. Curtis was clerk, school inspector and drain commissioner; died August 21, 1883, aged 56. Seth J. Curtis was supervisor in 1906, '07 and '08. Other Curtises appearing as citizens of more or less influence in Hamilton were Allen Curtis, who first settled in Lafayette, later removing to Hamilton, and died February 25, 1884, aged 79; Harvey O. and Ezra Curtis. If there were any more prominent Curtises they have kept clear of the official records.

**Silas Hill** settled on Section 3, Hamilton, in 1873. He was born July 4, 1830, in Otsego County, N. Y., son of Stephen Hill. He came to Gratiot from Eaton County, Mich., where he had lived 16 years. In Hamilton his integrity and ability won the approval of his townsmen, and they kept him in important official positions many years—treasurer six years, highway commissioner, two years, supervisor, four years. He was married in Eaton County, March 18, 1857, to Lucy, daughter of Edward Bracy. Their living children are George and Edwin. Mr. Hill died July 11, 1905, aged 75 years.

**Joseph Wright,** who passed to his long home more than ten years ago, is still remembered by a multitude of friends. He settled on section 18,

Hamilton Township, in 1854, and remained there for about 33 years, removing to Ithaca in 1887 where he passed the remainder of his days. He was born in Clinton County, Mich., April 9, 1836. He was married September 5, 1855, to Hannah Ackles. Mr. Wright was of a kindly, jovial disposition and won many friends. He served two years as supervisor, and was elected justice of the peace three times. He was also school inspector and treasurer of his township. He died at his home in Ithaca, March 28, 1902, his wife's decease occurring a few years previously.

**Thomas Derry** came to Hamilton in 1865, from the parental home in Wayne County, N. Y. At the same time came his three brothers—William, John and Alfred—and accompanying them were John and George Killeen, the latter being the well-known and popular M. E. minister, so long identified with church work (and a little political work on the side) in Gratiot County. Some settled in Hamilton, some in Lafayette, adjoining townships. All were good citizens taking a leading part in all township and neighborhood matters that should be of interest to the community; also industriously laboring to vanquish the wilderness and make for themselves comfortable homes. By natural increase the name became more general than any other in that part of the county. The last of the four brothers passed away during the last year. Their deaths occurred as follows: Alfred, died March 2, 1890, aged 46; William, June 6, 1897, aged 60; Thomas, December 12, 1901, aged 70; John, June 8, 1912, aged 78.

Regretting inability at this late day to do full justice to Hamilton's numerous worthy pioneer citizens by mentioning them all, reference to the following will have to suffice: The family name, Wight, is, and has been for many years, one of the most common in Hamilton Township. In late years it has become more scattered about the county. There were five brothers—Francis, Sheldon, Mason, William R. and Abraham L. All were first-class citizens and business men. Sheldon served as clerk and treasurer; William R. was clerk and supervisor; Abraham L. was clerk 13 years. Leonard Wight, the father, died April 5, 1904, in Hamilton. The name of Muffly is another name very common in Hamilton. John Muffly was a pioneer and died May 23, 1891, aged 83. David Muffly, who was a Civil War veteran and came to Hamilton in 1855, died June 15, 1910, aged 79. Jacob Muffly, son of John Muffly, also an old soldier, died September 11, 1911, aged 74. Henry Simmon was a popular pioneer and held the office of treasurer five terms. Joseph H. Seaver was supervisor six years, and was afterward register of deeds; Elon P. Potter served as supervisor 15 years without a break; C. S. Betts, five consecutive years; Jas. W. Baker was clerk seven consecutive years, and is now supervisor; John R. Williams was treasurer five years.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Ackles, Mrs. Charlotte,** wife of Tartelus Ackles, died at the home of her son-in-law, Joseph Wright, January 31, 1875, aged 88. Came to Gratiot in 1855.

**Abbott, Warren,** about Nov. 25, 1880; son-in-law of Judge Wm. Sickels.

**Austin, Benj.,** Dec. 14, 1904, aged about 65. A soldier in the Civil War.

**Broughf, Margaret,** January 4, 1886, aged 42.

**Ballard, Chas. H.,** February 13, 1891, aged 47. Esteemed early settlers.

**Ballard, Mrs.** widow of Chas. H. Ballard, July 16, 1898.

**Bickford, Mrs. Rhoda C.,** widow of Joseph Bickford, who helped to organize the township of North Star; May 13, 1906, aged 78. Joseph Bickford died March 25, 1883, aged 56. (See sketch of Devillow E. Bickford).

**Barton, Samuel H.,** March 16, 1909, aged 78.
**Cook, John,** Dec. 30, 1872, aged 56.
**Cunningham, Mrs.,** wife of Nathan Cunningham, Nov. 13, 1883, aged 59.
**Cunningham, Nathan,** May 13, 1884, aged 64.
**Craver, Christopher,** June 12, 1890, at Sickels, aged 65.
**Craver, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of Christopher Craver, aged nearly 62.
**Cunningham, Peter,** May 11, 1900, aged 47. A popular citizen, son of Nathan Cunningham; settled in Hamilton in 1867.
**Coates, Francis A.,** Nov. 23, 1896. A pioneer and an old soldier.
**Derry, Mrs. Wm.,** Aug. 22, 1891, leaving five sons and many friends to regret her death.
**Derry, Mrs. Martha,** widow of Alfred Derry, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Coleman, aged 66. Settled in Hamilton in 1865.
**Emery, Wm.,** Sept. 26, 1880, aged 49.
**Echelbarger, Mrs. Edward,** July 21, 1911, aged 41.
**Ferleman, Dr. Leonidas,** Nov. 30, 1905, at Sickels, aged 62.
**Frederichs, Fred,** January 22, 1905, aged 84.
**Golden, "Grandfather",** January 20, 1892, at an advanced age, at Sickels.
**Goodhall, Edmund,** May 21, 1899, aged 70. Settled here in 1865.
**Knickerbocker, Mrs. Helen,** wife of Warren W. Knickerbocker, January 11, 1900, aged 67.
**Knickerbocker, Warren W.,** April 24, 1910, aged 79. A pioneer who stood high in the esteem of his fellowmen.
**Kerr, Morgan,** June 19, 1902, aged 63.
**Lincoln, Dennis,** January 19, 1888, aged 70.
**Lambright, Samuel,** Sept. 14, 1894; a pioneer from 1868.
**Lockwood, Mrs. Marion M.,** wife of Thaddeus A. Lockwood, March 8, 1897.
**Lincoln, Mrs. Catherine,** Oct. 20, 1909, aged 81.
**Muffly, Sarah,** March 4, 1877, aged 74.
**Muffly, John,** May 23, 1891, at the age of 83. A respected pioneer.
**Moore, Ezra C.,** Aug. 16, 1892, aged 65.
**McRoberts, Mrs. Elizabeth,** Dec. 26, 1900, aged 45. Wife of Alex. McRoberts.
**Muffly, Jacob,** Sept. 17, 1911, aged 74. Came with his parents in 1855. Was a Union soldier.
**Morse, Mrs. Elizabeth,** wife of Geo. W. Morse, at Sickels, March 30, 1912.
**Moomey, Adam,** at his home in Hamilton, July 5, 1913, aged 83 years. An esteemed resident about eleven years.
**McRoberts, Alex.,** Sept. 23, 1913, aged 59 years. An esteemed resident of Hamilton about 20 years.
**Picket, Joseph,** Oct. 18, 1872, aged 93.
**Pierce, Calvin H.,** Aug. 21, 1908, aged 64. A popular citizen, residing in Gratiot about 30 years.
**Peterson, Norman,** Feb. 24, 1913. An esteemed resident of western Hamilton many years.
**Ringle, Abraham,** February 23, 1904, aged 93. An enterprising early pioneer, father of 20 children by two marriages.
**Ringle, Mrs. Reuben,** June 5, 1900, aged about 60.
**Remaley, James,** Oct. 29, 1900, aged 80 years. A conscientious and upright citizen, resident here 30 years.
**Ringle, Mrs. Maria C.,** wife of John L. Ringle, Sept. 1, 1912, aged 92. An old settler of more than 40 years standing, and highly regarded by many friends.
**Street, Elizabeth,** Aug. 19, 1880, aged 74.

**Stafford, Frank,** July 25, 1880, at the residence of his father-in-law, Chas. Ackles. Formerly resided in Ithaca.

**Simmon, Henry,** March 19, 1904, aged 77 years. Settled here in 1855, and was a prominent citizen, being township treasurer and highway commissioner.

**Street, Owen,** at Sickels, February 8, 1895, aged 87.

**Simmon, Julia Ann,** June 12, 1892, aged 67.

**Spore, Mrs. Betsey,** May 20, 1893, aged 78.

**Shaw, Edwin,** January 7, 1911, aged 73. Came to Gratiot in 1888, residing in Ithaca several years, employed in the H. B. Wells foundry.

**Sinclair, Hason,** May 6, 1911, aged 81; son of Seymour Sinclair, and first supervisor of Elba. (See sketch.)

**Tarr, Mrs. Jennie W.,** May 31, 1883, aged 29.

**Welch, James,** Aug. 8, 1881, aged 60.

**Weaver, Mrs. Hettie,** February 25, 1888, aged 31. Wife of Dr. Weaver, of Sickels, and daughter of Judge Wm. Sickels.

**Walterhouse, James,** at home of his daughter, Mrs. Clark Welch, Dec. 16, 1903, aged 76.

**Welch, Phebe,** June 18, 1907, aged 78; widow of Daniel Welch.

**Weaver, Mrs.,** wife of Abram Weaver, Oct. 16, 1911, aged 65. An old resident and much respected.

**Wight, Mrs. Mary (Weaver),** wife of Sheldon Wight, at her home in Elsie, Mich., January 4, 1912, at the age of 64 years. They were former residents of Sickels.

**Wilkinson, Mrs. Alzora,** Sept. 14, 1913, aged 62 years; a resident of Hamilton many years. Mother of Ray and Floyd Wilkinson.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1877, June 3—The sawmill of Warren Abbott burned with 30,000 feet of lumber. The loss was $2,500, with no insurance. Thought to have been the work of an incendiary.

1879, Feb. 24—Bartholomew's sawmill was burned, entailing a loss of $6,000, and with small insurance.

1884, Nov. 28—A large barn on Judge Wm. Sickels' farm was burned with the contents. Loss ,$2,000, with small insurance.

1885, May 2—The shingle mill of A. A. Gross & Sons, burned involving a loss of $800, with no insurance.

1888, Jan. 17—Mason Wight's store building and his entire stock of goods, at Sickels' were destroyed by fire. There was a small insurance of $700. The I. O. O. F. had their hall in the second story, and they lost all of their lodge property.

1891, Aug. 9—Steel's sawmill, with about 1,000,000 feet of lumber, was destroyed by fire Aug. 9. Five cottages connected with the plant went with the rest. Loss about $50,000, with no insurance.

1893, April 6—Lightning struck the barn of T. A. Lockwood, and it was consumed by fire, together with its contents, which included two horses, a colt and a cow. No insurance.

1895, Nov. 28—John Russell's house and household goods were burned while the family was away.

1895, Nov. 29—The residence of John B. Rowell, near Edgewood, burned on the morning of Nov. 29, with most of the contents. Insured.

1902, July 2—Fire destroyed Calvin Pierce's house and the greater part of its contents. There was a small insurance.

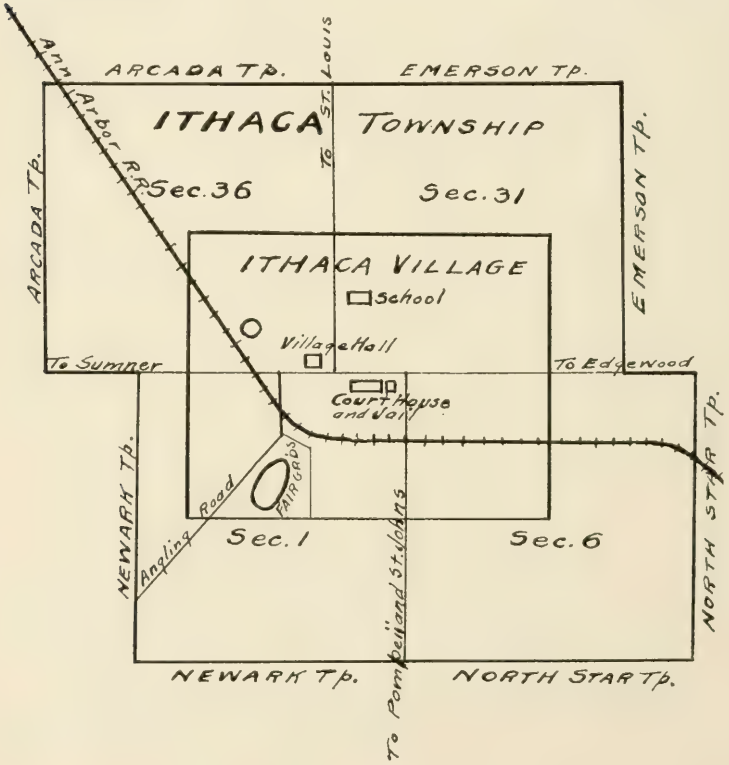
1906, April 4—L. Muffly lost his house and the household goods by fire on this date.

1909, Sept. 27—The barn of Ernest Deline was set on fire by a spark from a threshing engine, and, together with its contents it was burned to the ground.

1910, Feb. 4—The farm house of Elon P. Potter, occupied by Claude Hill, was burned on the morning of Feb. 4th, with most of the contents. Loss, $1,200; insurance, $600.

## ITHACA TOWNSHIP.

In the department of this volume dealing with the important doings of the supervisors, the creation of the Township of Ithaca is given a paragraph which appropriately belongs right here. So, although it is not out of place where it is, its appearance here would seem so appropriate and natural that I assume the responsibility of transplanting it bodily, and thus voluntarily invite criticism.



The state legislature at its session early in the year 1881, passed a special act creating the Township of Ithaca. The township is made up of four sections at the geographical center of the county—taking section one of Newark, section six of North Star, section thirty-one of Emerson and section thirty-six of Arcada. Ithaca Village occupies the central portion of the township. It may be stated that the principal object to be gained by the formation of this new township was the much greater convenience afforded the people of the four sections mentioned, in getting to the various elections. The large population of Ithaca Village was located in four different townships, and of course at every township election and at every general election, the voters of the village were compelled to abandon their homes, vacate the village and go six miles in four different directions to cast their ballots. So the change was a great convenience to the people of Ithaca. It was also an advantage to every one of the four townships from which Ithaca Township was taken, as it gave them better control over their own local affairs and interests. The large voting population of Ithaca Village was conducive to a tendency to dominate township matters, thus making it possible to advance certain local interests to the detriment, or at the expense, of other interests located elsewhere. And vice versa, similar tendencies operated the other way around. The whole proposition, though an important one, appealed so strongly to the good sense of the people, and to their sense of justice, that no serious objection was made to the transformation.

Reference to the outline map gives a clear idea of the township's comparative size and shape, also the outlines and comparative size of the Village of Ithaca, within its borders.

## ITHACA TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS.

The first Ithaca Township election was held April 4, 1881. The result of the voting is shown as follows:

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Abraham W. Russell 127, John W. Lewis 75; Clk.—Chas. J. Thoenen 111, Thos. E. Garlock 90; Treas.—Theo. Ryckman 132, Oscar F. Jackson 70; H. C.—Napoleon B. Fraker 126, Henry C. Mead 74; Sch. Insp.—Giles T. Brown 134, Elisha McCall 67; Const.—Marion R. Petitt, C. V. Bostwick, Chas. E. Blizzard, Nathan G. Sutliff.

**1882:** Sup.—A. W. Russell 135, Fred Kinkerter 65; Clk.—Chas. M. Brown 108, C. J. Thoenen 89; Treas.—Geo. Randall 142, Abram H. Johnson 55; H. C.—N. B. Fraker 130, David Reichard 68; J. P.—Jas. W. Howd 149, Edwin H. Ashley 46; vacancy, Lothrop M. Lyon 138, R. H. Cadwell 60; Sch. Insp.—Wm. E. Winton 131, Jas. M. McKee 66; 1 year, H. R. Pattengill 125, John L. Sinclair 73; Dr. Com.—John W. Howd 116, Lewis Hood 80; Const.—M. R. Pettit, N. G. Sutliff, C. E. Blizzard, Henry Stafford.

**1883:** Sup.—A. W. Russell; Clk.—W. R. Wight; Treas.—Geo. Randall; H. C.—John W. Howd; J. P.—Giles T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—H. R. Pattengill; Dr. Com.—Wm. Marlow.

**1884:** Sup.—A. W. Russell; Clk.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Treas.—Harvey Rice; H. C.—H. B. Wells; J. P.—Wm. L. Phillips; Sch. Insp.—Wm. B. Scattergood; Dr. Com.—John W. Howd.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Marvin R. Salter; Clk.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Treas.—Harvey Rice; H. C.—H. B. Wells; J. P.—L. M. Lyon; Sch. Insp.—Geo. A. Hafer.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Marvin R. Salter; Clk.—J. P. Gibbs; Treas.—L. M. Lyon; H. C.—H. B. Wells; J. P.—John M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—J. N. McCall; Dr. Com.—N. G. Sutliff.

Jan. 7, '87, Alanson J. Brown was appointed supervisor vice Salter, elected county clerk.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Alanson J. Brown; Clk.—Alvin D. Pettit; Treas.—Harvey Rice; H. C.—Will S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Giles T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—G. A. Hafer.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Wm. M. Barstow; Clk.—A. D. Pettit; Treas.—Darwin D. Smith; H. C.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Wm. L. Phillips; Sch. Insp.—Virgil R. Sutliff; Dr. Com.—N. G. Sutliff.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—W. R. Wight; Clk.—A. D. Pettit; Treas.—Frank M. Keyes; H. C.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—A. W. Russell; Sch. Insp.—Jas. B. Crawford; vacancy, Luke B. Sawyer.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—W. R. Wight; Clk.—A. D. Pettit; Treas.—Finis H. McKay; H. C.—H. B. Wells; J. P.—J. M. Everden; Sch. Insp.—Lydia M. Peet; Dr. Com.—Ransom Allen; Review—A. J. Brown, Wilbur Nelson.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Chester W .Martin; Clk.—Geo. A. Hafer; Treas.—L. M. Lyon; H. C.—Wm. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Giles T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—Inman N. Cowdrey.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—C. W. Martin; Clk.—G. A. Hafer; Treas.—Judson T. Rosekrans; H. C.—F. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Wm. M .Barstow; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Dr. Com.—H. B. Wells; Review—Wilbur Nelson, Ransom Allen.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—C. W. Martin; Clk.—G. A. Hafer; Treas.—J. T. Rosekrans; H. C.—Samuel J. Thoenen; J. P.—Wm. B. Scattergood; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—M. R. Salter.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—C. W. Martin; Clk.—G. A. Hafer; Treas.—Wm. S. Van Buskirk; H. C.—S. J. Thoenen; J. P.—Geo. W. Todd; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Review—Wilbur Nelson, Merritt H. Waterbury.

Dec. 29, '94, the board appointed H. Chauncey Barstow supervisor vice Martin, elected to the state senate.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—H. Chauncey Barstow; Clk.—Darwin D. Smith; Treas.—Geo. W. Todd; H. C.—Wm. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—G. T. Brown; vacancy, Alvin D. Pettit; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Dr. Com.—R. Allen; Review—H. B. Wells.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—H. C. Barstow; Clk.—Geo. A. Hafer; Treas.—Theo. Ryckman; H. C.—Wm. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Jas. G. Kress; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Review—W. Nelson.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—John M. Everden; Clk.—Arthur E. Mulholland; Treas.—Theo. Ryckman; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Perry D. Pettit; vacancy, Wm. H. Beasley; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Dr. Com.—L. B. Sawyer.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Frank P. Merrell; Clk.—A. E. Mulholland; Treas.—Eugene Ingles; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—M. R. Salter; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Review—J. B. Crawford.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Frank P. Merrell; Clk.—H. C. Barstow; Treas.—Jesse E. Fuller; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Hiram Haring; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—Frank H. Horr.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—F. P. Merrell; Clk.—Ora B. Jerrells; Treas.—J. E. Fuller; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Wm. H. Beasley; vacancy, G. T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—Ella E. Hamilton; Review—Jas. B. Crawford.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Frank M. Harrington; Clk.—O. B. Jerrells; Treas.—John W. Kernen; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Perry D. Pettit; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—Inman N. Cowdrey.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—F. M. Harrington; Clk.—Daniel T. Altenburg; Treas.—J. W. Kernen; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—M. R. Salter; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Review—Adelbert P. Lane.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—F. M. Harrington; Clk.—Dan. T. Altenburg; Treas.—Wm. A. Van Wegen; H. C.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—G. T. Brown; vacancy, John W. Myers; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—Peter P. Lennox.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—John W. Kernen; Clk.—O. B. Jerrells; Treas.—W. A. Van Wegen; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; J. P.—Wm. H. Beasley; vacancy, J. Henry Oakes; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—F. M. Harrington.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Orin G. Tuttle; Clk.—O. B. Jerrells; Treas.—Geo. M. Whitman; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; J. P.—John A. Hart; vacancy, Jonathan Gidley; Sch. Insp.—W. K. Ludwig; Review—W. Nelson.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—O. G. Tuttle; Clk.—Egbert R. Van Duzer; Treas.—Geo. M. Whitman; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; J. P.—John W. Myers; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—John M. Everden.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—E. R. Van Duzer; Treas.—Frank L. McConkey; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; J. P.—J. Gidley; Sch. Insp.—Sara L. Brown; Review—O. G. Tuttle.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Henry Read; Clk.—Theo. Depeel; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; J. P.—Willard D. Tucker; Sch. Insp.—Nettie Comstock; Review—W. Nelson.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Geo. M. Whitman; Clk.—Chas. H. Fleming; Treas.—J. Gidley; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; O. of H.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—M. R. Salter; vacancy, Wm. H. Beasley; Review—Ira I. Munson.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Geo. M. Whitman; Clk.—E. R. Van Duzer; Treas.—Ralph E. Pettit; H. C.—L. T. Depeel; O. of H.—W. S. Van Buskirk; J. P.—Wm. H. Beasley; Review—I. N. Cowdrey.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Geo. M. Whitman; Clk.—E. R. Van Duzer; Treas.—Ralph E. Pettit; J. P.—J. Gidley; Review—W. Nelson; one year, M. R. Salter; H. C.—L. T. Depeel.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Geo. M. Whitman; Clk.—E. R. Van Duzer; Treas.—Harvey R. Munson; H. C.—Wm. Van Buskirk; J. P.—John W. Myers; Review—W. Nelson (ap.), D. C. Gibbs (ap.).

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Geo. M. Whitman; Clk.—E. R. Van Duzer; Treas.—H. R. Munson; H. C.—Wm. Van Buskirk; O. of H.—Jack Dicken; J. P.—M. R. Salter; Review—Chas. G. Graham; Review, 1 yr—Wilbur Nelson.

Vote on woman suffrage: Yes, 158; no, 196.

Vote on county road system: Yes, 245; no, 113.

Vote on gas franchise to Wagner Bros.: Yes, 316; no, 45.

May, 1913, board appointed Charles H. Fleming treasurer in place of H. R. Munson, deceased.

### Supervisors.

Abraham W. Russell, 1881, '82, '83, '84.
Marvin R. Salter, 1885, '86.
Alanson J. Brown, ap. Jan. 7, '87; '87.
Wm. M. Barstow, 1888.
W. R. Wight, 1889, '90.
Chester W. Martin, 1891, '92, '93, '94.
H. Chauncey Barstow, ap. Dec. 29, '94; '95, '96.
John M. Everden, 1897.
Frank P. Merrell, 1898, '99, '00.
Frank M. Harrington, 1901, '02, '03.
John W. Kernen, 1904.
Orin G. Tuttle, 1905, '06.
Henry Read, 1907, '08.
Geo. M. Whitman, 1909, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Chas. J. Thoenen, 1881.
Chas. M. Brown, 1882.
W. R. Wight, 1883.
Jas. P. Gibbs, 1884, '85, '86.
Alvin D. Pettit, 1887, '88, '89, '90.
Geo. A. Hafer, 1891, '92, '93, '94, '96.
Darwin D. Smith, 1895.
Arthur E. Mulholland, 1897, '98.
H. Chauncey Barstow, 1899.
Ora B. Jerrells, 1900, '01, '04, '05.
Daniel T. Altenburg, 1902, '03.
Egbert R. Van Duzer, 1906, '07, '10, '11, '12, '13.
Theo G. Depeel, 1908.
Chas. H. Fleming, 1909.

### Treasurers.

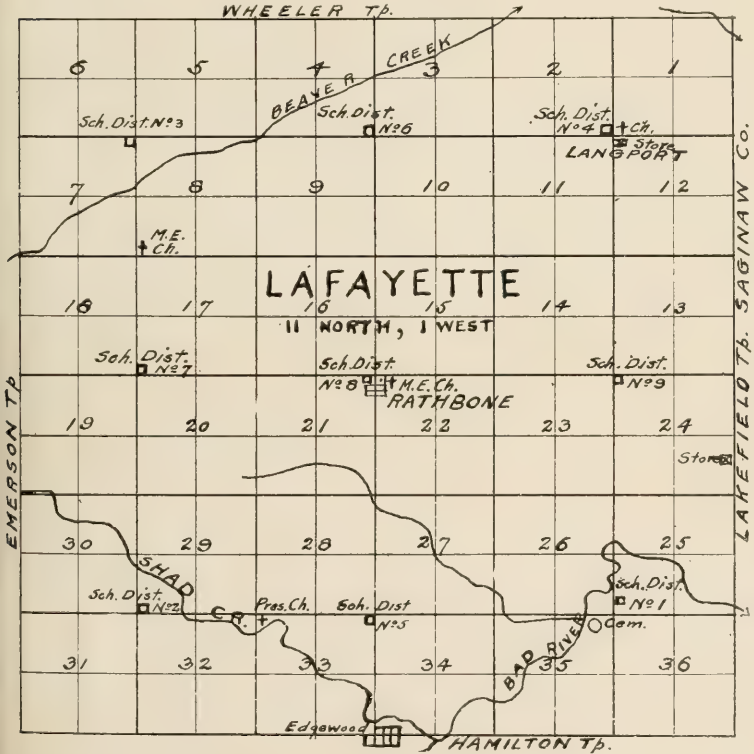
Theo. Ryckman, 1881, '96, '97.
Geo. Randall, 1882, '83.
Harvey Rice, 1884, '85, '87.
Lothrop M. Lyon, 1886, '91.
Darwin D. Smith, 1888.
Frank M. Keyes, 1889.
Finis H. McKay, 1890.
Jud. T. Rosekrans, 1892, '93.
Wm. S. Van Buskirk, 1894.
Geo. W. Todd, 1895.
Eugene Ingles, 1898.
Jesse E. Fuller, 1899, '00.
John W. Kernen, 1901, '02.
Wm. A. Van Wegen, 1903, '04.
Geo. M. Whitman, 1905, '06.
Frank L. McConkey, 1907.
Jonathan Gidley, 1908, '09.
Ralph E. Pettit, 1910, '11.
Harvey R. Munson, 1912, '13.
Chas. H. Fleming, ap. May, 1913.



## LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP.

Town 11, north, range 1 west properly describes the location of Lafayette. It is a mighty good township, conceded to be so by all who know the facts. Its development into its present flourishing condition was somewhat slower than was that of some of the other townships, owing to various causes, the most prominent of which is the fact that it is an outlying township, with no railroad within its boundary lines and is far removed from the earlier settled and more densely populated sections. Furthermore, it is a township mostly rather level, with a heavy, rich soil, and was one of the most heavily timbered townships comprising the county. Getting rid of the surplus surface water by drainage, and the gradual but sure destruction of the heavy forests have had the effect of developing the township much more rapidly during the past twenty years.

The drainage of the township is by way of Beaver Creek in the northern part, while in the southern part the outlet is by way of Shad Creek and the North Branch of Bad River. Distance from railroad markets runs all the way from two to twelve miles, a fact which renders the township a



little behind all the other townships in the matter of market facilities. However, if that is any drawback, the fact has not yet been acknowledged by any citizen of the township, so far as heard from.

The names of the early settlers of Lafayette have been pretty well gone over and need not be repeated here. The township has been favored with many good citizens, and what follows will give many of them still further mention and publicity.

## LAFAYETTE ELECTIONS.

The election records of Lafayette Township will be found to be less complete in this volume than those of any other township in the county. The main reason for this is the fact that the records of the early days were burned in a fire that destroyed the residence of the township clerk—Will Benson—May 17, 1896. Only by persistent and painstaking research has it been possible to secure what is here given of the elections and other important matters of the early days. The offices of the county clerk and county treasurer have yielded some facts and figures, and newspaper files have helped somewhat, so that, while there are several years that do not show up as well as could be desired, there still is something for every year since the township was organized and the first election held.

**April, 1856:** The first election was held in April, 1856. At that time —and until the spring of 1862—the Township of Wheeler was attached to Lafayette. At this first election there were 18 votes cast, the inspectors of election being Er W. Mead, Wm. M. Crandell and Nathan Thomas. There seems to have been no ticket splitting done, each officer getting the full vote. The following were elected:

Sup.—Er. W. Mead; Clk.—Samuel T. Roe; Treas.—Wm. M. Crandell; H. C.—Henry Higlee, Wm. M. Crandell, Wm. D. H. Hamill; J. P.—David O. Mead, Wm. D. H. Hamill, Er W. Mead, Nathan Thomas; Sch. Insp.—Wm. D. H. Hamill, Jas. Darcus; Directors of Poor—Nathan Thomas, Jabish Mead; Const.—Wm. Low.

The justices drew terms as follows: David O. Mead, four years; Er W. Mead, three years; Nathan Thomas, two years; Wm. D. H. Hamill, one year.

At the Nov., 1856, election there were 16 votes cast—Rep., 13; Dem., 3.

**1857:** Sup.—E. M. Monroe; Treas.—Wm. M. Crandell; J. P.—Wm. M. Crandell; 3 yrs, Theodore Devereaux; 1 yr, Wm. Schad; Const.—David Thomas, Alanson Rhodes, Wm. Low.

**1858:** Sup.—Wm. Schad; Clk.—Geo. W. Brooks; Treas.—A. B. Huntley; H. C.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—Samuel T. Roe; Sch. Insp.—Calvin G. Barker; Const.—David Thomas, Nelson Roe, Leonard Randall, Henry Burgey.

**1859:** Sup.—Wm. D. H. Hamill; Treas.—Samuel Wheeler.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—Samuel T. Roe; Treas.—Samuel Wheeler.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—A. Harwood; Treas.—Samuel Wheeler.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Jesse Willis; Clk.—Jas. Darcus; Treas.—Samuel Wheeler; J. P.—Henry Bingy.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Elisha Avery; Treas.—Jesse Willis.

S. T. Roe represented Lafayette at the January session, 1864.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Samuel Wheeler; Treas.—Jesse Willis.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Samuel Wheeler; Treas.—Henry R. Wilcox.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Sam. Wheeler; Clk.—Chas. C. Foote; Treas.—Jas. L. Foote; H. C.—J. C. Ingraham; J. P.—Henry R. Wilcox; vacancy, Chas. C. Foote; Sch. Insp.—Henry R. Wilcox.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Samuel Wheeler; Clk.—C. W. Johnson; Treas.—John N. Federspiel; H. C.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—H. R. Wilcox; 3 ys, C. W. Johnson; 2 yrs, Er W. Mead; Sch. Insp.—Jas. L. Foote.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Sam. Wheeler; Clk.—Chas. C. Foote; Treas.—J. N. Federspiel; H. C.—Jas. Darcus; J. P.—Sam. T. Roe; 2 yrs, Jas. Darcus; 1 yr, J. N. Federspiel; Sch. Insp.—Jas. L. Foote.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Sam. Wheeler; Clk.—Jas. L. Foote; Treas.—John N. Federspiel; H. C.—Samuel E. Pitts; J. P.—Geo. Richardson; 3 yrs, Jas. L. Foote; Sch. Insp.—H. R. Wilcox.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Chas. C. Foote; Clk.—Jas. L. Foote; Treas.—Geo. Richardson; H. C.—Geo. W. Aldrich; J. P.—Wm. Becker; Sch. Insp.—Asa P. Beam.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—John N. Federspiel; Clk.—Henry C. Mead; Treas.—Geo. Richardson; H. C.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—H. R. Wilcox; Sch. Insp.—H. R. Wilcox.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Henry R. Wilcox; Treas.—Chas. C. Foote.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Henry R. Wilcox; Clk.—J. M. Becker; Treas.—Jas. Hopkins; H. C.—Geo. W. Aldrich; J. P.—Jas. Darcus; 3 yrs, Geo. W. Aldrich; Sch. Insp.—H. R. Wilcox.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—John M. Becker; Clk.—Wm. A. Nodding; Treas.—Jas. Hopkins; H. C.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—John M. Becker; Sch. Insp.—J. C. Ingraham; Dr. Com.—H. R. Wilcox.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—J. M. Becker; Clk.—W. A. Nodding; Treas.—John N. Federspiel; H. C.—Geo. Zimmerman; J. P.—H. R. Wilcox; Supt. Sch.—Emery Crosby; Sch. Insp.—H. R. Wilcox; Dr. Com.—C. P. Wilson.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—J. M. Becker; Clk.—W. A. Nodding; Treas.—John A. Federspiel; H. C.—Geo W. Aldrich; J. P.—Faren C. Cummins; 3 yrs, Garrett K. Cruson; Supt. Sch.—Emery Crosby; Sch. Insp.—Chas. C. Foote.

Oct., '76, the board appointed W. A. Nodding supervisor to act on board of supervisors during absence of Supervisor Becker from town.

Jan., '77, board appointed John N. Federspiel supervisor to act on board of supervisors during illness of Supervisor Becker.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—John N. Federspiel; Clk.—Wesley W. Knickerbocker; Treas.—John A. Federspiel; H. C.—B. F. Gulick; J. P.—Jas. L. Foote; Supt. Sch.—Chas. Robertson; Sch. Insp.—W. A. Nodding; Dr. Com.—Sam. Wheeler.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Chas. C. Foote; Clk.—J. N. Federspiel; Treas.—Wm. A. Moore; H C.—Wm. C. Jenkins; J. P.—Albert A. Moye; 3 yrs, Thos. J. Cox; Supt. Sch.—Chas. Robertson; Sch. Insp.—Wm. L. Toler; Dr. Com.—Wm. L. Toler.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—J. N. Federspiel; Clk.—Wesley W. Knickerbocker; Treas.—Wm. A. Moore; H. C.—Jas. Thompson; J. P.—Chas. B. Olds; Supt. Sch.—Kosciusko P. Peet; Sch. Insp.—Wm. A. Nodding, Nathan A. King; Dr. Com.—B. F. Gulick.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Wm. A. Moore; Clk.—K. P. Peet; Treas.—Wm. A. Nodding; H. C.—Jas. Thompson; J. P.—Enos B. Root; 3 yrs, Frank M. Peet; 1 yr, John Bulman; Supt. Sch.—K. P. Peet; Sch. Insp.—Randolph Root; Dr. Com.—E. H. Burgin.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Kosciusko P. Peet; Clk.—W. A. Nodding; Treas.—Wm. A. Moore; H. C.—B. F. Gulick; J. P.—Geo. W. Aldrich; vacancy, W. A. Nodding; Supt. Sch.—H. E. Marshall; Sch. Insp.—O. Nodding.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—K. P. Peet; Clk.—Chas. Hamlin; Treas.—Garrett K. Cruson; H. C.—Eugene Becker; J. P.—J. Bulman; Sch. Insp.—W. A. Nodding, Geo. Oakes; Dr. Com.—K. Mitchell, Sr.

Dec., '82, board appointed Wm. A. Moore supervisor in place of K. P. Peet, elected sheriff.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Jas. H. McNall; Clk.—J. N. Federspiel; Treas. G. K. Cruson; H. C.—John Harding; J. P.—Frank M. Peet; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Marshall.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Joseph Scudder; Clk.—Rollin W. Maxim; Treas.—Jas. L. Foote; H. C.—David H. Easlick; Sch. Insp.—Hugh Chisholm.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—J. Scudder; Clk.—R. W. Maxim; Treas.—Jas L. Foote; H. C.—David H. Easlick; J. P.—Samuel H. Cass; Sch. Insp.—Caleb A. Thomas.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—J. Scudder; Clk.—R. W. Maxim; Treas.—B. Frank McNall; H. C.—Seth J. Benjamin; J. P.—Simeon A. Spaulding; Sch. Insp.—Jas. Mitchell.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Jo. Scudder; Clk.—John S. Doyle; Treas.—B. F. McNall; H. C.—Fred Gotts; J. B.—Wm. J. Cornwell; Sch. Insp.—Alva Rolfe.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—B. Frank McNall; Clk.—J. S. Doyle; Treas.—John A. Federspiel; H. C.—Seth J. Benjamin; J. P.—John Bulman; Sch. Insp.—F. M. Powell; Dr. Com.—Frank Mangold.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—B. F. McNall; Clk.—J. S. Doyle; Treas.—J. A. Federspiel; H. C.—Eugene M. Becker; J. P.—Sam. Wheeler; Sch. Insp.—C. A. Thomas.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—B. F. McNall; Clk.—J. S. Doyle; Treas.—Theodore Snyder; H. C.—S. J. Benjamin; J. P.—F. J. Gulick; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Federspiel; Dr. Com.—G. S. Morrison; Review—Wm. Benson, Fred Biddlecome.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Jo. Scudder; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—Geo. Riley Aldrich; H. C.—E. M. Becker; J. P.—Elisha Newman; vacancy, David Burch; Sch. Insp.—Wirt H. Tenney; Review—Thomas M. Green.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Jo. Scudder; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—G. R. Aldrich; H. C.—S. J. Benjamin; J. P.—Jas. B. Curtis; vacancy, John Bulman; Sch. Insp.—Geo. N. Gulick; Dr. Com.—Randolph Root; Review—B. F. Gulick, David C. Rounds.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—Andrew B. Godley; H. C.—Daniel Jacobs; J. P.—Cyrenus E. Lane; Sch. Insp.—Thos. M. Green; Review—B. F. McNall.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—A. B. Godley; H. C.—Dan. Jacobs; J. P.—Chas. A. Tarr; vacancy, Geo. W. Marshall; Sch. Insp.—L. P. Brown; Dr. Com.—Wm. A. Moore; Review—J. N. Federspiel.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—Eugene M. Becker; H. C.—L. P. Brown; J. P.—Sam. Wheeler; Sch. Insp.—John L. Benjamin; Review—Simeon Spaulding.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Jo. Scudder; Clk.—Wm. Benson; Treas.—E. M. Becker; H. C.—L. P. Brown; J. P.—Jas. Hockey; Sch. Insp.—John Spear; Dr. Com.—Wm. Snell; Review—H. C. Devereaux.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Eugene M. Becker; Clk.—J. D. Sadler; Treas.—Chas. Federspiel; H. C.—Wm. A. Spear; J. P.—Jas. L. Foote; vacancy, Simeon Spaulding; vacancy, Jesse O. Pettit; Sch. Insp.—Warren J. Shaver; Review—Thos. M. Green.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—E. M. Becker; Clk.—Lewis E. Zacharias; Treas.—Chas. Federspiel; H. C.—Wm. A. Spear; J. P.—Wm. Martin; Sch. Insp.—John Spear; Review—L. P. Brown.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—John S. Doyle; Clk.—Wm. Benson; Treas.—B. F. Gulick; H. C.—John L. Benjamin; J. P.—L. Chamberlain; Sch. Insp.—Mrs. Avis (Beam) David; Review—F. M. Peet.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—B. F. Gulick; Clk.—O. H. Tenney; Treas.—J. S. Doyle; H. C.—Geo. W. Federspiel; J. P.—Wm. I. Cobb; 3 yrs, Theo. Snyder; 2 yrs, J. Frank Merrihew; Sch. Insp.—Ernest Benson.

April 17, 1900, B. F. Gulick resigned as supervisor and the board appointed Chas. C. Foote as his successor.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—John S. Doyle; Clk.—O. H. Tenney; Treas.—Frank M. Peet; H. C.—J. L. Benjamin; J. P.—Geo. S. Morrison; vacancy, J. Henry Strouse; Sch. Insp.—Harry Gulick; Review—Geo. C. Russell.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—Chas. Federspiel; Clk.—O. H. Tenney; Treas.—F. M. Peet; H. C.—J. O. Pettit; J. P.—J. Frank Merrihew; 3 yrs, W. B. Robertson; 2 yrs, Jas. L. Foote; Sch. Insp.—J. Frank Doyle, Jesse B. Marr; Review—J. Scudder.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Chas. Federspiel; Clk.—Fred J. Scudder; Treas.—G. R. Aldrich; H. C.—Azor Burch; J. P.—S. S. Spaulding; vacancy, Geo. C. Russell; vacancy, Geo. Marshall; Sch. Insp.—Jesse B. Marr; Review—J. D. Sadler.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—Fred J. Scudder; Treas.—Joseph D. Sadler; H. C.—Azor Burch; J. P.—O. H. Tenney; vacancy, H. C. Deveraux; Sch. Insp.—William B. Richardson; Review—J. S. Doyle.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Chas. H. Jessup; Clk.—Fred J. Scudder; Treas.—J. D. Sadler; H. C.—Wm. H. Houlden; J. P.—Archie Porter; Sch. Insp.—Jesse B. Marr; Review—Theo. Snyder.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Chas. H. Jessup; Clk.—Fred J. Scudder; Treas.—Matthias Lauer; H. C.—Rolla I. Peet; J. P.—Ernest Benson; Sch. Insp.—Bert Schaub and Marshall Becker, tie; Review—F. M. Peet.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Chas. H. Jessup; Clk.—Fred J. Scudder; Treas.—Matthias Lauer; H. C.—R. I. Peet; J. P.—Theodore Snyder; Sch. Insp.—Jesse B. Marr; Review—B. F. Gulick.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Rolla E. Foote; Clk.—Harry Gulick; Treas.—Gordie Burch; H. C.—Mahlon Fidler; Overseer—Robert H. Bott; J. P.—Orin Patterson; Sch. Insp.—Anthony Betts; Review—J. S. Doyle.

April, 1908, R. E. Foote resigned as supervisor and board appointed Wm. A. Moore to the vacancy.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Wm. A. Moore; Clk.—Harry Gulick; Treas.—Chas. Federspiel; H. C.—R. H. Bott; Overseer—S. J. Bepjamin; J. P.—G. A. Ford; vacancy, Wm. Gulick; Sch. Insp.—Royal Marr; Review—S. A. Spaulding.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—C. H. Jessup; Clk.—Harry Gulick; Treas.—Robert Donnan; H. C.—R. H. Bott; Overseer—Adelbert Huntoon; J. P.—F. M. Peet; Review—B. F. Gulick.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—Arthur C. Iles; Treas.—Robert Donnan; J. P.—S. M. Spaulding; H. C.—Eugene M. Becker.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—G. R. Aldrich; Clk.—Arthur Hoffmeyer; Treas.—Jacob Smith; J. P.—Edward Burch; Review—Wm. A. Moore; H. C.—E. M. Becker.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Amos Wheeler; Clk.—Arthur Hoffmeyer; Treas—Jacob Smith; H. C.—Clarence Smith; O. of H.—J. Gulick, Hugh Hoffmeyer, Rolla I. Peet, August Johns; Review—John S. Doyle; J. P.—Wm. Gulick.

Woman suffrage: Yes, 41; no, 116.

County road system: Yes, 24; no, 133.

### Supervisors.

Er W. Mead, 1856.
E. M. Monroe, 1857.
Wm. Schad, 1858.
Wm. D. H. Hamill, 1859.
Samuel T. Roe, 1860.
A. Harwood, 1861.
Jesse Willis, 1862.
Elisha Avery, 1863.
Samuel Wheeler, 1864, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69.
Chas. C. Foote, 1870, '78; ap. April 17, 1900.
John N. Federspiel, 1871, '77, '79.
Henry R. Wilcox, 1872, '73.
John M. Becker, 1874, '75, '76.
W. A. Nodding, ap. Oct., 1876.
Wm. A. Moore, 1880, ap. Dec., '82; ap. April 19, '08; '09.
K. P. Peet, 1881, '82.
Jas. H. McNall, 1883.
Joseph Scudder, 1884, '85, '86, '87, '91, '92, '96.
B. Frank McNall, 1888, '89, '90.
G. R. Aldrich, 1893, '94, '95, '04, '11, '12.
Eugene M. Becker, 1897, '98.
John S. Doyle, 1899, '01.
B. F. Gulick, 1900.
Chas. Federspiel, 1902, '03.
Chas. H. Jessup, 1905, '06, '07, '10.
Rolla E. Foote, 1908.
Amos Wheeler, 1913.

### Township Clerks.

Samuel T. Roe, 1856.
Geo. W. Brooks, 1858.
Chas. C. Foote, 1866, '68.
C. W. Johnson, 1867.
Jas. L. Foote, 1869, '70.
Henry C. Mead, 1871.
J. M. Becker, 1873.
Wm. A. Nodding, 1874, '75, '76, '81.
Wesley W. Knickerbocker, 1877, '79.
J. N. Federspiel, 1878, '83.
K. P. Peet, 1880.
Chas. Hamlin, 1882.
Rollin W. Maxim, 1884, '85, '86.
John S. Doyle, 1887, '88, '89, '90.
J. D. Sadler, 1891, '92, '93, '94, '95, '97.
Wm. Benson, 1896, '99.
Lewis E. Zacharias, 1898.
O. H. Tenney, 1900, '01, '02.
Fred J. Scudder, 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Harry Gulick, 1908, '09, '10.
Arthur C. Iles, 1911.
Arthur Hoffmeyer, 1912, '13.

### Treasurers.

Wm. M. Crandell, 1856, '57.
A. B. Huntley, 1858.
Samuel Wheeler, 1859, '60, '61, '62.
Jesse Willis, 1863, '64.
Henry R. Wilcox, 1865.
Jas. L. Foote, 1866, '84, '85.
John N. Federspiel, 1867, '68, '69, '75, '76.
Geo. Richardson, 1870, '71.
Chas. C. Foote, 1872.
Jas. Hopkins, 1873, '74.
John A. Federspiel, 1877, '88, '89.
Wm. A. Moore, 1878, '79, '81.
Wm. A. Nodding, 1880.
Garrett K. Cruson, 1882, '83.
B. Frank McNall, 1886, '87.
Theo. Snyder, 1890.
Geo. Riley Aldrich, 1891, '92, '03.
Andrew B. Godley, 1893, '94.
Eugene M. Becker, 1895, '96.
Chas. Federspiel, 1897, '98, '09.
B. F. Gulick, 1899.
J. S. Doyle, 1900.
Frank M. Peet, 1901, '02.
Joseph D. Sadler, 1904, '05.
Matthias Lauer, 1906, '07.
Gordie Burch, 1908.
Robert Donnan, 1910, '11.
Jacob Smith, 1912, '13.

## LAFAYETTE BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### GULICK.

Benjamin Franklin Gulick was born December 1, 1849, in Seneca County, N. Y. His father, Thomas J. Gulick, was born in Indiana, September 4, 1820, and died in Lafayette, this county, March 11, 1892. His mother, Phebe Jane (Pollard) Gulick, was born April 10, 1827, in the State of

New York, and died May 24, 1859. Thomas J. and Phebe Jane Gulick had two children—Mary E. and B. F., our subject. Thomas J. Gulick was married, (second) to Mary E. Barber, a native of the State of New York, born September 26, 1831. Four children were born to this union—Henry B., Rachel E., Thomas J., Jr., and George N. Mrs. Mary E. Gulick died in Lafayette November 18, 1889.

B. F. Gulick was married in 1872 to Sarah Oxenham, who was born in Quincy, Branch County, Mich., February 23, 1850, daughter of John and Mary (Pearse) Oxenham, both of Devonshire, England, the former born January 6, 1811, the latter, November 18, 1810. Mrs. Gulick's brothers and sisters were Betsey, Mary, Thomasin, Grace, Annie, Sarah, Emma, Robert and Amelia.

When five years old, B. F. Gulick moved with his parents to Hillsdale County, Mich. When fifteen years old they moved to Iowa and lived one year and then returned to Hillsdale county. Our subject then got employment as a brakeman on a passenger train on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad. After his marriage he moved to Elkhart, Indiana. After three years there, he quit railroading and in 1876 removed with his wife and one son to Lafayette Township, this county. He lived on his father's farm on section 27 about two years and then bought and moved upon the farm of 80 acres where he has since resided, on section 27. He says: "I pulled the logs out of the way to build a log house, moved into the house with my wife and two children in the year 1878; bought a pig, half a dozen chickens and a cow. We then thought we were rich. In the fall I bought a yoke of steers; and, by the way, I used to take my wife and children riding, with them on the dray while I had to walk. The next winter I bought a span of colts. In the meantime I was clearing up my farm. The first fifteen years my harvest was in the fall—hunting partridge and quail for the market. During the hunting season I would hire a man on the farm until my boys were old enough to do the work. This may seem strange to some readers, but I cleared from one hundred and fifty to four hundred dollars every fall. I had to do that or go to the lumber woods; and I could do that and stay at home with my family. We always had plenty to eat, but sometimes the first few years it was nothing but johnny cake and dust tea, with game once in a while, for a treat; but we successfully raised a family of six children—four boys and two girls."

Mr. and Mrs. Gulick's children are here mentioned, with names, dates of birth, etc.: Willard F., born May 4 ,1875; Richard Harry Pearse, born February 5, 1877; T. Jay, born March 16, 1879; Mary Elizabeth, born May 18, 1881; Emma Amelia, born June 4, 1885; John Burdette, born January 17, 1889.

Willard F. Gulick married Bessie Gross and lives in Lafayette. Their children are Helson May, Franklin W., Leon and Alba Ford.

R. Harry P. Gulick married Louie Foote. They live in Lafayette and have two sons—Robert F. and Carroll.

T. Jay Gulick married Mertie Mitchell. Their children are—Lawrence J., Lester F. and Leman. They are residents of Lafayette.

Mary Elizabeth is married to Floyd Smith. Harold J. and Leah A. have been born to them. Lafayette is their residence.

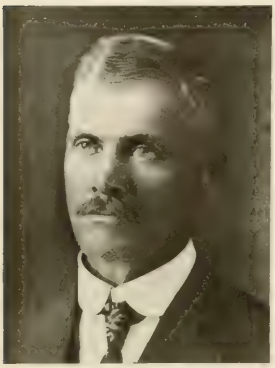
Emma Amelia is married to Arthur Iles and lives in Lafayette. Their children are Marie E. and Margaret.

John Burdette married Jennie Wheeler and lives in Lafayette.

This sketch of a worthy and popular family will be regarded with much interest and pleasure by all their acquaintances.

## JESSUP.

Charles H. Jessup, for many years a well-known Lafayette citizen, residing on section seven of that township, now a resident of Alma, was born in North Star Township, Gratiot County, March 28, 1861. He is the oldest of the eight children of John H. and Margaret R. (Dean) Jessup. John H. Jessup was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., December 24, 1837, son of Isaac M. and Eleanor (Schermerhorn) Jessup, both of whom were natives of New York State, the former born in Tompkins County, April 5, 1810, the latter born November 20, 1815, in Rensselaer County.



CHARLES H. JESSUP.

Names and birth-dates of the children of John H. and Margaret R. Jessup are as follows: Charles H., principal subject of this sketch; Nettie E., wife of William C. Naldrett, of Middleton, born December 9, 1862, in Newark; Arthur H., born in Newark, May 18, 1865, married to Emma J. Heath, of North Star, now residing in Ithaca; George L., born September 17, 1867, in Newark, married to Dora Vedder, of North Star, now resides in Pompeii; Frank A., born March 1, 1870, in Newark, married to Alice Crooks, of Newark, now resides in North Star Township; William F., born in Newark, January 1, 1872, died July 4, 1888; Glenn O., born April 12, 1875, in Newark, married to Edith Bohnson, of Ohio, now resides in North Star Township; Bertha M., wife of Allen G. Naldrett, born May 27, 1877, in Newark, and resides in that township.

John H. Jesseup, the father, came to Gratiot County in 1860 and settled on a tract of land on section 25, Newark, at that time in a wild state, but now transformed into a fine farm with all the needed buildings and accessories of a well-conducted farm. He was married December 29, 1859, at Lyons, Mich., to Margaret R., daughter of Amos and Betsey (Grant) Dean, natives of New York State. Margaret R. Jessup, the wife and mother, died February 7, 1909. John H. Jessup was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the 23rd Mich. Vol. Infantry, and taking part in the battles at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and at Port Anderson, North Carolina.



MRS. C. H. JESSUP.

Charles H. Jessup was married July 4, 1885, in Newark, to Rosa J. Pressley, daughter of Timothy and Sarah E. (Earl) Pressley, the former born February 14, 1822, near Sheffield, England, the latter born November 5, 1829, in Columbiana County, Ohio. Timothy Pressley came to America in 1844, first locating in the State of New York, afterward going to Ohio. In 1857 he removed with his family to Michigan, locating in Newark Township,

this county, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits practically all the remainder of his life, until his death, which occurred September 18, 1897, at his residence in Ithaca. Mrs. Pressley is still a resident of Ithaca, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clarissa Thum.

Mr. and Mrs. Pressley were the parents of eight children, as follows: Emma J., Clarissa A., Eva E., Rosa J., Frank L., Eliza H., Charles N. and Walter H. The two last mentioned died in youth.

After their marriage, Charles H. and Rosa J. Jessup resided for a time in North Star Township engaged in farming. Having purchased 140 acres on section seven, Lafayette, Mr. Jessup—November 11, 1888—removed to that farm where he resided continuously until 1910, with the exception of about four years when he was engaged with his brother, George L., in the



C. H. JESSUP'S FORMER RESIDENCE.

operation of an elevator at Pompeii. In 1910 he sold this valuable farm which he had brought to a high state of fertility and productiveness by using modern methods and appliances and by laying about eight miles of tile drains; also erecting a fine farm house. He removed with his family to Breckenridge. In August, 1911, he removed to Alma to give his children the benefit of the splendid educational facilities of that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessup are the parents of four children. Otis W., born January 5, 1886, married Flora E. Randall, of Lafayette, April 30, 1907. They have a son, Francis E., born June 28, 1908. Hattie M. was born October 2, 1887, and was married to Samuel Hooks December 22, 1906. They have a daughter, Beulah M., born October 8, 1907. Lenah J., born April 27, 1894, and Clarence P., born September 21, 1895, both born at Pompeii, reside at home with their parents.

While a resident of Lafayette Mr. Jessup's townsmen elected him to various positions of responsibility. He served as school director 16 years. In 1905 he was elected supervisor and was re-elected in 1906 and '07, and was again elected in 1910. On the board of supervisors he was justly recognized as one of the most careful and conscientious members. In

1904 he was drawn as a juror in the U. S. District Court at Bay City. He affiliates with the Democratic party, the M. W. A. and the K. O. T. M. M. Mrs. Jessup is a member of the Loyal Americans.

In January, 1912, Mr. Jessup bought the "Tarry-a-while Farm", two miles south of Breckenridge, which he says he will endeavor to transform into a model 80-acre farm.

## STROUSE.

James H. Strouse is a prosperous farmer owning and residing upon eighty acres of land described as the north half of the northwest quarter of section 11, Lafayette Township. He was born in Newark Township, October 20, 1859, son of Frederick and Sarah Ann (Cunningham) Strouse, pioneers of the county. Frederick Strouse was son of David and Elizabeth (Blue) Strouse, the latter of whom died in Ohio in 1841; the former died in Newark Township, in 1876. David Strouse was three times married. By the first wife—Elizabeth (Blue) Strouse, there were children as follows: George, of Fostoria, Ohio; John, of Barry County, Mich., now deceased; Aaron, who died in St. Louis, this county, several years ago; William, deceased, late of Newark; Joseph, who died in Fostoria; Edmund, who died in Newark; Louisa, who was the wife of John Baker, of Freeport, Ohio, and now deceased; Frederick, father of our subject, Jas. Henry Strouse; Mathias, a present resident of Ithaca; Elizabeth and Robert who died in infancy. David Strouse's second wife was a Miss Johnson, who died without issue. The third wife was Electa Demond, a resident of Ohio. Five children resulted from this marriage—Sarah, who was married to Stephen Down, of Newark, and now deceased; David, who was killed by a Pere Marquette train at the Main Street crossing, St. Louis, several years ago, his wife being killed at the same time; Elizabeth, wife of James Harter, of Newark, now deceased; Luella, wife of Joseph O. Kinney, of Pompeii, now deceased; Henry O., killed by a falling tree.

Frederick Strouse was united in marriage to Sarah Ann Cunningham in Wyandotte County, Ohio, April 16, 1854. They migrated to Gratiot County in August, 1854, and were, therefore, among the county's earliest pioneers. They located on section 23 of Newark, on the farm that they cleared and cultivated, and on which they lived for nearly half a century. In 1902 they sold their farm and took up their residence in Ithaca where they resided until their deaths. Mrs. Strouse died December 9, 1909, and was soon followed by Mr. Strouse, who passed away May 16, 1910. Frederick Strouse did military duty about one and a half years in the Civil War, serving in Company I, 26th Mich. Vol. Infantry, attached to the Army of the Potomac. He was severely wounded in the head in the engagement at Deep Bottom, Virginia.

To the union of Frederick and Sarah Ann Strouse there were eight children born as follows: William Joseph, Emma Jane, James Henry, John E., David Frederick, Lewis N. and two daughters—Rachel Arminda and Mary Lucretia, who died at about four years of age.

William Joseph Strouse married Jennie Beckwith, daughter of the late Alvin Beckwith, of Ithaca. Their children are Edna, Edith, (deceased), Alvin, Orin and Ethel.

Emma Jane Strouse married Lorenzo L. Kinney. Their children are Clella, Frederick and Floyd. Frederick is married to Annie Heibeck. He is now superintendent of the Carson City schools. They have four children —Donald, Lyle, Edith and Ilene. Floyd is married to Georgia Newell. He is a minister of the M. E. persuasion. Lorenzo L. Kinney died at his home in Ithaca, December 22, 1910.

John E. Strouse married Emma Martin. Children born to them are Rowley (deceased), Inez, Glenn, Paul and Harold.

David Frederick Strouse married (first) Charlotte McNabb, who died in 1905. He married (second) Nancy Cook. He died in North Star Township, November 4, 1908, leaving his wife and seven children, as follows: Sarah, George, Bertha, Orville, Ray, Robert and Beulah.

Lewis Strouse married Mrs. Nettie Parsons. He died February 28, 1912, at his home near Forest Hill.

James H. Strouse, the principal subject of this sketch, born October 20, 1859, and now residing in Lafayette Township, as heretofore stated, was united in marriage in 1882, to Miss Mary E. Kinney, of Hancock County, Ohio, daughter of Joshua and Cansada Kinney. The parents long since answered the last call, and one brother, also, is dead. Six brothers and two sisters are yet living. They are—M. H. and J. C. Kinney, of Hancock County, Ohio; C. W. Kinney, of Miller City, Ohio; Joseph, Adam and Allen Kinney, of Lafayette; Mrs. H. Dayringer and Mrs. J. Dayringer, of Lafayette.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Strouse resided seven years in North Star Township where they owned forty acres of land. In March, 1896, they moved to their present location in Lafayette. They have no children of their own, but have brought up two boys—Parks K. and Orlow E. Strause, Parks is married to Sophronia Russell, and they have two children—Harvey R. and Emma Leona. Orlow is married to Lizzie Goward. They have a son—Clayton E.

The Strouse family is one of the most numerous in Gratiot County; and it is a pleasure to record the fact that however numerous they are, their numbers help just that much to swell the list of Gratiot's most upright, industrious and reliable citizens.

## PETTIT.

Jesse Owen Pettit, farmer and merchant at Rathbone, the small business hamlet at the center of Lafayette Township, was born in Emerson Township, Gratiot County, February 20, 1858. He is of French descent, his great grandfather having come from France at the time of the American Revolution, and fighting under Gen. Lafayette throughout the war. Mr. Pettit is the fifth of the eight children born to Melancton and Jane L. (Thorpe) Pettit, pioneers of Gratiot County, the former born in Niagara County, N. Y., the latter born in Wayne County, Ohio. They were married August 5, 1845, and came to Gratiot County in 1855, settling in Emerson Township. Melancton Pettit was an active and influential factor in the early history of the township. He was the first supervisor of his township, being elected at the special election of October 24, 1855, and re-elected the next spring and in 1859 and '60. He died August 5, 1866. The mother died January 25, 1865.

The names of the children of Melancton and Jane L. Pettit, in regular order, are as follows: Marion R., Perry D., Cenah (Pettit) Crandall, George, Jesse O., Alvin D., Ralph E., May.

Jesse O. Pettit was united in marriage, December 24, 1881, to Anna Burch, of Lafayette Township, this county. She was born in Ulster County, N. Y., 1856, daughter of David and Lucinda (Akerly) Burch, the former born in Andre, Delaware County, N. Y., in 1820, the latter born in 1828, at Neversink, Sullivan County, N. Y.

Following are the names of the children of Mr. and Mrs. David Burch, with the year of their birth: Mary J., 1847, in Pennsylvania; James A.,

1851, in Penn.; Azor T., 1853; Anna, 1856; Ella M., 1858; Leda E., 1860; Edward, 1862; Herbert E., 1865; all in Ulster County. Herbert died in Michigan in 1881. David Burch and family removed from the State of New York to Michigan in 1879, locating in Lafayette township, where the father died May 19, 1897, his wife, Lucinda Burch, passing away in September, 1900.

Jesse O. Pettit and wife are the parents of two children—Jessie May, born in Ithaca, August 7, 1883, and Perry Herbert, born in Ithaca, October 13, 1884. Jessie May Pettit, is a graduate of the Central State Normal School and holds a teacher's life certificate. Perry Herbert Pettit is a farmer, having taken up a homestead in Northwestern Canada.

It is a pleasure to have this biographical sketch for the pages of this volume. It deals with the lives of people justly classed among the earliest and best-known residents of the county; people who have done arduous service in the work of putting Gratiot well up in the list of Michigan's most prosperous and important counties.

## MOORE.

It is but justice as well as a pleasurable privilege to place the name of William A. Moore among those of Lafayette Township's most respected and trustworthy citizens. He is a resident on section 34 of the township mentioned, where he located with his parents in 1867. He was born November 9, 1852, in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, son of Ezra A. Moore who was born in Center County, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1826, and Mary (Wriglesworth) Moore, born in Clearfield County, May 24, 1824, Other children of Ezra A. and Mary Moore were—John Moore, born May 10, 1856, now living on section 8 of Lafayette, and Sarah J. Moore, born June 27, 1854, passing away February 8, 1897.

Coming with his parents to Gratiot County when in his 15th year, William A. Moore followed the usual course of farmers' sons at that time, attending the district schools, aiding in farm work and also working at the carpenter's trade. He was united in marriage September 16, 1877, to Louisa Burgin, who was born in Emerson Township, Gratiot County, September 12, 1860, daughter of E. H. Burgin and Sophronia (Kennesson) Burgin, the former born in Lebanon, New Hampshire, in 1821, the latter born in West Fairlee, Vermont in 1820. The parents came to Gratiot County in 1856, and both are now deceased, the father passing away April 14, 1892, the mother, September 26, 1906. Mrs. Moore has two sisters—Mrs. Emily Randall and Mrs. Sarah Moore, both of Lafayette. Mr. Moore's mother died July 11, 1868, and his father followed August 16, 1892.

William A. Moore and wife are the parents of two sons. Merton A. Moore was born December 22, 1878, and was married December 22, 1903, to Agnes E. Smith, of South Haven, Mich. They reside on section 10, Hamilton Township, and have four children—Louisa (Zimmerman) Moore, (adopted), born January 7, 1904; La Vergne Moore, born July 12, 1906; Lena Moore, born December 26, 1909; Audie Moore, born March 19, 1912. Frank G. Moore, second son of William A. Moore, was born February 4, 1883. He was married to Hazel Simmons, of Hamilton Township, June 28, 1905. They have two daughters—Gladys, born November 20, 1907, and Ethel G., born June 17, 1913. They are residents on the home farm, section 34, Lafayette.

William A. Moore has served his township as treasurer three terms—1878, '79 and '83, and as supervisor in 1880, '82, '08 and '09.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore, together with their families, are members of the Church of God, in which church Mrs. Louisa Moore is an ordained minister.

## DONNAN.

Robert J. Donnan resides on his farm of 220 acres located on section 20 of Lafayette Township. It is sometimes referred to as the "Jim McNall place", James H. McNall having been its owner and occupant many years. Without doubt the farm is one of the best in the township, and it ranks well up in the list of best farms in the county.

Mr. Donnan is a son of the late William Donnan and of Margaret (Gracey) Donnan, the former born in Ireland, March 17, 1824, the latter born in Scotland, December 11, 1834. William Donnan came with his family to Gratiot in 1876, settling on section 32, Lafayette. After six years he removed to section 25, Emerson, where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away July 11, 1911. The mother, Mrs. Margaret Donnan, is still living and makes her home with her children.

A brief history of children of William and Margaret Donnan is given as follows: Martha was born October 19, 1861; Robert J., our principal subject, was born May 9, 1863, in Canada; Sarah, October 11, 1865; Maggie, June 17, 1867; Susie, May 17, 1869.

Martha Donnan married George Zimmerman, of Lafayette. Their children are Margaret and William. Margaret Zimmerman married George Gruesbeck and now lives in Tennessee. William Zimmerman married Lena Mitchell and resides in Lafayette. Martha Zimmerman, the wife and mother, died February, 1913.

Sarah Donnan married Calvin Devereaux. They have one child—Gracie—who is married to Will Schaub and resides in Lafayette.

Maggie Donnan married Amos Wheeler. They have three children—Hazel, Jennie and Gladys. Hazel Wheeler married Cyrus Aldrich; Jennie married Burdette Gulick; Gladys married George Sleeseman. All live in Lafayette.

Susie married Lincoln Giles. They are residents of Bethany Township.

Robert J. Donnan was married January 9, 1907, to Miss Edith Bare, daughter of Andrew J. and Louise (Hiller) Bare, of Emerson. She was born in Ovid, Clinton County, Mich., November 25, 1884. Her brothers and sisters are Fred, Anna, Bessie and Edward.

Fred Bare married Emma Aldrich. They live in Hamilton Township and have two children—Ernest and Stanley.

Anna Bare married Claude McGill. They reside at Pompeii, this county, and have one daughter—Edith.

Bessie and Edward Bare are still residents at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Donnan are the parents of children as follows: Marguerite L., born October 28, 1907; Rolla R., born December 9, 1908; Alice I., born December 9, 1910.

Andrew J. Bare came with his family to Gratiot in 1887, settling on section 24, Emerson. In 1902 he changed his residence to his present location on 25 of the same township.

Robert J. Donnan first bought a farm on section 25, Emerson. After 15 years he sold it and bought the large and valuable farm in Lafayette where he still resides. He is an energetic, enterprising and progressive farmer; characteristics that have brought him success in large and gratifying measure, the possession and use of which he and his family are fully entitled to enjoy. Though always taking a commendable interest in pubilc affairs, Mr. Donnan is not much given to chasing after office. His townsmen, however, recognizing his worth and fitness have twice chosen him for treasurer of the township. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and his estimable wife is a valued member of the D. of R.

## MARR.

Walter D. Marr, residing on section 21, Lafayette Township, is justly regarded as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of his locality. By the death of his father, Enos Marr, which occurred March 14, 1913, he and his brother, Jesse B., came into personal possession of the homestead that they have helped to clear up, cultivate and maintain during the more than 30 years that it has been in the possession of their parents.

Enos Marr, the father, was born July 16, 1849, in Livingston County, Mich. He was the son of John and Esther (Noble) Marr, natives of Canada and Vermont, respectively, but of Scotch ancestry. Enos Marr's wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth A. Watson, was born in Vaughn, Ontario, November 26, 1852. She is daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hoar) Watson, both of whom were natives of England, born in Yorkshire and Devonshire, respectively. Mr. Marr settled on section 21, Lafayette Township in 1881, and there spent the remainder of his life.

Enos Marr and wife had two sons born to them. Jesse B. was born in Saginaw County, Mich., February 14, 1876. Walter D. was born in Livingston County, Mich., August 6, 1878.

Jessee B. Marr was married to Nellie Nelson, September, 1908. Two sons have been born to them—Lloyd W., the eldest, born June 19, 1909, died at the age of three months and nine days. Woodrow Wilson, the second son, was born November 29, 1912.

A niece of Mrs. Enos Marr has been a member of the family from her infancy. Her name is Gladys Almira Watson. She was born in Gladwin County, Mich., October 5, 1895, daughter of James and Almira (Leigie) Watson. She has been brought up as a daughter, and is regarded as a member of the family as much as are the sons.

Walter D. Marr has remained single up to the present time. Since the death of his father and the division of the estate, he has taken his place as the head of the family, while the mother and her niece continue as his efficient housekeepers. Jesse B. Marr is a near neighbor on the west, residing with his family upon his portion of the homestead, as amicably and satisfactorily apportioned between the brothers. They are active members of the order of Odd Fellows, as also was their father.

## DOYLE.

It is very gratifying to be able to include in this volume the biographical sketch of John S. Doyle, a well-known resident on section 7, Lafayette Township. He is the owner of 140 acres of first-class farming land, mostly under cultivation, with good buildings and all of the requisites for carrying on successful farming operations. Mr. Doyle was born at Sodus Point, Wayne County, N. Y., April 21, 1851. His father, Francis Doyle, was a native of Ireland; his mother, Sallie M. (Phelps) Doyle, was the daughter of Joseph and Sally (Young) Phelps, the former born in Massachusetts in 1773, dying in New York State in 1856; the latter born in Rhode Island in 1781, dying in New York State in 1860. His grandfather was James Doyle who was born in Ireland and emigrated to America with his family, and later dying in New York City. Francis Doyle, father of John S., died at Sodus Point, N. Y., January, 1862, at the age of 42 years. The mother, Sallie M. Doyle, lived to the age of 78 years, passing away in Ingham County, Mich., March, 1901.

John S. Doyle is the fifth in a family of 11 children. Catharine died in infancy; James, a soldier in the Civil War, died in 1861; Rose, who was

married to Milton Wortman, died in 1893; Eunice died when two years old; Lewis is a Wheatfield, Ingham County farmer; Freeman is a farmer in Muskegon County; Ward C. is a farmer in Alcona County; George and Mary died in infancy; Frances, widow of James Carpenter, resides in Alcona County. The father, Francis Doyle, having died when John S. was 11 years old, the mother removed with her family from the State of New York to Ingham County, Mich., settling on a farm in Wheatfied Township.

While a resident of Wheatfield, John S. Doyle was married April 9, 1879, to Miss Lucelle Frost, born in Wheatfield, January 19, 1857, daughter of James B. and Lydia (Austin) Frost. The father was born in Cambridgeshire, England, and died in April, 1899, in his 64th year. The mother was daughter of Bracket and Delight (Preston) Austin, the former dying in Ingham County in 1886, at the age of 86 years, the latter living to the great age of 102 years, passing away in 1907. Lydia (Austin) Frost, mother of Mrs. Doyle, was born in Livingston County, Mich., and died at the age of 52 years. Mrs. Doyle was the oldest in a family of nine children. Before her marriage she was a teacher in the schools of Ingham County.

Mr. Doyle removed with his family to Gratiot County in November, 1881, settling on section 16, Lafayette, where he remained, clearing and cultivating his farm until the spring of 1904, when he bought 80 acres on section 7, where he now resides. During the earlier years of his life in Gratiot he taught five winter terms of school.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle are the parents of nine children, as follows: J. Frank, died November 9, 1907; Alice J., wife of Archie Walter; Edna A., wife of Howard Borton; J. Ward and Della L., twins; Della was married June, 1911, to Oral C. Kime, of Wheeler Township. They have a daughter, Olive, born March, 1913; J. Ward was married in June, 1912, to Ilah Milligan, of Wheeler Township; Minnie F.; Genevieve M.; Madge L.; Erma I.

Mr. Doyle has been chosen to various offices in his township. He was township clerk four years, treasurer one year, and was supervisor in 1899 and 1901. He served one year as treasurer of Alaiedon Township, Ingham County, before coming to Gratiot, and has held office in his school district a period aggregating about a quarter of a century. Being a Democrat, Mr. Doyle has had a poor show for county office, but was his party's candidate for county treasurer in 1904, suffering defeat with the rest of the ticket.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle are esteemed members of the M. E. Church, and Mr. Doyle is a member of Breckenridge Lodge No. 406, F. & A. M.

## WAGNER.

Nicholas Wagner, a farmer residing on section 36 of Lafayette Township, was born November 11, 1841, in Lorain, at that time a province of France, but since ceded to Germany. He is the son of Casper Wagner and of Mary (Gros) Wagner, both born in the same province of Lorain, the former in 1800, the latter in 1818.

Besides Nicholas there were eight children born to Casper and Mary Wagner, in the following order: Mary, born in Lorain, now living in Dakota; Anna, born in Lorain, now deceased; Katie, born in Canada, now deceased; Peter, Regina and John, all born in Waterloo County, Canada, still reside in that country; Joseph resides in Minnesota, and Lena is a resident of Waterloo, Canada. Casper and Mary Wagner came to America in 1846, locating in Waterloo, Canada. The father died there in 1868, the mother living until 1871, when she passed away.

Nicholas Wagner came to Michigan in 1863, and in that year bought the land which he afterward occupied as a home and where he still lives. He

was married in Bay City, April 25, 1869, to Lena Ancel. She was born in Canada, June 22, 1842. Her father, John N. Ancel, and her mother, Margaret (Scheil) Ancel, were both natives of Lorain. Mrs. Wagner had brothers and sisters as follows: Joseph, deceased; Tony; Dominick, deceased; Katie, deceased; Lena; John; Mary; Sophia, deceased; Anna; Margaret; Peter, and Elizabeth.

Mr. Wagner occupied his land and commenced to improve it in 1874. By hard and persistent work he has changed it from its densely wooded, wilderness state into one of the fertile and valuable farms of Lafayette Township. In the early days he was extensively engaged in lumbering in eastern Gratiot and in western Saginaw.

Following is a record of the births, names and marriages of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner: Mary, born in Bay City, April 18, 1870, married to George Lamb and now residing in Charlotte, Mich. They have two children, Mabel and Floyd. Anna was born in Bay City, February 7, 1872. She is married to Melvin A. Emery. They are farmers, residing near Sickels, and are the parents of three children—Willie, Veda and Rhea. Margaret, born in Bay City, April 25, 1874, is married to Clarence Remaley. They reside in Ithaca and have a daughter, Charlotte. Henry Wagner was born in Lafayette Township, January 19, 1875. He is married to Catharine Eckert, daughter of Edward and Mary (Wise) Eckert. They reside on the Wagner homestead. Their children are Nicholas Edward, born November 19, 1905, and Francis George, born August 16, 1907. George P. Wagner was born in Lafayette Township, February 3, 1878. He is married to Anna Clark, daughter of Peter Clark. They reside on section 35, and have two daughters, Mattie and Margaret.

Nicholas Wagner had the great misfortune to lose his faithful wife by death, August 2, 1910. They were both members of the Disciple Church for many years.

This sketch gives the principal points in the history of a family that ranks as one of the most substantial and trustworthy of all the many good families of Lafayette Township. Mr. Wagner's many friends—and that means all who know him—wish him many more years of contented life on the farm and in the community where he has so long been a resident.

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**Samuel Wheeler,** who settled on section 18, Lafayette Township, in May, 1857, was from that time on for many years one of Lafayette's foremost citizens. He was born January 31, 1826, son of Amos and Harriet (Hubbell) Wheeler, of Connecticut. In 1851 he married Nancy Barger in Ohio. Their early life in Gratiot County was attended by many of the hardships incident to the pioneer, and they also had their share of its pleasures. Mr. Wheeler's experiences as an official, locally were varied, and were satisfactory to his townsmen, as is evidenced by the fact that they chose him for their township treasurer four years, commencing in 1859, and for supervisor six years beginning in 1864. He was also elected twice as justice of the peace, 1889 and '95. He died November 9, 1909, aged nearly 84. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler were the parents of Benjamin F., Clarence L., Dora J., Harriet J., Lucy E. and Amos S. Mrs. Wheeler died June 9, 1905.

**Charles C. Foote,** one of the few early settlers of Lafayette still living, was born in Oakland County, Mich., April 13, 1835, son of Henry K. and Minerva (Henderson) Foote. In August, 1861, he came to this county and settled on section 32, Lafayette, and by hard work and with perseverence

transformed it into a fine farm, with all appropriate conveniences. He was married May 9, 1860, to Sarah, daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Wurtz) Peters. They became the parents of children as follows: Mary E., William K., Anna M., John H., Margaret J., Charles P., Jacob C., Edith A., Frank and Sarah. Mr. Foote served his township acceptably as treasurer one year, clerk two years and supervisor three years. His brother, James L. Foote, served several years each as clerk and treasurer of Lafayette.

**John A. Federspiel** was born in Buffalo, N. Y., September 29, 1840, son of Balthazer and Catharine (Conrad) Federspiel, natives of France. Mr. Federspiel settled on section 25, Lafayette in 1872, in the course of time bringing his farm to a good state of cultivation. He was married in Niagara County, N. Y., October 8, 1861, to Catharine Biggy, who was born in Ireland, April 10, 1840. Children were born as follows: Anna E., William A., Charles C., Ella E., Ada F., Orin J., Elmer B., Melvin L. and Clarence A., John A., Federspiel was treasurer of his township in 1877, '88 and '89. His brother, John N. Federspiel, (two Johns, brothers), served as supervisor in 1871, '77 and '79, was clerk two years and treasurer five years. His son Charles has served two years as supervisor and three years as treasurer. The tribe of Federspiel seems to meet all of the conditions required for efficiency and trustworthiness in the public service. As far as heard from they have met the highest expectations of their fellow citizens.

**Er W. Mead,** who was one of the earliest settlers in Lafayette township, and who, at the first election—April, 1856—was elected supervisor and elected to various offices thereafter, died at his home in Owosso, December 9, 1899, at an advanced age, and was buried in Ithaca Cemetery.

**Hon. Hugh Chisholm,** who represented Gratiot County in the state legislature, session of 1891, is the youngest of the children of the late Alexander Chisholm who settled on section 6, Lafayette Township in 1861, and who died at the farm home, April 1, 1904; a staunch and sturdy Scotch pioneer of strict integrity. Hugh Chisholm, born in Scotland April 29, 1855, came to American with his parents in 1857. In Lafayette he served as a farmer, managing, however, to acquire a good education. In 1884 he went into mercantile business with his brother, Alexander, continuing in the business until about 1907, when, on account of ill-health, he sold his mercantile interests to his partner and went West. He is now a resident of Twin Falls, Idaho. In the fall of 1890 he was elected to the state legislature by a combination of the Patrons of Industry and Democrats. The first-mentioned party was originally a farmers' and laborers' industrial organization, but at this time it was being lured, or was luring itself into politics. Mr. Chisholm served one term, but was defeated for re-election by Silas Moody, of Forest Hill.

Lafayette has always been highly favored in its citizenship. The township stands second to none in this respect. It is, therefore, difficult to give a brief list of her more prominent and influential citizens. However, the following are sorted out roughly, with no claim that the list is anywhere near complete. They are in addition to those more fully mentioned, and quite a large proportion of them are still with us in the flesh: William D. H. Hamill; William Derry; Dr. Thomas J. Gulick; Alex. Chisholm, Sr.; John and Andrew Mitchell; Thomas Hopkins; W. B. Robertson; Joseph Scudder and his son Fred J.; James H. McNall; George W. Aldrich; Eugene M. Beeker; G. Riley Aldrich; R. Alonzo Peet; John M. Becker; Asa P. Beam; Edward Schirmer; B. Frank McNall, (representative in legislature, 1894); George Sherman; Frank M. and Rolla I. Peet; William A. Nodding, Henry R. Wilcox, Odell Peet.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Adams, Carlisle,** July 19, 1885, aged 75.

**Ancel, Mrs. Margaret,** March 13, 1890, aged 79; at the home of her son-in-law, Nicholas Wagner.

**Aldrich, Geo. W.,** at the home of his son Charles in Lafayette, February 26, 1913, aged 85 years. He removed to Gratiot County in 1865, settling in Lafayette, and was one of the township's best-known citizens. He was a soldier in the Civil War.

**Allen, Alanson,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Homer Chaffin, Ithaca, March 4, 1913, aged 77 years. For several years a resident of Lafayette.

**Burgin, Wm.,** Sept. 6, 1871, aged 77.

**Becker, John M.,** July 21, 1877. Came to Lafayette in 1870. Was supervisor three years and held other responsible positions.

**Burgin, Ebenezer H.,** April 14, 1892, aged 71. One of the pioneers of 1856.

**Beam, Asa P.,** at his home in Lansing, Colorado, Nov. 9, 1893, aged about 57. Died by the hand of an assassin. A prominent resident of Lafayette many years. Candidate for county clerk in 1878, on the Greenback ticket.

**Bulman Wm.,** April 2, 1909.

**Bliss, Ezra,** March 26, 1913, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Daily, of Emerson, aged 72 years. He settled in Lafayette in 1878.

**Cruson, Garrett K.,** Sept., 1887. Death was probably hastened by the tragedy through which he passed three years previously, in which he nearly lost his life by robbers, an account of which is given elsewhere.

**Cruson, Mrs. Garrett K.,** Dec., 1892, a few weeks after the death of her oldest son, Clyde, who figured so conspicuously and so bravely in repulsing the villains who attempted to rob his father, township treasurer of Lafayette, January 16, 1884.

**Chisholm, Alex., Sr.,** April 1, 1904, aged 84. He came to Gratiot in 1861, locating in Lafayette. A substantial citizen, and of strict integrity.

**Chisholm, Mrs. Mary,** wife of Alex. Chisholm, Aug. 25, 1875, at the age of 50 years.

**Chisholm, Mrs. Julia Ann (Snook),** second wife of Alex. Chisholm, April 8, 1904, one week after Mr. Chisholm's death. She came to Gratiot in 1858, locating in Bethany; daughter of Jacob Burnham.

**Crane, Obed F.,** April 11, 1910, aged 65. A respected resident here about 25 years.

**Cornwell, Rev. William J.,** July 30, 1913, aged 74 years; at his home in Lafayette. A citizen greatly respected.

**Darcus, Mrs. Jas.,** Sept. 2, 1893, aged 61. Settled in the woods of section 21 in 1856. Her son George was said to be the first white child born in the township.

**Derry, Mary A.,** Aug. 2, 1891, aged 50.

**David, Byron C.,** Dec. 4, 1908, aged nearly 62. A resident 20 years.

**Derry, Wm.,** June 6, 1897, aged 60. Mr. Derry came to Gratiot and to Lafayette in 1866, in company with his brothers, Thomas, John and Alfred, Thomas Dingman, John and George Killeen, pitching their tents in the Lafayette forests.

**Edmonds, Mrs.,** May 1, 1888, aged 75; at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. P. H. Sisson.

**Eastman, James,** June 1, 1877, aged 85.

**Easlick, Wm.,** July 4, 1899, aged 70.

**Easlick, David H.,** Aug. 11, 1899, aged 72.

**Frost, Hattie,** January 6, 1878, aged 7.

**Frost, Lettie,** January 9, 1878, aged 3.

**Frost, Walter,** January 12, 1878, aged 11.
Children of James and Harriet Frost.

**Federspiel, Balthazer,** April 5, 1885, father of John A. and John N. Federspiel, who were prominent officially and otherwise, in the township.

**Gulick, Mrs. Mary E.,** second wife of Dr. Thos. J. Gulick, Nov. 18, 1889, aged 59.

**Gulick, Dr. Thomas J.,** March 11, 1892, aged 71. Respected residents of Lafayette from 1874.

**Godley, Andrew B.,** Nov. 27, 1905, at the age of 61 years. A resident 26 years; township treasurer in 1893 and '94.

**Goward, Richard,** Nov. 12, 1910, aged 73. A Civil War soldier and a pioneer.

**Gulick, Dewitt C.,** July 19, 1911, aged 89 years. A pioneer of the county, leaving an aged wife and two sons—Jefferson and George.

**Hawkins, John,** Aug. 30, 1880, aged 50.

**Hopkins, Thomas,** January 1, 1889, aged 95. A soldier in the War of 1812.

**Hopkins, Thomas,** Nov. 7, 1910, aged 81. He had been a resident 44 years. His wife preceded him about four years.

**Hoard, Delos,** Sept. 25, 1911, aged 78. A man with many friends; came to Gratiot in 1884.

**Mead, Mrs. Rachel,** Sept. 30, 1870, aged 49.

**Maples, Caleb,** Dec. 19, 1872, aged 94.

**Mitchell, Kenneth,** April 24, 1889, aged 55.

**McNall, Mrs. Mary B.,** wife of Hon. B. F. McNall, Nov. 1, 1893, aged 36. A lady who left many friends to regret her death.

**McBain, Jerome,** Dec. 19, 1898, aged 68.

**Mitchell, John,** June 24, 1912, aged 91 years. An early settler and an exemplary citizen.

**Pitts, Samuel,** Nov. 5, 1867, aged 67.

**Peet, Mrs. Mary E.,** Sept. 24, 1881, aged 47. Wife of R. A. Peet.

**Peet, Rolla Alonzo,** July, 1908, aged 78 years. An old soldier who settled in Lafayette in 1875. He will be long remembered as a man of genial and cordial disposition, with advanced and liberal views, politically, and with very independent opinions on theological questions; and never backward about expressing his beliefs.

**Pierce, Wells,** Aug., 1908, aged 74. A prominent and active resident of Lafayette 34 years. He and Mrs. Pierce celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 14, 1905.

**Rowell, Mrs.,** wife of Charles Rowell, March 10, 1883.

**Roe, Samuel T.,** February 5, 1895, aged 88. A pioneer of 1856, prominent officially, being supervisor in 1860 and justice in 1868.

**Russell, Geo.,** Dec. 2, 1891, aged 74.

**Rolfe, Henry,** Dec. 12, 1900, aged 63.

**Rolfe, Geo. W.,** February 22, 1903, aged 89.

**Rowell, Mrs. Eliza,** March 16, 1907, aged 65; wife of Charles Rowell.

**Russell, Mrs. George,** Nov. 11, 1909, aged 52.

**Robertson, Wm. Bradley,** May 31, 1909, aged 61. A valued old resident.

**Russell, David T.,** Sept. 23, 1907, aged 90.

**Smith, Mrs. Robert,** February 9, 1887; suddenly, with heart disease.

**Sisson, Mrs. Emma,** May 1, 1888, aged 75 years.

**Snow, Lyman D.,** July 8, 1889, aged 53.

**Schirmer, Edward,** Aug. 13, 1897, aged 74. Settled here in 1860.

**Shuman, Geo.,** June 19, 1901, aged 88.

**Sutton, Wm. H.,** Nov. 9, 1905, aged 70. A soldier of the Civil War.

**Showerman, Benj.,** Dec. 29, 1906, aged 83.

**Scudder, Elizabeth,** wife of Joseph Scudder, Aug. 24, 1910, aged 78. Leading pioneers.

**Street, Frank,** May 27, 1908, aged 75.

**Sadler, Joseph D.,** February 20, 1910, aged about 58. An old resident and well thought of. Clerk and treasurer several years.

**Scudder, Fred J.,** son of Joseph Scudder, July 1, 1911, aged 37 years. He was highly esteemed; elected clerk five consecutive terms.

**Sisson, Mrs. Lucy,** wife of Philander H. Sisson, died at her home in Edgewood, Jan. 25, 1913, aged nearly 75 years. An estimable lady whose death was mourned by husband, daughter—Mrs. Chas. A. Tarr—and many friends.

**Tillotson, C. M.,** Aug. 4, 1906, aged 71. Had been in mercantile trade at Rathbone.

**Turner, Wm. H.,** Sept. 8, 1908, at the home of his son, Joseph, aged 80 years.

**Thornton, Hiram,** March 11, 1907, aged 76.

**Van Epps, Mrs.,** Dec. 17, 1894, aged 97, at the home of her son, Henry.

**Willard, Samuel,** May 30, 1896, aged 65.

**Welch, Frank,** Oct. 26, 1908, suddenly, when returning home from hauling a load of beets to Wheeler.

**Welch, Alonzo,** April 20, 1910, aged about 60; death following the amputation of a leg for gangrene. A much-respected old soldier.

**Wagner, Mrs.,** respected wife of Nicholas Wagner, Aug. 12, 1910, aged 68. (See sketch.)

**Zimmerman, George,** April 22, 1902, aged 85.

**Zimmerman, E. M.,** February 2, 1903, aged 75.

**Zimmerman, Jacob,** May 15, 1904, aged 53.

**Zimmerman, Mrs. Martha G. (Donnan),** Feb. 12, 1913, aged 52 years; wife of George A. Zimmerman. A good wamon, leaving a husband, two children and an aged mother.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1883, April 23—The residence of Smith Murgittroid, with nearly all its contents, burned; no insurance.

1887, March 10—A. D. Howell, section 17, lost his house and most of its contents, by fire.

1887, March 17—A house owned by R. A. Peet and occupied by Lee Russell, was burned, with a loss of $1,000, and no insurance.

1895, Jan. 29—A house owned by Gilbert Goodhue, and occupied by James Hakes, section 30, burned with most of the contents.

1892, March 29—The house of Wilson Broadbeck, of Lafayette, was consumed by fire.

1896, March 26—P. H. Sisson's store at Edgwood, burned, together with a good share of the stock. Loss, $4,000; insurance, $3,000.

1896, May 17—Wm. Benson's house, with its contents, burned on this date. Mr. Benson was township clerk, and the township records went with the rest; a circumstance annoying to the veracious historian.

1898, April 14—The large farm barn of Dan. Chisholm burned this morning, and five head of cattle, 30 hogs, hay, grain and tools were consumed.

1902, Jan. 10—Fire destroyed the residence of R. F. Aldrich, together with the contents, while the family was absent from home.

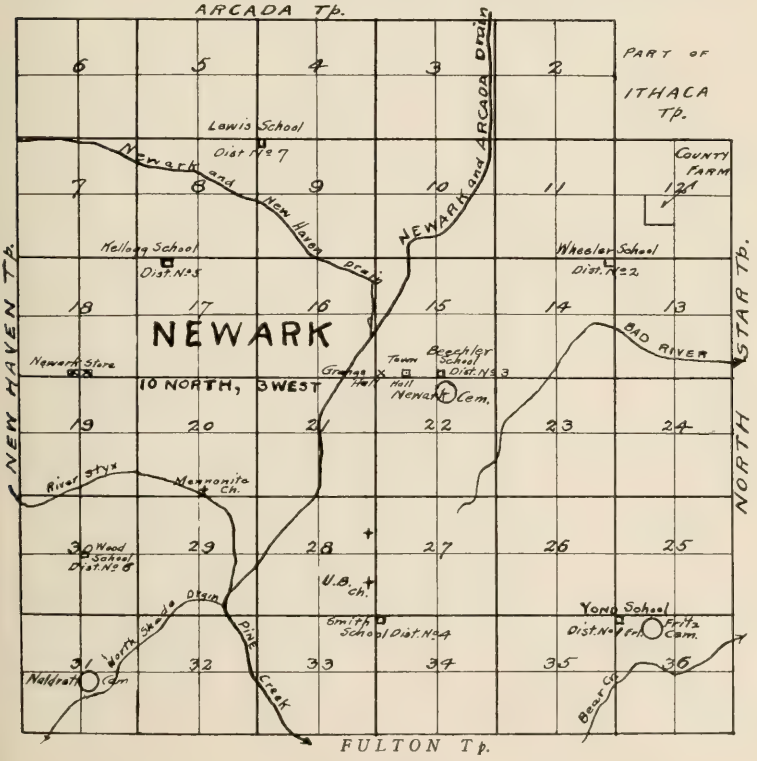
1904, Feb. 15—John Husted lost his house and its contents by fire, evening of Feb. 15th.

1909, Aug. 31—The old homestead house of George Aldrich, occupied by his son Charles, was burned to the ground.

1913, Feb.—Geo. L. Lewis lost his barn by fire, together with its valuable contents.

## NEWARK TOWNSHIP.

Just who named the Township of Newark is a matter of doubt. One tradition gives John W. Howd and his nephew, Walter S. Howd, the credit, the name being suggested by the name of their home township in Wayne County, N. Y. Another tradition attributes the naming to E. W. Kellogg, J. L. Beechler and others who were early on the ground and took part in the first election. The question is not very material anyway. By any other name it would be a good township. Town 10 north, range 3 west, describes its location. It is one of the central townships of the county. The surface averages somewhat rolling, though it has some level land. A part of the "big swamp west of Ithaca" is within its borders; but the big swamp of earlier days, cannot be called a swamp in these later days, for the skill and perseverance of man have been in evidence there for many years and a great transformation has taken place, the swamp in large measure having been succeeded by fertile fields, dotted with farm houses and other buildings. The big Newark and Arcada drain, formerly known as the



Scriven Ditch, from John Scriven, of St. Johns, who had the job of constructing the original ditch, together with its branches, has proven efficacious in making comparatively dry land of what was once a very unpromising tract. The original ditch was dug in 1873, John Scriven having the job. It was a very important ditch and a large one for those days—twelve feet wide on the top, six feet at the bottom, four feet deep, and over twelve miles long, including branches. The question of payment for the construction of the drain was a subject of controversy and litigation in the courts, from the circuit court to the United States Supreme Court, for twenty-five years and was finally compromised and settled along in 1898. The county paid out thousands of dollars in the course of the unpleasantness. The ditch was greatly enlarged and improved in the summer of 1913 at a large outlay of money.



NEWARK GRANGE HALL.

Pompeii, Perrinton and Middleton furnish markets for the southern part of the township, while Ithaca serves for the northern residents, and no farmer has a haul longer than about six miles to a good railroad market. The record of the early elections gives the names of many of the first settlers, and they are here given, as the least that can be done to perpetuate their memories as being in the list of those who braved the disadvantages of life far removed from the necessities, not to say the comforts and luxuries of civilized life. Like most of the other townships the settlement of the township really began in 1854. Previous to its organization the township had been for some time attached to Clinton County for certain official purposes



FIRST ROUND BARN IN STATE—A. L. WASSON'S.

## NEWARK ELECTIONS.

The official record says that "the electors of the Township of Newark met at the house of Geo. L. Waggoner on the first Monday of April, 1856, and held their first township meeting. Walter S. Howd was chosen moderator and Orville M. Wood clerk".

The number of votes cast was 66.

**April, 1856:** Sup.—Jacob L. Beechler 66; Clk.—Orville M. Wood 66; Treas.—Manard A. Chamberlain 54; Roland V. Smith 12; H. C.—Fred S. Kelly 62; R. V. Smith 35, Daniel Farnsworth 35, Benson Taylor 31, J. Beck 31; J. P.—Jacob Eckley 66; John Cummings 65, Wm. Kinsel 66, Thaddeus S. Green 64; Sch. Insp.—J. S. Bush 66; David Blair 40, E. W. Kellogg 26; Const.—Jas. Ridenour 66, Geo. Hawks 66, Philo Taylor 65, David E. Boyer 31, Fred Strouse 1.

The meeting voted a wolf bounty of $5; under six months old, $2.25.

May 13, '56, board appointed E. W. Kellogg clerk vice Wood, resigned.

July 15, '56, board appointed Geo. H. Gantz school inspector vice Bush, removed from the township.

Nov. 4 '56, board appointed Walter S. Howd treasurer vice Chamberlain, removed from the township.

**1857:** Sup.—Ebenezer W. Kellogg 31, Jacob L. Beechler 2;; Clk.—Elijah Peck 32; John H. Shaffer 25; Treas.—R. V. Smith 30, A. M. Butterfield 26; H. C.—A. J. Allen 57, John Beck 33, Luther Wood 23; J. P.—Jas. Wood 54, John Jeffery 35, John Baker 20; Sch. Insp.—Lafayette Church 56, Wm. Kinsel 32, Hugh Naldrett 23; Overseers of Poor—Jas. Ridenour 41, Geo. Waggoner 26, Geo. L. Waggoner 19; Const.—E. Austin 54, Simeon Taylor 41, Geo. L. Waggoner 40, S. W. Nichols 32, W. Townsend 25.

The 14 road districts were supplied with overseers as follows: Daniel Farnsworth, John Parker, Wesley Greenley, Benson Taylor, Fred Strouse, Henry Wiseman, Wm. Woods, Jas. W. Naldrett, R. V. Smith, Henry Tracy, Thad. S. Green, Thompson Johnson, S. W. Nichols.

By vote it was decided to raise $100 for contingent expenses; that the next election should be held "at the school house on the corner near Geo. L. Waggoner's", and $2 was voted to Mrs. Waggoner for the use of her house for the election this spring.

**1858:** Sup.—Andrew J. Allen 48, E. W. Kellogg 27; Clk.—Geo. L. Waggoner 72, John H. Shaffer 3; Treas.—Fred S. Kelly 62, Culwell Martin 11; H. C.—A. J. Allen 75; J. P.—David F. Hawkins 39, Thad. S. Green 29, G. L. Waggoner 5; Sch. Insp.—Andrew J. Allen 46, John H. Shaffer 43, Elijah Beard 28, Wm. Kinsel 26; Overseers of Poor—Fred S. Kelly 46, John Baker 46.

July 26, '58, the board bought an acre of land of F. S. Kelly "for the use of a berring ground", paying $25 for it.

Nov. 22, '58, E. W. Kellogg was appointed clerk vice Waggoner, resigned.

**April, 1859:** Sup.—A. J. Allen; Clk.—Martin V. Munson; Treas.—F. S. Kelly; H. C.—J. H. Shaffer; J. P.—Jas. Wood; Sch. Insp.—John F. Munson.

Sept. 5, '59, B. E. Sawtelle was appointed clerk in place of Munson, resigned.

Jan. 6, '60, Moses Tompkins, Jr., was appointed clerk to fill the vacancy caused by Sawtelle's resignation.

March 27, '60, another resignation landed Walter S. Howd in the office of clerk.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—A. J. Allen; Clk.—Walter S. Howd; Treas.—Fred S. Kelly; H. C.—Fred S. Kelly; J. P.—Benj. Crawford; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Austin.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Benj. Crawford; Clk.—John Jeffery; Treas.—A. J. Allen; H. C.—Simeon Taylor; J. P.—John Parker; vacancy, Benj. Crawford; Sch. Insp.—David F. Hawkins.

The new names mentioned in the record as having been chosen as overseers of highway are—Isaac Flower, John G. Kinney, Joseph Eicher, Jas. Wood, Theo. O. Daniels, John Tracy, Leman A. Johnson, Knowler Gibbs, Edward H. Stowe, Thos. Reed.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Leman A. Johnson; Clk.—Wm. E. Winton; Treas. Samuel Lepley; H. C.—Wm. Woods; J. P.—D. F. Hawkins; Sch. Insp.—Emery Crosby.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—Benj. Crawford; Treas. Samuel Lepley; H. C.—John Parker; J. P.—A. J. Allen; Sch. Insp.—Frank A. Johnson.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—Frank A. Johnson; Treas.—Samuel Lepley; H. C.—D. F. Hawkins; vacancy, Samuel N. Miller; Sch. Insp.—S. N. Miller.

A special election was held Sept. 17, '64, to vote on the question of giving $100 bounty to each volunteer or substitute. The record says that a viva voce vote was taken resulting in the defeat of the proposition by 17 to 5.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—S. N. Miller; Treas.—Sam. Lepley; H. C.—John Jeffery; J. P.—Geo. S. Harpham; vacancy, John Parker; Sch. Insp.—David H. Shelley; vacancy, A. J. Allen.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—Andrew J. McKee; Treas.—Sam. Lepley; H. C.—John Parker; J. P.—D. F. Hawkins; Sch. Insp.—S. N. Miller.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—A. J. McKee; Treas.—Sam. Lepley; H. C.—D. F. Hawkins; J. P.—John Parker; Sch. Insp.—B. F. Shepard.

Sept. 14, '67, board appointed Chas. O. Keyes clerk vice Andrew J. McKee, deceased.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—L. A. Johnson; Clk.—Frank A. Johnson; Treas.—Sam. Lepley; H. C.—John G. Kinney; J. P.—Benj. Crawford; vacancy, Geo. S. Naldrett; Sch. Insp.—Dr. Oscar S. Hall.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Philip Fritz; Clk.—Emery Crosby; Treas.—Joseph Greer; H. C.—John Parker; J. P.—Geo. S. Harpham; vacancy, Henry Bentley; Sch. Insp.—B. F. Shepard; vacancy, Joseph Austin.

April 27, '69, L. A. Johnson was appointed supervisor vice Philip Fritz, resigned.

Sept. 17, '69, board appointed Chas. E. Williams school inspector vice J. Austin.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—B. F. Shepard; Treas.—Joseph Greer; H. C.—Luther C. Smith; J. P.—Chas. E. Williams; vacancy, Joseph Austin; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Austin; vacancy, Warren W. Knickerbocker.

For court house tax—yes, 154; no, 7.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Silas B. Bowman; Treas.—Jo. Greer; H. C.—Philip Fritz; J. P.—E. H. Stowe; 2 yrs, J. H. Shaffer; 1 yr, Emery Crosby; Sch. Insp.—Zachariah Hoag; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

Aug. 6, '71. Emery Crosby was appointed clerk vice Bowman, removed from the township.

A special township meeting was held Nov. 6, 1871, to vote on the proposition to raise $375 to build a town hall. Yes, 25; no, 1.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Chester Howland; Clk.—Emery Crosby; Treas.—Jo. Greer; H. C.—O. C. Bates; J. P.—Emery Crosby; vacancy, Giles T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—D. W. Altenburg; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Frank A. Johnson; Treas.—Philip Fritz; H. C.—D. F. Hawkins; J. P.—J. H. Shaffer; vacancy E. Crosby; Sch. Insp.—Chas. E. Williams; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Frank A. Johnson; Treas.—Philip Fritz; H. C.—Henry Kinsel; J. P.—Horace T. Barnaby; vacancy, J. Wilson Caldwell; Sch. Insp.—E. H. Stowe; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Chas. L. Pratt; Treas.—O. C. Bates; H. C.—D. F. Hawkins; J. P.—E. H. Stowe; vacancy, G. T. Brown; Supt. Sch.—G. T. Brown; Sch. Insp.—Dillis D. Hamilton; Dr. Com.—A. J. Hatfield.

Jan. 4, '76, board appointed E. H. Stowe clerk vice Pratt, removed from the township.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Samuel J. Thoenen; Treas.—O. C. Bates; H. C.—D. F. Hawkins; J. P.—G. T. Brown; vacancy, O. C. Bates; Supt. Sch.—E. H. Stowe; Sch. Insp.—A. J. Hatfield; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Samuel M. Scott; Treas.—O. C. Bates; H. C.—Jas. B. Parker; J. P.—J. H. Shaffer; vacancy, Wm. L. Phillips; Supt. Sch.—I. N. Cowdrey; Sch. Insp.—E. H. Stowe; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wideman.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—S. J. Thoenen; Treas.—Philip Fritz; H. C.—Jas. B. Parker; J. P.—Wm. L. Phillips; 3 yrs, J. H. Shaffer; 2 yrs, Chas. E. Fink; Dr. Com.—John J. Johnson.

To bond for the completion of jail and sheriff's residence—yes, 202; no, 63.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—S. J. Thoenen; Treas.—Philip Fritz; H. C.—Henry J. Fell; J. P.—I. N. Cowdrey; Supt. Sch.—Wm. O. Fritz; Sch. Insp.—John H. Beckwith; Dr. Com.—John H. Orcutt.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—Samuel M. Scott; Treas.—Ezra Orcutt; H. C.—H. J. Fell; J. P.—Lothrop M. Lyon; vacancy, A. J. Allen; Supt. Sch.—Martha Howland; Sch. Insp.—Silas B. Smith; Dr. Com.—Lovell J. Fuller.

The legislature used section one in forming the Township of Ithaca, and Samuel M. Scott, township clerk, went with the section. The board appointed John L. Richard to the vacancy.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—E. W. Kellogg; Clk.—John L. Richard; Treas.—P. Fritz; H. C.—E. H. Stowe; J. P.—J. H. Shaffer; 3 yrs, Calvin C. Kryder; 2 yrs, Z. Hoag; Supt. Sch.—I. N. Cowdrey; Sch. Insp.—Perry W. Beechler; Dr. Com.—Henry Kinsel.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Inman N. Cowdrey; Clk.—J. L. Richard; Treas.—O. C. Bates; H. C.—E. H. Stowe; J. P.—E. W. Kellogg; vacancy, John W. Walker; Sch. Insp.—E. H. Stowe, P. W. Beechler; Dr. Com.—Timothy Pressley.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Lovell J. Fuller; Clk.—J. L. Richard; Treas.—Abial S. Loomis; H. C.—T. Pressley; J. P.—D. F. Hawkins; 3 yrs, Chas. W. Howland; 1 yr, Geo. W. Wideman; Sch. Insp.—Ira I. Munson; Dr. Com.—Henry W. Kinsel.

April 20, '83, or near this date, L. J. Fuller resigned as supervisor, and the board appointed E. W. Kellogg to the vacancy.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—I. N. Cowdrey; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—A. S. Loomis; H. C.—T. Pressley; J. P.—Henry J. Fell; 2 yrs, Jas. C. Barrus; Sch. Insp.—Harlow P. Sage; Dr. Com.—Lewis K. Munson.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Abial S. Loomis; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—Frank Munson; H. C.—Chas. W. Kinney; J. P.—Jas. Wood; Sch. Insp.—Henry Sage.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—I. N. Cowdrey; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—Frank Munson; H. C.—L. K. Munson; J. P.—Harlow P. Sage; Sch. Insp.—Ira I. Munson; Dr. Com.—Nathaniel B. Johnson.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Frank Munson; Clk.—J. L. Richard; Treas.—Edward Drayer; H. C.—L. K. Munson; J. P.—A. D. Perkins; Sch. Insp.—Samuel E. Sower.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Frank Munson; Clk.—J. L. Richard; Treas.—Alston H. Maurer; H. C.—L. K. Munson; J. P.—H. J. Fell; vacancy, Morgan Snyder; Sch. Insp.—Elmer Thompson, Wm. H. Quick; Dr. Com.—H. Bartshe.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—Frank Munson; Clk.—Harvey Wood; Treas.—A. H. Maurer; H. C.—L. K. Munson; J. P.—A. D. Perkins; 2 yrs, Chas. W. Marvin; Sch. Insp.—John E. Fritz.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Frank Munson; Clk.—P. W. Beechler; Treas.—John W. Martin; H. C.—Benj. Hibner; J. P.—Harlow P. Page; vacancy, Jerome Clemons; Sch. Insp.—Eli Beck; Dr. Com.—Frank B. Thum; Review—C. W. Kinney, R. C. Lake.

Dec., 1890, C. W. Kinney was appointed supervisor in place of Munson, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—P. W. Beechler; Treas.—John W. Martin; H. C.—Ben. Hibner; J. P.—Chas. A. Smith; Sch. Insp.—John E. Fritz; Review—Geo. Martin, W. H. Cox.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—Wm. H. Cox; H. C.—Chas. Olmstead; J. P.—D. B. Hawkins; Sch. Insp.—Chas. W. Wiseman; Dr. Com.—Jas. C. Lepley; Review—R. C. Lake, Geo. Martin.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Albert D. Perkins; Clk.—Harvey R. Munson; Treas.—L. K. Munson; H. C.—Reuben Eyer; J. P.—Samuel H. Wood; Sch. Insp.—Anna Wood; Review—Edward Drayer.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—Jacob M. Fritz; H. C.—Frank L. Pressley; J. P.—H. P. Sage; Sch. Insp.—Rinda L. Cox; Dr. Com.—Sylvester Wood; Review—John W. Martin, John E. Fritz.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—Chas. A. Smith; Treas.—Jacob M. Fritz; H. C.—F. L. Pressley; J. P.—Ben. Hibner; Sch. Insp.—S. Wood; Review—John E. Fritz.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—C. A. Smith; Treas.—F. L. Pressley; H. C.—S. Wood; J. P.—D. B. Hawkins; Sch. Insp.—Henry Sage; Dr. Com.—Jacob M. Fritz; Review—Alonzo W. Loomis.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—C. W. Kinney; Clk.—C. A. Smith; Treas.—F. L. Pressley; H. C.—K. S. Wood; J. P.—Richard J. Knowlton; Sch. Insp.—Daniel G. Iutzi; Review—Amasa Doane.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Frank L. Pressley; Clk.—C. A. Smith; Treas.—J. M. Fritz; J. P.—H. P. Sage; Sch. Insp.—S. Wood; Review—Daniel G. Iutzi; Edward Naldrett.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—F. L. Pressley; Clk.—C. A. Smith; Treas.—J. M. Fritz; H. C.—John W. Martin; J. P.—Ben. Hibner; Sch. Insp.—E. R. Gable; Review—Edward Naldrett.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—F. L. Pressley; Clk.—John W. Martin; Treas.—C. A. Smith; H. C.—Elmore H. Kinney; J. P.—D. B. Hawkins; Sch. Insp.—Chas. E. Thum; Review—R. C. Lake.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Alston H. Maurer; Clk.—Lewis D. Lepley; Treas.—Chas. W. Wiseman; H. C.—Hiram Haring; J. P.—S. H. Wood: Sch. Insp.—E. W. Mulholland; Review—C. W. Howland.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—A. H. Maurer; Clk.—Lewis D. Lepley; Treas.—Chas. W. Wiseman; H. C.—W. S. Tracey; J. P.—H. P. Sage; Sch. Insp.—Leroy G. Beechler; Review—S. Wood.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Harvey R. Munson; Clk.—Lewis D. Lepley; Treas.—Frank Edwin Cowdrey; H. C.—Robert A. Roberts; J. P.—H. J. Fell; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Hook; Review—H. Bartshe.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—H. R. Munson; Clk.—Louis J. Marvin; Treas.—F. Edwin Cowdrey; H. C.—R. A. Roberts; J. P.—Marion W. Miner; Sch. Insp.—Irwin H. Dintaman.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—H. R. Munson; Clk.—L. J. Marvin; Treas.—Ralph Woods; H. C.—F. Edwin Cowdrey; J. P.—Hugh K. Bates; Sch. Insp.—Samuel A. Daniels; vacancy, Hugh A. Roberts; Review—Ira I. Munson.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—L. J. Marvin; Treas.—Ralph Woods; H. C.—Ira I. Munson; J. P.—Emery V. Dean; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Kinsel; Review—A. H. Maurer.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—Everett W. Mulholland; Treas.—Melvin Lepley; H. C.—R. J. Knowlton; J. P.—Wm. H. Derby; vacancy, Hugh K. Howland; Sch. Insp.—S. H. Wood; Review—W. S. Tracey.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—E. W. Mulholland; Treas.—M. R. Lepley; H. C.—Alfred Wheeler; Overseer—C. A. Johnson; J. P.—A. H. Maurer; Sch. Insp.—S. A. Daniels; Review—Chas. Woods.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—E. W. Mulholland; Treas.—Eben Kellogg; H. C.—C. A. Johnson; Overseer—A. M. Douglas; J. P.—Hugh K. Bates; Review—W. S. Tracey.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—Ham. L. Martin; Treas.—Eben Kellogg; H. C.—Frank Martin; Overseer—A. M. Douglas; J. P.—H. J. Fell; Review—Chas. Woods.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—H. L. Martin; Treas.—Oliver N. Martin; J. P.—Wm. H. Derby; vacancy, Eben Kellogg; Review—W. S. Tracey; H. C.—Chas. A. Johnson.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—Sam. A. Daniels; Treas.—Robert B. Wideman; J. P.—Eben Kellogg; Review—Chas. Woods; H. C.—Chas. A. Johnson; O. of H.—Walter L. Mills.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Jas. Gibbs; Clk.—Samuel Daniels; Treas.—Robert B. Wideman; H. C.—Chas. A. Johnson; O. of H.—Walter L. Mills; J. P.—John H. Wiseman; Review—W. S. Tracey.

Woman suffrage: Yes, 59; no, 116.

County road System: Yes, 29; no, 154.

### Supervisors.

Jacob L. Beechler, 1856.
Ebenezer W. Kellogg, 1857, '70, '71, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, ap. April, '83.
Andrew J. Allen, 1858, '59, '60.
Benj. Crawford, 1861.
Leman A. Johnson, 1862, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, ap. April 27, '69.
Philip Fritz, 1869.
Chester Howland, 1872.
Inman N. Cowdrey, 1882, '84, '86.
Lovell J. Fuller, 1883.
Abial S. Loomis, 1885.
Frank Munson, 1887, '88, '89, '90.
C. W. Kinney, ap. Dec., '90; '91, '92, '94, '95, '96, '97.
Albert D. Perkins, 1893.
Frank L. Pressley, 1898, '99, '00.
Alston H. Maurer, 1901, '02.
Harvey R. Munson, 1903, '04, '05.
Jas. Gibbs, 1906, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Orville M. Wood, 1856.
E. W. Kellogg, ap. May 13, '56; ap. Nov. 22, '58.
Elijah Peck, 1857.
Geo. L. Waggoner, 1858.
Martin V. Munson, 1859.
B. E. Sawtelle, ap. Sept. 5, '59.
Moses Tompkins, Jr., ap. Jan. 6, '60.
Walter S. Howd, ap. March 27, '60; '60.
John Jeffery, 1861.
Wm. E. Winton, 1862.
Benj. Crawford, 1864.
Samuel N. Miller, 1865.
Andrew J. McKee, 1866, '67.
Chas. O. Keyes, ap. Sept. 14, '67.
Frank A. Johnson, 1868, '73, '74.
Emery Crosby, 1869, ap. Aug. 6, '71; '72.
B. F. Shepard, 1870.
Silas B. Bowman, 1871.
Chas. L. Pratt, 1875.
E. H. Stowe, ap. Jan. 4, '76.
S. J. Thoenen, 1876, '78, '79.
Sam. M. Scott, 1877, '80.
John L. Richard, ap. March, '81; '81, '82, '83, '87, '88.
Chas. A. Smith, 1884, '85, '86, '92, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99.
Harvey Wood, 1889.
P. W. Beechler, 1890, '91.
H. R. Munson, 1893.
John W. Martin, 1900.
Lewis D. Lepley, 1901, '02, '03.
Louis J. Marvin, 1904, '05, '06.
Everett W. Mulholland, 1907, '08, '09.
H. L. Martin, 1910, '11.
Samuel A. Daniels, 1912, '13.

### Treasurers.

Manard A. Chamberlain, 1856.
Walter S. Howd, ap. Nov. 4, '56.
R. V. Smith, 1857.
Fred S. Kelly, 1858, '59, '60.
A. J. Allen, 1861.
Samuel Lepley, 1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68.
Joseph Greer, 1869, '70, '71, '72.
Philip Fritz, 1873, '74, '78, '79, '81.
O. C. Bates, 1875, '76, '77, '82.
Ezra Orcutt, 1880.
Abial S. Loomis, 1883, '84.
Frank Munson, 1885, '86.
Edward Drayer, 1887.
Alston H. Maurer, 1888, '89.
John W. Martin, 1890, '91.
Wm. H. Cox, 1892.
Lewis K. Munson, 1893.
Jacob M. Fritz, 1894, '95, '98, '99.
Frank L. Pressley, 1896, '97.
Chas. A. Smith, 1900.
Chas. W. Wiseman, 1901, '02.
Frank Ed. Cowdrey, 1903, '04.
Ralph Woods, 1905, '06.
Melvin R. Lepley, 1907, '08.
Eben Kellogg, 1909, '10.
Oliver N. Martin, 1911.
Robert B. Wideman, 1912, '13.

## NEWARK BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### HARING.

Hiram Haring, who served a term as clerk of Gratiot County and filled other positions of responsibility in township and county, was born January 7, 1844, in Summit County, Ohio, son of Charles and Hannah (Wiltroudt) Haring. After obtaining a common school education he followed teaching. He was married in 1869 to Susan Foltz, daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Peck) Foltz, of Lancaster County, Penn. She was born December 4, 1843. They came to Michigan in 1870, settling first in Bloomer, Montcalm County, later in Lebanon, Clinton County, then, in 1876, locating on section 31, North Shade Township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Haring were the parents of five children—Elton E., Jennie L., Parcy E., Mary E., and Ophir L., all of whom, likewise the mother, are still living. Hiram Haring died September 7, 1905, in Newark Township, where he had taken up his residence after his retirement as county clerk.

Mr. Haring was clerk of North Shade two terms and was supervisor of the township six years, commencing with the year 1886, his last election being in '92. In the fall of 1896 he was the Democrat—People's—Free Silver candidate for county clerk, and was elected by a majority of 456 over A. P. Lane, the whole Fusion ticket being elected. In 1898 Mr. Lane defeated him by 105, the whole Republican ticket being elected, with three exceptions.

Mr. Haring was one of Gratiot County's most popular and worthy citizens, with good ability and strictly upright in character and dealings. He and his family were active members of the M. E. Church.

## KELLOGG.

Ebenezer W. Kellogg was born in Hadley, Mass., February 6, 1815, son of Giles C. and Martha (Warner) Kellogg. His father was a prominent attorney, and his mother was a daughter of an officer in the Revolutionary War who served from the beginning to the end of the conflict. Our subject received his education in the common schools, finishing with a course at Hopkins Academy. Coming to Michigan in 1839 he settled on a farm in Cambridge, Lenawee County. He sold this in 1853 and the next year bought a lot of wild land in Newark Township, this county, built a log house and commenced pioneer life. In 1855 he moved his family to the new home, and from that time for more than 50 years his life and experiences were closely interwoven with the history of his township and county.



EBENEZER W. KELLOGG.

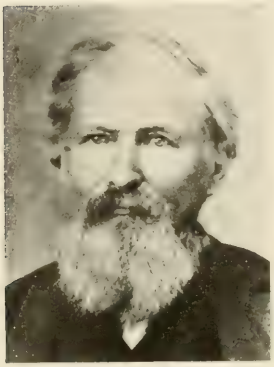
At the first election in the township—that of 1856—he was chosen township clerk, and at the next election—1857—he was chosen supervisor, and he filled that important office for a period aggregating thirteen years. For several sessions he was chairman of the board of supervisors. He was a careful and conscientious official and enjoyed the confidence and respect of his constituents and associates in an unusual degree. In 1885 Mr. Kellogg gave up active work on the farm and moved into the Village of Ithaca, where he resided until his death, June 10, 1908. He had reached the unusual aged of 93 years.

Mr. Kellogg was twice married—first to Adaline L. Butterfield, in Cambridge, Mich., March 3, 1842. She died at Ithaca, March, 1896. Mr. Kellogg was again married—November 1, 1897—to Mrs. Sophronia (Wade) Howland, who is still living. By the first marriage three children were born—Francis, who occupies the old homestead in Newark, probably the best farm in Gratiot County; Mary, who married Dr. Chas. Howland, she and her husband both now deceased; Hugh, who died at the age of about 18 years.

Ebenezer W. Kellogg is entitled to especial mention as one of the leading spirits in the county's early history; a man of superior intelligence, strict integrity and great energy. Those who knew him in life will remember him with kindliest feelings. Those who know him only by the written record may rest assured that his name belongs among the best of Gratiot's pioneer citizens.

## HOWLAND.

Charles Wesley Howland, born October 24, 1829, in the town of Barry, Orleans County, New York, was the eldest son of Chester Howland and Achsah Kennedy, his wife. The father was a native of the Empire State, being born in Bridgewater, Oneida County, N. Y., September 6, 1804. He was married September 30, 1828, to Achsah Kennedy, who was killed August 27, 1845, by the overturning of a wagon in which she was riding. The family were living near Adrian, Mich., at the time of her death. The father, Chester Howland, died in Newark, Gratiot County, March 29, 1882.



DR. CHARLES W. HOWLAND.

The subject of this sketch came with his parents to Michigan when four years old. In 1850 he went to Lyons, Ionia County. While living at that place he was taken with the gold fever and decided to go to California. He finally made his way across the Mississippi River, and after one hundred and two days on horseback he came to the end of his journey; a tedious and wearisome journey. He has many times mentioned the fact that he rode for days with his eyes closed, to shut out the monotony of the scenery. Eighteen years he was a resident of California, during which time he was engaged in mining and lumbering.

At last a longing to see his father and other friends brought him back to Michigan. He spent a little time in Hillsdale, Kalamazoo and Lenawee Counties, after which he returned to California. He remained there, however, only two months, when he returned to Michigan and to Gratiot County, settling on section 18, Newark Township in the year 1871. Here he lived the rest of his life, with the exception of five years spent in Ithaca. He died on his farm, on the beautiful Easter morning of April 15, 1906. A good man, kind to all; a loving husband and father. He was a lineal descendant of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilly who came to America in the Mayflower in 1620, and were married in Plymouth, Massachusetts, sometime previous to 1627.



MRS. C. W. HOWLAND.

June 22, 1876, Charles W. Howland and Mary R. Kellogg were united in marriage. She was the only daughter of Ebenezer W. and Adaline L. Kellogg, at that time residents of Newark, but later of Ithaca.

Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Howland: Hugh Kellogg was born March 30, 1877; Clark Wesley, June 2, 1882; Arthur, July 6, 1884. Hugh K. was married November 24, 1904, to Lydia Peters who was born March 12, 1882. They are the parents of three children—Esther M., born August 12, 1905; Mae B., born October 18, 1907; Helen Louise, born

November 27, 1911. Clark W. was married to Caroline Smith, January 7, 1912. Arthur was married to Elizabeth Neil, April 1, 1912. Clark and Arthur are farmers of Newark, Clark occupying the Dr. Howland homestead, while Arthur is on the farm adjoining on the south. Hugh is now in California.

Mary R. (Kellogg) Howland, the mother, died January 15, 1912. The accompanying portraits will be thoroughly appreciated by the many friends of the excellent family, the outlines of whose lives are here chronicled.

## DU BOIS.

Though now a resident of Charlevoix, Mich., George M. Du Bois was one of the early settlers of Gratiot County, and continued a resident here for about 55 years. He came here in the days when leeks as an article of food were considered almost a luxury. Then later as times improved a turnip diet became possible, with potatoes as Sunday luxury. He says that those were the days of the horseless carriage; oxen being the propelling power. The young fellows took their best girls out for pleasure rides with ox-teams. But it is easy to imagine worse things than that. Time is not likely to be any object on such an occasion, and slowness no serious drawback. But this is a digression; possibly unprofitable, but not harmful, it may be hoped.

George M. Du Bois was born in Plymouth, Richland County, Ohio, November 7, 1843. His father was Edward N. Du Bois; his mother was Adaline A. (Boardman) Du Bois. Edward N. Du Bois was the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Graves) Du Bois,, natives of Duchess County, N. Y., and Connecticut, respectively. He was born June 13, 1820, in Cayuga County, N. Y. His wife, Adaline A., was the daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Wieden) Boardman. Edward N. Du Bois, during his residence on section 18, North Star, where he located in 1867, and in Ithaca where he resided six years, was for 13 years a deputy sheriff, and was a well-known and popular officer. He served as highway commissioner of North Star, and while living in Fulton was a justice of the peace. He was also village marshal of Ithaca three years. He died May 20, 1891. His wife died November 23, 1892.

George M. Du Bois came with his parents from Ohio in 1857, settling in Fulton Township. There he assisted in the farm work and attended the district school in the old Payne school house. After reaching manhood he worked several winters in the northern lumber woods. After the sale of the Fulton farm and the removal of the family—in 1867—to section 18, North Star, to the farm which they bought of John W. Howd, Mr. Du Bois was married—February 22, 1868—to Maggie Randall, daughter of George and Lucinda (Parker) Randall. These were originally from Vermont, coming to Gratiot in 1856 and settling in Arcada Township. The father and mother died several years ago. Besides Mrs. Du Bois the children were George Randall; Alton W. Randall, now deceased; Harriet Preston, now deceased, wife of William Preston; and Millie Kinkerter, wife of Fred Kinkerter. Mrs. Maggie Du Bois was born in Willoughby, Lake County, Ohio, December 30, 1845. After reaching maturity she became a school teacher, officiating very acceptably in various parts of the county.

The subject of this sketch remained on the old farm in North Star till 1881 and then removed to Ithaca where he worked in the Nelson & Barber elevators in that village and at Middleton, for a period of 13 years. In the year 1893, Mr. Du Bois sold the North Star farm and bought in Newark Township, the farm owned by Morgan Snyder, on sections 8 and 17. An 80-

acre farm, of good land, good buildings, and with a "sugar bush", one of the few left in the county. He sold this farm in 1912, having previously—March, 1910— moved to Charlevoix, to be near his son, Glenn M., and his daughter, Mrs. A. J. Usher.

Mr. and Mrs. Du Bois have been the parents of three children—Clara E., Glenn M. and Ella M. Clara E. died in infancy. Glenn M. was born September 19, 1873, and died in Charlevoix, Mich., June 8, 1913. Up to the fall fall of 1907 he was a resident of Gratiot, and well-known as an energetic and enthusiastic man of affairs, being prominent in the I. O. O. F., and particularly so in the Grange. In October, 1907, in company with his brother-in-law, A. J. Usher, he bought the "Courier", a newspaper published at Charlevoix, Mich., serving as editor to the time of his death. Ella M., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Du Bois, was born July 8, 1881. She was educated in the common schools and at the Ithaca High School. March 14, 1906, she was married to Adelbert J. Usher, a well-known and efficient Ithaca printer. They are now residents of Charlevoix, where Mr. Usher is engaged in the publication of the Charlevoix Courier. Their children are Clare G., born July 27, 1908, and Lucile Margaret, born September 27, 1911.

George M. Du Bois' brother, Edward, is a farmer residing near Alma. Their sister—Ida B.—formerly the wife of the late Alonzo Jeffery, now resides in Ithaca, the wife of I. L. Altenburg. Mr. Du Bois belongs to the Masonic order. Mrs. Du Bois is a member of the Baptist Church, and both have the esteem of many friends.

## KNOWLTON.

Richard J. Knowlton, one of Newark's most progressive and enterprising farmers, residing on section 11, is a son of Austin and Sarah E. (Henderson) Knowlton, and was born in Adrian, Ohio, April 17, 1858. Austin Knowlton was a New Englander, born in Massachusetts, November 15, 1809. He moved to Ohio in 1821, and died at Adrian, Ohio, May 19, 1902. He was twice married. His first wife was Louise McKinzie, and their children were—Mark L., Byron, Jay and William, and one unnamed, died in infancy. Mark L. married Harriet Beatty. He was a soldier in the Civil War and in 1869 removed to Oxford, Kansas. He was the father of two sons—Fred and Austin. Fred was married May 15, 1913, to May Miller and resides at Oxford, Kansas. Mark L. died at his home in Oxford, February 5, 1913. Byron Knowlton died in 1862 in the military service of his country during the Civil War. The mother, Louise (McKinzie) Knowlton, died within a month after the death of her last infant.

Austin Knowlton was married (second), to Sarah E. Henderson who was born in Newark, Licking County, Ohio, January 19, 1819, and died at Adrian, Ohio, October 22, 1886. To this union the following children were born—Richard J., our principal subject; Frank Y., Lucy S. and Mary L.

Frank Y. Knowlton married Jennie Johnson. They live in Adrian, Ohio, and have a son, Austin. The sisters—Lucy S. and Mary L., reside on the home farm at Adrian, Ohio.

Richard J. Knowlton came to Michigan November 12, 1879, settling on section 11, Newark, on a tract of land that has been his home to the present time. There were but 10 acres of the 120 cleared at that time. Now, as the result of strenuous and persistent work, the farm is all cleared but 20 acres, and under a good state of cultivation, with good buildings and all the usual appurtenances of a modern, up-to-date Gratiot County farm.

Richard J. Knowlton was united in marriage, in Newark, to Ida S. Gladstone, May 8, 1884. She is a daughter of the late John and Ellen Gladstone, for many years esteemed residents of the township. She was born in St. Johns, Mich., February 27, 1863. John Gladstone, the father, was born in Yorkshire, England, August 24, 1826. Reaching the age of manhood, he came to America, and in 1877 settled in Newark Township where he passed the remainder of his life. His wife, Mrs. Ellen Gladstone, was born in Oakland County, Mich., December 13, 1832. They were married at Mason, Mich., December 7, 1856. Their children are Annie, John Lorenzo, Eliza J., Ida S., William, Fred, Frank, George, James, Edward. Died in infancy—John L., Eliza and Fred.

Annie Gladstone married Edward A. Randall. They have two children—Pearl Belle and Wanda—and reside at Wayne, Mich.

William Gladstone married Mina Gabrion. Their children are Frances, Max, Rolla and Carl.

Frank Gladstone married Anna Youngs. They live in Newark and have children as follows: Lloyd, Celia and Lawrence.

George Gladstone married Ida Frink. They are residents of Marshall, Mich., and have children—Margaret and George B.

James Gladstone married Anzonetta Feightner and lives in St. Johns, Mich. Their children are Ellen M., Margaret J. and Robert J.

Edward Gladstone married Mabel Rudd. They are residents of Ithaca. Their children are Mildred M., Clifford and Freda.

John Gladstone, the father, and Ellen Gladstone, the mother, died at the residence of their children, Richard J. and Ida S. Knowlton, the former passing away March 7, 1906, the latter February 7, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Knowlton are the parents of two sons—Mark J., born May 3, 1889, and Herbert J., born January 14, 1893. They both live at their parents' home.

Richard J. Knowlton has served his township as highway commissioner and as justice of the peace, and his school district as treasurer for many years. He and Mrs. Knowlton are active members of the Grange and of the Gleaners. Mrs. Knowlton belongs to the M. E. Church and is a worker in the Fairview Sunday school of Newark.

## KELLY.

Frederick S. Kelly settled in Newark Township, this county, in 1855, coming to this state from Wood County, Ohio, where he was born May 16, 1832, and where his father, John A. Kelly, was one of the first settlers. Our subject took a prominent part in many of the early enterprises and incidents of his township and county; a sturdy, energetic, aggressive citizen, widely known and valued for his independence, and for his positive opinions and convictions on all current subjects; also for his readiness to defend his views however-much they might conflict with prevailing and dominant customs, practices or beliefs. The same characteristics made him some enemies, as a matter of course. He served in the Civil War as a member of Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry, a company composed of patriots of Gratiot County and commanded by Capt. Lafayette Church.

In 1881 Mr. Kelly removed from his Newark farm to a farm one mile north of Ithaca. He passed away March 2, 1898.

Mr. Kelly was elected highway commissioner at the first election in Newark—April, 1856—and treasurer in 1858, '59 and '60. At his death he left a second wife and their daughter, Fannie; also a son, John, since deceased, and a daughter, Ella, children of a first wife.

## NALDRETT.

George S. Naldrett, a pioneer of Gratiot County, residing on section 31, Newark Township, was born in England, October 1, 1834. His parents, Clement and Hannah (Hiscock) Naldrett, were also natives of England. The family came to America in 1849, settling first in Livingston County, Mich., where they remained until 1853, when they removed to Gratiot, locating in the Township of Newark. After about 23 years' residence in Gratiot, the parents moved to Charlotte, Eaton County, where they resided during the remainder of their lives.



GEORGE S. NALDRETT.

George S. Naldrett was one of six children born to Clement and Hannah Naldrett. The others were William James, Eliza, Hugh, Allen and Mary.

Mr. Naldrett, our subject, remained at the paternal home till 21 years of age when he purchased 80 acres of wild land on section 31, Newark. Here he has lived to the present time; and it can be said truly that he has enjoyed all of the pleasures to be extracted from life in a new country, as well as the advantages coming along in later life after the wilderness had been transformed into blossoming and fruitful fields. Also, just as truly, it can be said that he had his full share of the trials and hardships incident to life as a pioneer, whether he enjoyed them or not. His farm, at one time, consisted of 170 acres, nearly all under a fine state of cultivation, and with a fine brick house which he erected in 1881. His residence grounds are noted throughout a large scope of country for their great and beautiful display of shrubbery, mainly of the different varieties of evergreens. These have been set out in artistic arrangement, and trimmed and trained to all manner of beautiful and fanciful forms. It is well worth going miles to see, and "Uncle George" always extends a cordial welcome to his many visitors.



MRS. G. S. NALDRETT.

Mr. Naldrett was united in marriage in Gratiot County, January 15, 1857, to Caroline Jones, born in Seneca County, Ohio, July 18, 1839, youngest daughter of Simon and Lydia (Kirby) Jones, natives of Vermont and Massachusetts, respectively, who settled in Fulton Township, this county, in 1856, where they resided during the remainder of their lives.

To George S. and Caroline Naldrett were born five children—Charles S., born February 18, 1858; Ida M., April 20, 1862; Clement S. January 7, 1866; Laura J., December 9, 1870; Lydia J., December 12, 1875. Charles S. married Rhoda Katharine Levering. They live in Ithaca and have one son, George L. Ida M. married Thomas Creaser. They live in Middle-

ton and have three children—Bert, Charlie and Georgia. Clement S. married (first) Carrie Shineline. He married (second) Lottie Gunther. He died at his home in Alma, December 7, 1910, aged 45 years. Laura J. Naldrett married Charles Cutter. A son—Glenn Bradford—was born to them, and the mother, Laura J., died September 10, 1883. Lydia J. Naldrett is unmarried and is her father's housekeeper on the old homestead.



GEORGE S. NALDRETT'S RESIDENCE.

Mrs. Caroline Naldrett, the wife and mother, died March 15, 1907. She had four brothers and one sister, children of Simon and Lydia Jones. They were Roswell, Joshua, Hannah, Isaac and Thomas Jones, well-known residents of Fulton.

## MARTIN.

Hamilton L. Martin is the owner of a fine farm of 80 acres located on section 34 of Newark Township. It is the old homestead of his parents, purchased by them 36 years ago, and occupied by them until their deaths. It is one of the good farms of the good township of Newark. Hamilton L. Martin was born in Prince Edwards County, Canada, March 1, 1873, son of George Martin and Susan (Wellbanks) Martin, both born in the same county, the former September 16, 1826, the latter September 21, 1830. They removed to Michigan in 1877 settling, as already stated, on section 34, Newark, Gratiot County.

Children came to the union of George and Susan (Wellbanks) Martin in the following order: Rosabelle, Ella, John W., Edgar W., Webster F., Ettie C. and Hamilton L.

Rosabelle married George Minaker and resides in Newark. Ella married Samuel McCartney of Canada, and is now deceased. John W. married Alma Otto; live now in Middleton. Edgar W. married Adelle Sequard, who is now deceased. He lives in Fulton Township. Webster F. married Laura Fleming, and Middleton is their home. Ettie C. married Oliver N. Martin; their residence Newark Township.

George Martin, the father, died August 13, 1906. The mother, Susan Martin, died March 26, 1911.

Hamilton L. Martin was married to Nora A. Lepley of Newark, January 3, 1894. She was born April 21, 1875, in Newark, daughter of James C. and Delilah (Munson) Lepley, the former born in Ohio, October 11, 1849, the latter in the same state January 2, 1854. They came to Newark in the early '60s and still reside in that township. Erastus and Caroline Munson were the parents of Mrs. Delilah Lepley.

Mrs. Martin is one of a family of eight children: Melvin R., Nora A., Austin (deceased), Zoeth (deceased), Bertha, Clara, Gladys, Rex.

Melvin R. married Edith Minaker and resides in Newark. Bertha married Clare Chapman; their residence Lansing. Clara married Charles Wininger; live in Fulton. Gladys married Lewis Stanton; residence, Newark. Rex lives with his parents.

To the union of Hamilton L. and Nora A. Martin, children has appeared as follows: Nina F., February 27, 1894; Lloyd C., August 30, 1896; Mildred A., September 19, 1898; Mahre D., February 15, 1901; Beatrice I., July 29, 1905; Maynard H., July 20, 1907; A. Lynn, August 17, 1910. Nina F. was married to Guy Down of Newark, February 6, 1913.

Mr. Martin has served his township faithfully and acceptably as clerk two terms, and his school district as director six years. He belong to the M. W. A.

## FELL.

Henry J. Fell, one of the best-known farmers of Newark Township, residing on section 26, was born in Byron, Germany, July 29, 1841. He is the son of Henry J. Fell, Sr., and Mary Magdalene (Flickinger) Fell, both now deceased. When six years of age he came to America with his parents, settling in Seneca County, Ohio. Here he spent his youthful years in the usual manner of farmers' sons—assisting in the farming operations and securing a common school education. A few years were spent as clerk in a store.



HENRY J. FELL.

Mr. Fell spent three years in the military service of his country in the Civil War, a member of Company B, 55th Ohio Vol. Infantry.

July 27, 1865, Mr. Fell was married to Miss Elizabeth T. Maurer, and in the fall of the next year—1866—he removed to Gratiot County. He settled on the farm where he has since resided, February 13, 1867. From the union of Henry J. and Elizabeth T. (Maurer) Fell, seven children are now living. The sons are William S., married to Ida J. Munson, of Newark, and residing on their farm in that Township; Egbert E., a graduate of Alma College, now superintendent of schools at Holland, Mich., married to Elizabeth I. Hoyt, of Remus, Mich.; Alston A., married to Elsie Wellhuson ,and is a farmer of Newark Township; Howard R. married Catharine I. Ingram ,and resides on the home farm. The daughters are Mary E., wife of Archie Shaw, residing on their farm in Washington township; Emily J., wife of Clarence Cornell, now residing at Ithaca; Ruby M., married to Orin Lehner, and residing in Ithaca.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fell, the wife and mother, died April 7, 1892, leaving Mr. Fell with the care of three small children, the oldest eleven and the youngest four years old.

November 1, 1893, Mr. Fell was married to Mrs. Phoebe E. Shaw, of Vassar, Mich. She was the widow of Amos Shaw, and the mother of two children—George A. Shaw, of near Vassar, and Carrie, who has been several years deceased.

Mr. Fell has always taken an active interest in local affairs, as well as in matters of more general importance. Recognizing and approving his qualities as a citizen, his townsmen have at different times called him to positions of trust and responsibility. He served three years as highway commissioner, and is now serving his fourth term as justice of the peace. He has also held a notary public's commission for many years. He has been a consistent member of the United Brethren Church for a period of over forty-five years. Mrs. Fell is also a member of the United Brethren Church.

## MARVIN.

Charles Wakeman Marvin, M. D., was born April 15, 1824, in Sharon Township, Richland County, Ohio, within the present limits of the City of Shelby. He was the second son of Stephen and Sarah B. (Sherwood) Marvin. The father, Stephen Marvin, removed from Norwalk, Conn., in 1818, where he was born January 8, 1797. Five successive generations of Marvins were born and lived in Norwalk. Dr. Marvin was of the seventh generation from Matthew Marvin who was born in England in 1600. Matthew sailed from London for America in the "Increase" about the middle of April, 1635, and arrived in New England early in June following. Where he spent the first few months after his arrival is not known, but his name is on the monument in honor of the first settlers of Hartford, the first of whom arrived there about November, 1635, and Matthew was one of "the twelve very earliest emigrants whose names are known." In 1650 he went to Norwalk where he was one of the original settlers. The English ancestry is traced back to Roger Mervyn who lived in the County of Suffolk, and was born about 1430. Dr. Marvin was of the thirteenth generation from Roger Mervyn.



DR. CHARLES W. MARVIN.

As a boy, Dr. Marvin spent his time attending school and helping his father on the farm and in the tannery, his father being a tanner and currier by trade. The winter of 1845-6 he taught school. In 1847 he began studying medicine and in 1851 graduated from the Western Reserve Medical College at Cleveland. He practiced medicine in Johnsville, Morrow County, Ohio, two years, and then moved to Freeport (Prairie Depot) Wood County. In the fall of 1859 he moved to Perrysburg. The following spring he came to Gratiot County and resided with his brother-in-law, Russell Burgess, in Arcada Township until fall when he moved to Ithaca. Here he

resided until the spring of 1886, when he removed to his farm of 120 acres, one and one-half miles from Ithaca, on section 2, Newark Township, where he died April 27, 1902.

In June, 1864, Dr. Marvin was commissioned assistant surgeon of the 26th Mich. Vol. Infantry, and was in that service until the close of the war, when he was mustered out with his regiment at Jackson, Mich., June 4, 1865. During most of his residence in Ithaca he was a member of the school board, and was director when the Union School building was erected in 1883, and was chiefly instrumental in locating the site.

Dr. Marvin was married in Freeport, Ohio, December 17, 1857, to Martha Jane, daughter of John and Sarah Loyd (Brenholtz) Brooke. The father was born in Pennsylvania, July 8, 1798; died in Freeport, Ohio, January 26, 1856. The mother was born in Pennsylvania, February 26, 1799; died in Ithaca, February 5, 1866. The daughter, Mrs. Marvin, was born in Hughesville, Lycoming County, Penn., September 27, 1827, and with her parents moved to Wayne County, Ohio, September, 1829. Although but two years of age at that time, she had quite a distinct recollection of some of the incidents of the journey, to the time of her death. Her death occurred at the farm, September 14, 1909.

Dr. and Mrs. Marvin were among the original members of the Congregational Church organized in Ithaca, June 7, 1866, and continued their membership with this church as long as the organization was kept up. The Doctor was church clerk most of the time. Four children were born to them, the oldest in Freeport, Ohio, the others in Ithaca. Louis John was born May 29, 1859. He received his education in the public schools of Ithaca previous to the establishment of the high school. He taught in various districts in Gratiot, also in Frankenmuth Township, Saginaw County, in a district composed of German settlers, this being their first English school. He was deputy county clerk eight years, a member of the county board of canvassers three years, and clerk of Newark Township, two years. Always a Republican. Since the death of his father he has continued to reside on the farm, engaged in general farming.

Stephen Seymour Marvin was born November 7, 1861, and died November 1, 1867.

Sarah Ellen Marvin was born October 23, 1866. She attended the public schools of Ithaca, and graduated from the high school with the first class in 1887. In 1890 she graduated from the Central Michigan Normal at Mt. Pleasant. She taught several years in Muskegon, Ithaca, Cassopolis, Grayling, Farwell and Breckenridge. In 1901 she began teaching in Maywood, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, and continued there for the next nine years, since which time she has been on the farm with her brothers.

Bur Marvin was born July 7, 1871. He attended the Ithaca schools and graduated from the high school in 1891. He spent two years at Alma College, and after taking a thorough business course in Saginaw, he took a position with the Pere Marquette Railroad Company in Saginaw. In 1906 he was transferred to Grand Rapids. He is now with his brother and sister on the farm in Newark. They are among the steady-going, first-class citizens of the county.

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## GIBBS.

James Gibbs is one of the prosperous and influential citizens of Newark, residing upon and cultivating his farm located on sections 11 and 12, the same farm settled upon by his parents away back in 1857, when it really

was no farm at all, but just woods. James is the son of the late Knowler Gibbs, well-remembered by many as one of the hardy and honorable citizens of Newark. He died at the old homestead July 19, 1901. His wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Dove, survived for several years, residing with and acting as housekeeper for her son James. She died February 26, 1911, aged 84 years.

Knowler Gibbs and Sarah Dove were both natives of Petham, England. The former was born June 11, 1822, the latter March 26, 1826. They were married December 1, 1846. They used to tell of their wedding trip—a twenty-mile trip on foot, and back the next day. On the 10th of June, 1850, with their two children, they started for America. After being on the water sixty-seven days they landed at Quebec, August 16th. From there they went to Sandusky, Ohio, where they became the owners of a home. A great deal of sickness fell to their lot and two little boys were taken from them while they resided there. So they sold the home and removed to Lansing, Mich. In 1857 they came to Gratiot, buying and locating upon eighty acres on sections 11 and 12, Newark, as stated at the beginning of this sketch. While they were cutting the logs and building a cabin they lived with their kind neighbors. The cabin was but a primitive affair and was occupied a long time without even a floor. Then came the long struggle against such adverse conditions as are known only in a new country; not only a lack of means, but a dearth of supplies available even for those who had the means wherewith to buy. Mother Gibbs said she believed they would have starved had it not been for their dog and gun brought along from Lansing. Deer were quite plentiful and occasionally Mr. Gibbs would get one, to help along the bill of fare. Fifteen acres of land were cleared without a team. The first piece of wheat they put in they put in with hoes. Their first Fourth of July morning showed their first garden entirely destroyed by frost. Mr. Gibbs managed to get an ox team after a while after which farming operations went on better. Logging bees were common, the neighbors turning in and helping each other with their logging and clearing. A school house was built and a teacher installed who was paid the munificent sum of a dollar and a half a week and board. And so the settlers gradually worked themselves out of their troubles.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs were the parents of eight children: Elizabeth A., born September 15, 1847, married Bert Johnson, son of the late Amos Johnson, of Pine River Township. After his death she married Philip Dorland. George ,born May 10, 1849, and William, born August 15, 1851, died in infancy. Sarah A., born November 27, 1853, married Clifford Johnson, brother of Bert Johnson. Henry K., was born November 15, 1856. Mary G., born April 12, 1860, died in infancy. James, the subject of this sketch, was born April 11, 1863. Fannie J. was born January 24, 1866; married Edward Jenner.

James Gibbs was united in marriage to Miss Mary Wilson, of Detroit, February 3, 1910. He stands high in the esteem of his townsmen. For eight consecutive years they have elected him to the highest office in the township—that of supervisor. He has served as chairman of the board of supervisors. His election as supervisor in a Republican township, he being a Democrat, is good proof of his popularity in his township. In 1910 he was his party's candidate for county treasurer, but shared defeat with the rest of his ticket.

## MOUSER.

The farm home of Daniel J. Mouser, the subject of this brief sketch, lies in the Township of Newark, four miles south and one west of Ithaca. A farm of 200 acres, and, without any great stretch of the imagination, possibly one of the five best farms in the township. This is a guess; but it may be said with positive safety that it is an extremely desirable piece of farm property. A tasty farm house, finely located, together with other correspondingly good buildings, add much to the attractiveness of the farm.

Daniel J. Mouser was born in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., October 7, 1861, son of John W. and Hannah (Landis) Mouser, prominent residents of Newark for many years. The father was born in Virginia, March 31, 1832, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hahen) Mouser. His wife, Hannah (Landis) Mouser, is a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Clemens) Landis, and was born in Pennsylvania, April 13, 1837, the family afterward removing to Ohio. These parents—John W. and Hannah Mouser—were married February 28, 1855, in Ohio, to which state Mr. Mouser had removed with his parents in 1846. In 1857 Mr. and Mrs. John W. Mouser removed to Isabella County, Mich. They were among the first white settlers of the county. After a residence there of about 15 years they removed—in 1872—to Gratiot County, settling on section 13 Newark. Mr. Mouser died July 1, 1904. Mrs. Mouser still survives, a resident on the old homestead.

The record of births of the children of John W. Mouser and wife is as follows: James L., August 31, 1856; Sarah A., July 11, 1859; Daniel J., October 7, 1861; Mary L., May 7, 1863; Lincoln J., May 11, 1866; George G., January 28, 1869.

Daniel J. Mouser, our principal subject, was united in marriage July 12, 1885, in Fulton Township, to Miss Viola Rice, daughter of Freeman H. and Mary E. (Williams) Rice, of Fulton, who settled in that township in 1863, coming from the state of Ohio. Mr. Rice was born in New York State, February 19, 1830, removing to Ohio, later, with his parents. Mrs. Mary E. (Williams) Rice was born in Ohio, August 28, 1836. She was first married to Chester Rice. One child—Arminta—was born to this union, August 15, 1857. After the death of Chester Rice, Mrs. Mary E. Rice married Freeman H. Rice. Children born to this union were—Viola Rice, born September 5, 1864; Herbert F. Rice, born April 17, 1870.

Herbert F. Rice married Mary F. Killam. Their children are—Lucile and Herbert. Herbert F., the father, died September 30, 1902, in New Mexico. Mrs. Mary F. Rice now resides in Howell, Mich.

Arminta Rice, daughter of Mary E. Rice, by the first husband—Chester Rice— is married to J. W. Grace, of Fulton Township. They have had two children born to them—the first died in infancy; the second, Sibyl M., born February 23, 1886, is married to Clyde Doan. They reside in Fulton and have a son, Maurice A., born August 5, 1907.

Freeman H. Rice, father of Mrs. Daniel J. Mouser, died at his home in Fulton, March 30, 1894. The wife and mother is still living on the old homestead.

Daniel J. Mouser and his wife, Viola, have two living children, one other dying in infancy. The living are—Harold F., born September 27, 1893; Mildred L., born May 20, 1896. Both are at home, with their parents. Harold is a graduate of Ithaca High School, class of 1913; Mildred will take her diploma from the class of 1914, Ithaca High School.

**Jacob L. Beechler** was present at the first election in Newark Township —April, 1850—and was elected supervisor. He was an all-round good man, one of the farmer-preachers who served such a varied and useful purpose

in Gratiot's primitive days; connected with the United Brethren Church. He died at his home in Newark, September 24, 1906, aged 81 years. Mrs. Beechler, his wife, died May 30, 1899.

**Benjamin Crawford,** who was the first supervisor of North Star was later prominent in a business and official way in Newark. He served as justice of the peace several terms, and in 1861 was elected supervisor. He ran for prosecuting attorney at the first county election against Marcus Serviss and Frank Miller, the latter being elected. In 1864 and '68 he was the Democratic candidate for judge of probate. He was one of the best-known of the early settlers. His death occurred September 16, 1870, at the age of 56 years.

**Rev. Dillis D. Hamilton** settled in Gratiot in 1868, in Newark Township, near Pompeii. He was a farmer-preacher, a minister in the Presbyterian Church; a man who had the respect and confidence of his townsmen. He was elected county superintendent of schools in a quadrangular contest in April, 1871, and served one term. His death occurred July 22, 1876, at the age of 53 years. His wife passed away December 8, 1874, aged 51.

Some of the prominent citizens of Newark, many of whom were early on the scene, are given in the following list: Abraham M. Butterfield came in the early 50s, died October 5, 1876, aged 84. John Baker was an early settler; a wide-awake and aggressive citizen; died December 6, 1909, aged 90; was the Democratic candidate for sheriff in 1864. Stephen Cunningham, pioneer of the early 50s, died July 6, 1905, aged 83. Andrew J. Allen, third supervisor, serving three terms. Leman A. Johnson, came in 1859 and was a leading citizen, serving eight successive years as supervisor, commencing in 1862; died September 15, 1880, at the home of his son, Daniel C. Johnson, in Ithaca, aged 70. John G. Kinney was one of the sturdy and reliable pioneers, he and his sons taking a leading part in making Newark history. He died January 24, 1905. Philip Fritz came to Newark in 1868, and with his sons did his share to advance the well-being of the township. Philip Fritz died September 17, 1909, aged 87. His father, Jacob Fritz, died in Newark in 1882. John Parker and his six sons did valuable service as pioneers. The father died March 24, 1894 at an advanced age. Joseph Greer settled on section 23 in 1854, was a civil war veteran; died September 30, 1893, aged 67. Oscar C. Bates, an old soldier and an 1866 pioneer, died January 25, 1900. Zachariah Hoag came in 1866, was keeper of the county farm several years; died September 3, 1904, aged 86. William Kinsel came in 1855; was a soldier in the 26th Mich. Infantry and died in the service. Abial S. Loomis, supervisor of Newark in 1885 and treasurer in 1883 and '84, was one of the first settlers; now residing in Ithaca. Erastus R. Munson, father of Lewis, Frank, Harvey and Orange, died October 30, 1891, aged 65. Augustus A. Munson died November 17, 1902, aged 75. Martin V. Munson fell a victim of a rebel bullet in the Civil War. John F. Munson is now a resident of Ithaca, and full of years. Frank Munson, of the succeeding generation, was several years treasurer and supervisor, county treasurer in 1890. Inman N. Cowdrey, supervisor, and county clerk in 1890. (See sketch.) John W. Mouser, settled on section 13 in 1872; was Civil War veteran; died July 1, 1904, aged 72. Samuel Lepley and sons John, William and James—came in 1855; died September 7, 1887, aged 70. Sylvester Wheeler came in 1854; died April 11, 1899, aged 83, Mrs. Wheeler preceding him by about a year. Charles A. Smith, clerk ten years; Frank A. Johnson; John L. Richard; Timothy Pressley; George L. Waggoner; Culwell Martin; John H. Shaffer; David F. Hawkins; Luther Wood; Wesley Greenley; Luther C. Smith; Isaac L. Alten-

burg; Harrison Wood; Edward H. Stowe; William Wideman; Ezra Orcutt; B. F. Shepard; Harlow P. Sage; Edward Drayer; Albert D. Perkins; Henry J. Fell, (see sketch); Ben Hibner; George Martin; John Mulholland; George Crooks; Ralph Woods; Jacob Eyer; William Marquette; James M. Quick; S. M. Sykes; H. J. Bentley; Byron Dingman; Frank Eicher.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Alfred, Margaret,** April 23, 1903, aged 100 years.
**Brown, Jas. S.,** Oct. 2, 1870, aged 87.
**Bennett, Wm. M.,** Dec. 18, 1880, aged 84.
**Butterfield, Frank,** March 2, 1890, aged 45.
**Butterfield, Homer P.,** Aug. 29, 1879, aged 29.
**Bates, Mrs. Sylvia A.,** widow of Oscar C. Bates, Dec. 28, 1909, aged 63.
**Barrus, Robert T.,** Aug. 20, 1903, aged 81. He settled in Newark in 1870.
**Bartshe, Hiram,** at Ann Arbor, about January 15, 1911, aged 60. For many years an esteemed resident of Newark.
**Brown, Mrs. Nancy,** wife of Wm. Brown and daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Eicher, Oct. 25, 1911, aged 50; a native born citizen of Newark.
**Boyer, Mrs. Mary H.,** widow of the late Frederick Boyer, whose violent and lamented death occurred in 1903. She died March 5, 1913. They were pioneers of 1860, and much respected.
**Bartshe, Mrs. Mary (Cowdrey),** at her residence in Ithaca, May 17, 1913, widow of the late Hiram Bartshe, who died January 15, 1911.
**Cunningham, Thos.,** March 8, 1888, aged 72. A pioneer from '55.
**Coleman, Samuel,** June 20, 1879, aged 84.
**Corey, Aaron,** Aug. 16, 1879, aged 86.
**Cross, Miranda,** March 15, 1881, aged 19.
**Cross, Lucy,** March 25, 1881, aged 15.
**Cross, Nora,** April 8, 1881, aged 11. These three were daughters of George and Alice Cross.
**Cutter, Mrs. Martha,** January 25, 1882, aged 55; wife of Samuel Cutter and daughter of Daniel Crawford, well-known pioneer.
**Cummings, Peter,** April 8, 1898, aged 74.
**Crooks, Mrs. Geo.,** March 19, 1908, aged 69. They settled in Newark in 1869.
**Chapman, Wm.,** May 2, 1911, aged 74.
**Croaks, George,** January 13, 1912, aged 76. Settled in Newark in 1869, and stood well in the community.
**Cunningham, John,** Feb. 2, 1911, aged 88.
**Dingman, Christopher,** Sept. 25, 1871, aged 73.
**Diller, Jacob,** January 10, 1882, aged 75.
**Deline, Peter,** at the home of his son, Cornelius A., April 15, 1885, aged 80. Settled in Newark in 1862.
**Davis, Hiram,** at the home of his nephew, Wm. Davis, April 1, 1904, aged 76.
**Down, Stephen,** March 24, 1894, aged 68.
**Dunnevant, Dr. Peter,** at the home of his son, Harry, in Newark, Dec. 29, 1910, aged 73. A well-known osteopath, or "rub-doctor".
**Dunnevant, Harry,** July 13, 1911, at an Ann Arbor hospital, aged 41.
**Daniels, Allen,** May 20, 1912, aged 71. A sturdy pioneer, 45 years a resident of the county.
**Du Bois, Glenn M.,** at his home in Charlevoix, Mich., June 8, 1913, aged 40 years. A resident of Newark until 1907, well-known, particularly in Grange circles, and highly esteemed. In Charlevoix he was editor of the Courier.

**Eyer, Mrs. Jacob,** Aug. 23, 1889, aged 55. They settled in the township in 1854, among the first. Mrs. Eyer left a husband and ten children.

**Eicher, Joseph,** July 3, 1899, aged 73. A pioneer and a reliable citizen.

**Eicher, Mrs. Catharine,** widow of Joseph Eicher, February 9, 1909, aged 73.

**Eicher, John,** Feb. 3, 1913, aged 85.

**Fell, Mrs. Elizabeth T.,** wife of Henry J. Fell, April 7, 1892.

**Fuller, Mrs. Harriet,** wife of Lovell J. Fuller, Nov. 20, 1892, aged 59.

**Fuller, Lovell J.,** at the home of his son, Varo C., April 24, 1911, aged 84. An upright citizen who settled in Newark in 1875.

**Foster, Mrs. Mary J.,** wife of James Foster, July 21, 1891.

**Foster, James,** Sept. 25, 1899, aged 73. He settled here in 1861.

**Frazier, Samuel,** a Civil War soldier, and many years a resident of Gratiot, February 23, 1912, aged 85 years.

**Greer, John,** February 6, 1873, aged 51.

**Greer, Mrs. Lucy,** wife of James Greer and daughter of Augustus Munson, February 13, 1882, aged 18.

**Gabrion, Mrs. Elizabeth,** Nov. 10, 1888, aged 48.

**Greer, Joseph,** Sept. 30, 1893, aged 67. He settled on section 23 in 1854; a soldier in the Civil War; four times treasurer of Newark; an energetic citizen.

**Gibbs, Knowler,** July 19, 1901, aged 79. A reliable pioneer.

**Gibbs, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of Knowler Gibbs, February 26, 1911, aged 84; at the home of her son, James Gibbs, supervisor of Newark. They settled in Newark in 1857.

**Gladstone, John,** March 7, 1906, aged about 75. A citizen held in the highest respect. Died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. R. J. Knowlton.

**Gladstone, Mrs. Ellen,** widow of John Gladstone, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. R. J. Knowlton, February, 1908, aged 74.

**Greer, Mrs. Lydia,** March 28, 1906, aged 73; widow of Joseph Greer.

**Heath, Michael,** March 26, 1883, aged 52.

**Huffman, Adam,** June 19, 1884, aged 80.

**Humphrey, Thomas,** at the residence of his son-in-law, John Newman, March 14, 1885, aged 79.

**Hull, Sanford,** March 3, 1890, aged 53. Settled in North Star in 1857. He served as a soldier during nearly the entire Civil War.

**Husted, Thomas B.,** July 19, 1891, aged 85; a pioneer.

**Hutchinson, A.,** at his home near Ithaca, June 2, 1895, aged 79.

**Howland, Dr. C. W.,** April 15, 1906, aged 76. (See sketch.)

**Howland, Mrs. Mary (Kellogg),** widow of Dr. C. W. Howland, January 15, 1912, aged 69 years. (See sketch.)

**Howland, Mrs. Henrietta M.,** wife of Dewitt C. Howland, June 29, 1906, aged 65. An esteemed pioneer.

**Harper, Elias J. N.,** Sept. 24, 1905. The well-known peripatetic, eccentric shoemaker.

**Iutzi, Daniel,** Sept. 4, 1901, aged 67. A respected pioneer.

**Johnson, Mrs. Leman A.,** Oct. 13, 1879, aged 66. Mr. Johnson was many years supervisor.

**Jessup, Wm. Theodore,** July 4, 1889, aged 16; son of John H. Jessup.

**Jessup, Mrs. Margaret R.,** wife of John H. Jessup, February 6, 1909, aged 68. Esteemed pioneers of Newark.

**Johnson, Mrs. Helen,** wife of Benj. Johnson, Sept. 26, 1910.

**Kinsel, Mrs. Theda,** wife of Henry Kinsel and daughter of Rev. Jacob L. Beechler, January 30, 1886, aged 39 years. An early teacher in Gratiot, with a host of friends.

**Kinsel, Mrs. Catharine,** wife of Wm. Kinsel, and mother of Henry, Jefferson and Joseph. They were pioneers of 1855 in Newark.

**Kelly, John,** in North Dakota, January, 1909, aged 50. Son of the late Fred S. Kelly, pioneer of Newark. John Kelly was a Spanish-American soldier and was a member of the allied forces at the Boxer rebellion, China. Buried in Beechler cemetery.

**Kinney, Mrs. Luella (Strouse),** at her home in Pompeii, March 27, 1913, aged 60 years; wife of Joseph O. Kinney. They were among the earliest settlers of Newark Township, and among the most esteemed citizens.

**Lewis, Melinda,** wife of Thomas Lewis, Dec. 26, 1881.

**Lake, Juliet,** July 22, 1887, aged 87.

**Lawrence, Alonzo,** Nov. 26, 1888, aged 69.

**Lepley, John W.,** May 27, 1906, aged 62.

**Lepley, Caroline,** June 21, 1903, aged 80.

**Lemley, Mrs.,** wife of Jacob Lemley, May 7, 1910, aged 65. Valued residents of Newark since 1866.

**Lewis, Thomas,** Aug. 26, 1899, at an advanced age. A pioneer.

**Marvin, Dr. Chas. W.,** April 27, 1902, at the age of 77 years. (See sketch.)

**Munson, Mrs. Caroline,** June 6, 1900, aged 71; widow of Erastus R. Munson, at the home of her son-in-law, James C. Lepley.

**Marquette, Wm.,** March 18, 1892, aged 84. A pioneer of Gratiot.

**Martin, Samuel L.,** Nov. 4, 1894, aged about 60. A pioneer.

**Munson, Lewis K.,** March 9, 1903, aged 50 years.

**Martin, Geo.,** Aug. 13, 1906. A pioneer.

**Marvin, Mrs. Martha J.,** widow of Dr. C. W. Marvin, Sept. 14, 1909, aged nearly 82. (See sketch.)

**Mikesell, John,** May 11, 1904, aged 71.

**Mikesell, Wm.,** at his home in Pompeii, February 19, 1910, aged 79.

**Maurer, Alston H.,** June 2, 1910, aged 60. Settled in Newark in 1870 and stood well in his community; was supervisor in 1901 and '02.

**Martin, Mrs. Susan,** widow of George Martin, March 26, 1911, aged 80 years. They with their family were justly ranked among the best of Newark's citizens.

**Mulholland, Mrs. Sarah,** wife of John W. Mulholland, at the home of her son, Arthur, in Hastings, Mich., February 1, 1912, aged 70 years. They came to Newark in 1868, and are reckoned among the best citizens.

**Munson, Harvey R.,** at his home in Ithaca, April 9, 1913, aged 53 years. He came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erastus R. Munson, in 1866. He stood well in his township, holding with credit the offices of supervisor and clerk, and served four years as county treasurer, being first elected in 1906. All who knew him could be reckoned as a friend.

**Naldrett, Clement,** May 4, 1876, aged 70 years. One of the first settlers, father of Geo. S. Naldrett.

**Naldrett, Mrs. Caroline,** esteemed wife of Geo. S. Naldrett, March 15, 1907, aged 67. (See sketch.)

**Orcutt, Mrs. Frank,** Oct. 25, 1885; daughter of John S. Wright of Fulton.

**Orcutt, Ezra,** Aug. 8, 1896, at the age of 78 years. A valued pioneer.

**Parker, Martin R.,** February 26, 1872, aged 39; son of John Parker, a pioneer.

**Parker, Mrs. John,** at the home of her son, Levi, Dec. 1, 1896, aged 84.

**Parker, E. P.,** May 3, 1906, aged nearly 56; son of John Parker.

**Peters, Mrs. Hannah,** wife of John Peters, April 8, 1911, aged 80 years. A resident about 30 years.

**Parks, Mrs. Frank,** July 30, 1911, aged 47.

**Parris, Thomas,** Oct. 16, 1911, aged 80. Came to Gratiot in 1860; served three years in the Union army. An upright citizen.

**Peters, John,** at the home of his son, John R., Newark, Dec. 3, 1912, aged 87 years. His wife died, April, 1911. They were residents here 30 years.

**Parker, Mrs. Marion (Austin),** wife of Geo. M. Parker, at her home in Mt. Pleasant, March 21, 1913, aged 62 years. They were pioneers of Newark Township and highly esteemed.

**Quick, James M.,** Aug. 10, 1896, aged 63. A popular citizen who settled in Newark in 1868.

**Russell, Mrs.,** wife of Bingley Russell, at that time postmaster at Newark postoffice; Dec. 2, 1882.

**Reed, Robert,** June 29, 1903, aged 70. A pioneer of 1854, an old soldier, and was said to have cut the first tree in clearing where Ithaca now stands.

**Swift, Mrs. Sally,** March 15, 1869, aged 80.

**Strouse, David,** Aug. 17, 1876, aged 85. Father of Matthias, and the late Frederick, William and Aaron Strouse.

**Shaffer, John H.,** May 28, 1885, at the age of 60 years. An 1854 pioneer.

**Smith, Mrs. Emma C.,** widow of Luther C. Smith, July 2, 1885, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Marvin, Utica, Mich.

**Smith, Henry,** March 1, 1904, aged 78. A pioneer.

**Smith, Mrs. Eva Estella,** July 1, 1903, aged 40 years. Wife of Charles A. Smith, and daughter of Timothy Pressley.

**Strouse, Edmund,** January 29, 1892, aged 63.

**Strouse, Wm.,** January 22, 1902, at the age of 77 years.

**Tracey, Henry,** March 4, 1870, aged 67.

**Taylor, Benson,** Sept. 10, 1873, aged 67. Father of the girl murdered by Thaddeus Green in the spring of '61 when he also murdered his own daughter and then committed suicide.

**Taylor, Mrs. Benson,** July 3, 1886.

**Thum, Maturean B.,** Sept. 3, 1892, aged 67.

**Vaughn, Mrs. Hannah,** at the home of her son, John, February 9, 1890, aged nearly 90. She came to the county in 1867.

**Wideman, Mrs. Barbara,** January 20, 1879, aged 86. Wife of Wm. Wideman and mother of Mrs. Philip Fritz and of Mrs. A. J. Hatfield, near St. Louis.

**Wasson, Hannah R.,** Nov. 24, 1881, aged 52; wife of Thomas L. Wasson.

**Wasson, Thomas L.,** Dec. 9, 1889, aged 71; father of Leslie, Elmer and Viola—Mrs. E. W. Lyon.

**Wonderly, Jacob,** at his home in Oregon, Oct. 16, 1899, aged 60 years. A pioneer of Newark, removing to Oregon in the early '90s.

**Wood, Mrs. James,** February 18, 1897, aged 88. Among the first and foremost settlers in the township.

**Walker, John M.,** Oct. 19, 1889, aged 58.

**Wideman, Wm., in St. Johns,** February 10, 1912, aged 74. A pioneer of the early '60s, but removed to Clinton County in 1882, after the death of his wife.

**Wheeler, Mrs. Daisy,** wife of George Wheeler, March 26, 1912.

**Wheeler, Mrs. Alfred,** March 27, 1912. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Drayer of Ithaca.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1874, Aug. 29—The residence of Stephen Cunningham was burned with all its contents; and no insurance.

1883, Aug. 26—The barn of Jas. A. Greer was consumed by fire, with a lot of property therein contained. Loss, $1,000; and no insurance.

1892, July 15—The fine brick house of Morgan Snyder was burned this evening, entailing a loss of $2,000; insured for $1,500.

1895, Jan. 23—The residence of Samuel Eicher was burned, with all its contents.

1896, Sept. 28—W. H. Cox, two miles southwest of Ithaca, lost his house by fire. Insurance, $1,100.

1897, March 6—The farm house of John W. Martin, in the early morning together with most of the household goods. Small insurance.

1897, April 23—The residence of Lovell J. Fuller, in Newark, about noon. Part of the household goods were saved.

1899, April 14—Harlow P. Sage lost house, barns, sheds, pig pen, contents, everything combustible; and not a cent of insurance. Loss probably $3,000.

1901, June 1—House of Harry Dunnevant, owned by Adney Dobson of Arcada, burned with the contents. Some insurance.

1902, Feb. 11—Will Derby suffered the loss of his home and household goods. Loss, $1,200; insured.

1903, July 9—A. D. Perkins lost his house and a lot of his goods contained therein, with small insurance.

1904, Sept. 11—Lightning struck the barn of Jack Dicken and caused its destruction by fire, with hay, grain, etc. Insured.

1904, Oct. 4—The barn of Jacob Litwiler was struck twice by lightning. The last crack fired it, and two horses, three hogs, 32 tons hay, 400 bushels oats and a lot of tools went with it. No insurance.

1904, Oct. 4—Barn on the Frank Boyer farm was struck by lightning and burned, with hay and farming tools, part of which belonged to Jacob Eicher. Insurance on the barn.

1905, Jan. 22—Fire destroyed the residence of Geo. E. Wheeler, in the morning, with the contents. Insured.

1905, Oct. 15—Lightning struck the big new barn at the county farm, one and a half miles south of Ithaca, Sunday morning, Oct. 15, and it was reduced to ashes, together with a large amount of produce and tools, and two calves. The loss, above insurance was about $600. Keeper W. A. Seamon 'phoned Ithaca for help, and two wagon-loads of fire-fighters went over and aided with hard work and much advice.

1907, June 3—House of Jeff. Kinsel was burned in the afternoon; a brick house. Insurance covered part of the loss.

1909, April 26—The residence of Nathan Knight was struck by lightning and destroyed by the fire which resulted, together with a large share of the contents. Insured for about half the loss.

1910, June 20—The house of Walter Mills was burned in the afternoon with the household goods; and no insurance.

1912, April 17—The residence of Henry Gibbs was burned with a portion of the contents.

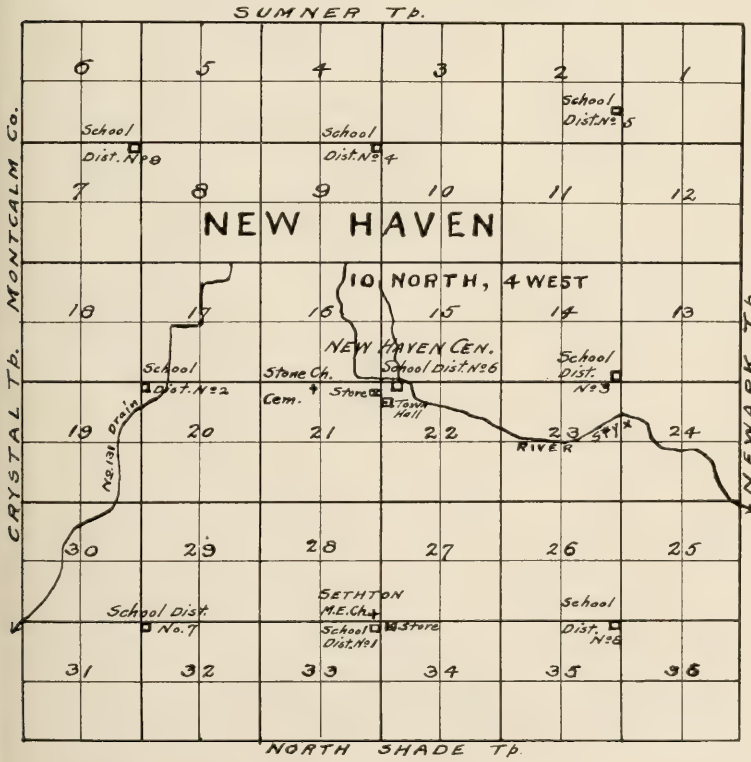
1913, Jan. 29—Fire destroyed the house of John Strouse, with nearly all of the household goods, at about 7 o'clock p. m. Loss about covered by insurance.

1913, Sept. 30—Amos Leslie, Newark, lost his barn by fire, resulting from a stroke of lightning. Valuable contents were burned also.

## NEW HAVEN TOWNSHIP.

This township, officially designated as town 10 north, range 4 west, borders on Montcalm County. On the west and north it has some rather rough and broken territory, some of it being rather low and swampy. This however has been drained and in late years has increased greatly in value. Quite a large area of that part of the township is being utilized in the cultivation of peppermint, which has proven a very successful industry. The value of the pepermint oil output runs up into the thousands of dollars annually. The best lands for general farming are found in the eastern and southern sections of the township, a large portion of which can properly be classed among the best in the county.

Like most of the other townships New Haven began to be sought out by settlers looking for homes, along in 1854, and the population increased with due celerity as the years passed. Some of the earliest settlers were the Crispells, Moses H. White, Henry P. Clark, Joseph H. Bennett, Joseph Wiles. The township is farther removed from market than are some of the others, but no farmer needs to go farther than about ten miles to find a



market on a railroad. Middleton and Carson City to the southward, Riverdale to the northward and Ithaca to the eastward furnish first-class markets for the various sections of the township. Two very good trading points are located within the borders of the township—New Haven Center and Sethton. Good stocks suitable for the country trade are kept at both hamlets.

Much valuable and interesting information concerning this township's local history from first to last is contained in the sections following.

## NEW HAVEN ELECTIONS.

**Nov. 2, 1855:** The first election in New Haven Township was held on this date. The record calls it the "regular township meeting", but as township officers are not "regularly" elected in November, it may be as well to call this a special election; or possibly, an "irregular" election.

The whole number of votes was 13, and they were all cast as follows:

Sup.—Edwin C. Harrington; Clk.—Henry P. Clark; Treas.—Moses H. White; H. C.—Egbert D. Harrington, Joseph Wiles, Philo Finch; J. P.—Joseph Wiles, Joseph H. Bennett, Moses H. White, Daniel Wilcox; Sch. Insp.—Joseph H. Bennett, Joseph Wiles, Jr.; Directors of the Poor—Jonathan Arris, Joseph Wiles; Const.—Timothy R. Winans, Samuel G. Dickinson, Lorenzo Jones, Philo Finch.

At a meeting of the township board held Nov. 10, '55, the justices drew terms as follows: Wilcox, one year; Wiles, two years; White, three years; Bennett, four years.

Dec. 24, 1855, a meeting of the board was held "for the purpose of appointing a supervisor to fill the vacancy of Edwin C. Harrington caused by his removal from office, whereupon Joseph H. Bennett was duly appointed". Signed by "Henry P. Clark and Joseph H. Bennett, township board of New Haven". So says the record, but it is left for everyone to guess why or how Harrington was removed from the office of supervisor. It seems quite probable that instead of having been "removed from office", he had simply removed from the township, thus creating a vacancy. Doubtless Henry and Joseph knew how it was, and thought that was sufficient. At a board meeting held later the record shows the name of Joseph Finckle as a member of the board, but how he came to be a member is not revealed by the records. Henry and Joseph are both dead and probably Finckle is dead, too, and at this late day it is only a matter of curiosity anyway. And really, after a lapse of more than 58 years, it is still possible to find present day records about as poorly kept, in different places that it is not necessary to locate, in this connection.

It may be pertinent to remark here that while in its nebulous state, New Haven, like North Shade, was tributary, in a sense, to Clinton County, and, of course, the business and interests of the two townships were more or less interwoven. So the record shows that on Feb. 8, 1856, a joint meeting of the two township boards settled their mutual accounts. New Haven was found to be entitled to $29.97 library money, and took it all in library books; which would indicate a commendable trait of character and taste in New Haven people even in that early day. It is further stated that New Haven took its share of the highway fund in an order on Clinton County. That's about all that the records reveal of the business or official transactions between the three interested localities.

**April, 1856:** Forty votes were polled at this election. Sup.—Henry P. Clark; Clk.—Jas. G. Sickles; Treas.—Moses H. White; H. C.—Jacob

W. Snyder; J. P.—John A. Crispell; 2 yrs, Edwin C. Harrington; 1 yr, Joseph Finckle; Director of the Poor—Joseph Wiles, Jonathan Arris; Const. —Chas. S. Harmon, S. Y. Dickinson, Jas. B. Lyon, David Wells.

There were eight road districts and they were filled with pathmasters as follows: E. C. Harrington, Thos. B. Husted, Wm. Culy, Jas. B. Lyon, Joseph Wiles, Jr., John A. Crispell, Richard P. Houck, Richard Crispell.

The meeting voted $200 for contingent expenses and $250 for highway purposes. It was also voted to hold the election of 1857 "at the southeast corner of section 16". This location, the exact center of the township, is an attractive section of the township now, but at the early day mentioned, it is easy to imagine that it was a wild and woody portion of Gratiot.

**1857:** Sup.—Joseph H. Bennett; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Moses H. White; H. C.—Joseph Wiles, Jr.; J. P.—Henry P. Clark; vacancy, Calvin B. Holbrook; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Young; D. of P.—Joseph Wiles, Sr., Thos. S. Haynes.

**1858:** Sup.—Henry P. Clark; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Joseph Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—M. H. White; J. P.—Thos. S. Haynes; Sch. Insp.—H. P. Clark; D. of P.—J. Wiles.

A wolf bounty of $4 for each scalp was voted.

Jan. 8, 1859, the board met and appointed John A. Crispell supervisor in place of Henry P. Clark, resigned; also appointed Jo. H. Bennett school inspector vice H. P. Clark, resigned.

**April, 1859:** Thirty-two votes were cast. Sup.—John A. Crispell; Clk. —Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Moses H. White; H. C.—John Pool; J. P.—J. H. Bennett; Sch. Insp.—M. H. White; vacancy, Wm. B. Gearhart; D. of P.—Wm. B. Gearhart.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—John A. Crispell; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Richard Crispell; H. C.—Richard Crispell; J. P.—J. A. Crispell; vacancy, Richard Crispell; vacancy, M. H. White; Sch. Insp.—Addison H. Mack.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Addison H. Mack; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, J.; H. C.—Richard P. Houck; J. P.—S. Y. Dickinson; Sch. Insp. —Wm. J. Pendell.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—A. H. Mack; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—Wm. J. Pendell; J. P.—Emanuel Wiles; Sch. Insp.—A. H. Mack.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Moses H. White; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—Peter Eisenlord; vacancy, J. H. Bennett; J. P.—J. H. Bennett; Sch. Insp.—Daniel Wilcox.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—M. H. White; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—Milo Standish; J. P.—Wm. B. Gearhart; vacancy, Riley Tillsbury; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Van Court 22, A. H. Mack 22; Mack won by lot.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—M. H. White 19, Richard Crispell 19; White winning by lot; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—John Pool; J. P.—David Wolford; vacancy, Jo. Wiles, Jr.; Sch. Insp.—Riley Tillsbury.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—M. H. White; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—S. Y. Dickinson; J. P.—S. Y. Dickinson.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—M. H. White; Clk.—Geo. H. Phillips; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—Alvin E. Shepard; J. P.—Wm. J. Pendell; vacancy, Ora B. Stiles; Sch. Insp.—M. H. White.

**April, 1868:** The records show that there was something of a mix-up in this spring's election. The result of the election as reported and signed by M. H. White and Sam. Y. Dickinson as election inspectors, shows only about 27 votes cast, and a ticket elected headed by M. H. White as super-

visor. A remonstrance follows, however, with a whereas and a resolution setting forth that there were 85 votes really cast, and that 58 had been wrongfully thrown out, "on the pretense that they contained an excess of names", says the remonstrance. This is signed by Philip Burlingame, Ora B. Stiles and A. H. Mack, acting as the "township board". The persons certified by this township board as having been elected seem to have held the fort and acted as the properly elected township officers during the year. They are as follows:

Sup.—Philip Burlingame; Clk.—Addison H. Mack; Treas.—Joseph Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—Wm. A. Read; J. P.—Andrew W. Parsons; vacancy, A. H. Mack; Sch. Insp.—Thos. Culy.

At a meeting of the board held April 20, 1868, Richard P. Houck was appointed highway commissioner to fill vacancy.

Nov. 6, 1868, A. H. Mack tendered his resignation as township clerk and the board appointed Chas. H. Morse to the vacancy.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Philip Burlingame; Clk.—C. H. Morse; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—W. J. Pendell; vacancy, Richard P. Houck; J. P.—Ora B. Stiles; vacancy, Jas. McGinley; Sch. Insp.—Sylvester H. Van Leuven.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Chas. H. Morse; Clk.—Philip Burlingame; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—R. P. Houck; J. P.—Abram West; 3 yrs, Solomon Bruce; 2 yrs, Geo. Wells; Sch. Insp.—Frank Manacka.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—Phil. Burlingame; Treas.—Joseph Wiles; H. C.—Wm. Standish; J. P.—Sylvester H. Van Leuven; vacancy, John T. Packer; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Procunier.

Dec. 14, 1871, the board appointed Wm. S. Everest supervisor in place of C. H. Morse, resigned.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—Jas. W. McGinley; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—Jas. K. Hutchins; J. P.—Emanuel Wiles; Sch. Insp.—Norman H. Wells; Dr. Com.—O. B. Sines.

The sum of $500 was voted for a town hall to be erected near the center of the township, to be 26 by 36; may cost $800 is necessary.

Dec., 1872, W. S. Everest was appointed supervisor vice Morse, elected to the legislature.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Wm. S. Everest; Clk.—Jas. W. McGinley; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—R. P. Houck; J. P.—Solomon Bruce; vacancy, Sam. Y. Dickinson; Sch. Insp.—Jas. Gardner; Dr. Com.—John Pool.

July 12, 1873, board appointed Cassius M. Gardner, highway commissioner vice Wm. Standish, resigend.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—Jas. W. McGinley; Treas.—Jo. Wiles, Jr.; H. C.—Wm. S. Everest; J. P.—John T. Packer; Sch. Insp.—Cassius M. Gardner; vacancy, Wm. Procunier; Dr. Com.—Abram Wiles.

Dec., 1874, Samuel Y. Dickinson was appointed supervisor vice Morse, elected to the legislature.

Jan. 29, '75, board appointed Worden J. Everest clerk vice McGinley, resigned.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—Worden J. Everest; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—W. S. Everest; Supt. Sch.—Norman H. Wells; Sch. Insp.—W. J. Pendell; J. P.—S. H. Van Leuven; vacancy, David W. Gardner; Dr. Com.—Alvin E. Shepard.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—S. H. Van Leuven; Treas.—John Pool; H. C.—R. P. Houck; J. P.—Geo. E. Stone; vacancy, Sam. Y. Dickinson; Supt. Sch.—W. S. Everest; Sch. Insp.—W. J. Everest; Dr. Com.—Alvin E. Shepard.

Dec., 1876, W. S. Everest was appointed supervisor, vice Morse, elected to the state senate.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—David W. Gardner; Clk.—S. H. Van Leuven; Treas.—Edwin Akin; H. C.—John T. Packer; J. P.—Samuel C. Robinson; vacancy, Chas. S. Harmon; Supt. Sch.—Monroe Howland; Sch. Insp.—A. H. Mack.

April 24, 1877, the board appointed W. S. Everest supt. of sch. vice Monroe Howland, and appointed Alvin E. Shepard to a vacancy in the office of drain com.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Samuel C. Robinson; Clk.—Chas. Patrick; Treas.—Edwin Akin; H. C.—Wm. L. Litle; J. P.—A. H. Mack; vacancy, C. M. Gardner; Supt. Sch.—Albert L. Hurd; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Williams; Dr. Com.—Silas A. Bowers.

Aug. 16, 1878, board appointed Henry L. Gager Dr. Com. vice S. A. Bowers, resigned.

Oct. 19, 1878, board appointed E. P. Everest drain com. vice H. L. Gager, resigned.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—S. C. Robinson; Clk.—Chas. Patrick; Treas.—David Davis; H. C.—Richard P. Houck; J. P.—John T. Packer; vacancy, Joseph H. Loucks; Supt. Sch.—A. H. Mack; Sch. Insp.—Francis M. Utter.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—S. C. Robinson; Clk.—Chas. Patrick; Treas.—David Davis; H. C.—John Pool; J. P.—Geo. W. Hedding; Supt. Sch.—Geo. E. Stone; Sch. Insp.—Jas. F. Fellman; Dr. Com.—John Hammontree.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—C. H. Morse; Clk.—Fred Petrie; Treas.—Wm. Standish; H. C.—S. C. Robinson; J. P.—N. H. Wells; Supt. Sch.—Aaron J. Chambers; Sch. Insp.—Worden J. Everest.

June 30, 1881, board appointed Seymour S. Teed school inspector in place of W. J. Everest.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Aaron J. Chambers; Clk.—Fred Petrie; Treas.—Wm. Standish; H. C.—N. H. Wells; J. P.—Alba W. Wood; Sch. Insp.—S. S. Teed; 1 yr, Godfrey Crouse.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—David W. Gardner; Treas.—David Davis; H. C.—Wm. H. Botsford; vacancy, A. H. Mack; J. P.—John T. Packer; vacancy, Theo. L. Everest 110, A. H. Mack 110; Sch. Insp.—Godfrey Crouse.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Gilson T. North; Clk.—Jas. McClelland; Treas.—David Davis; H. C.—C. M. Gardner; J. .P—A. P. Moore; vacancy, John W. Hammontree; Sch. Insp.—A. P. Moore.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—Henry C. Burlingame; Treas.—Theo. M. Wilson; H. C.—J. W. Hammontree; J. P.—Thos. J. Rasor; Sch. Insp.—D. W. Gardner; Dr. Com.—A. P. Moore; Review—N. H. Wells, H. C. Burlingame.

April, 1885, board appointed S. C. Robinson clerk vice Burlingame, failed to qualify.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—H. C. Burlingame; Treas.—T. M. Wilson; H. C.—J. W. Hammontree; J. P.—J. W. Hammontree; vacancy, Martyn L. Croy; Sch. Insp.—Florentine F. Wiles; vacancy, L. M. Church; Dr. Com.—Perry Delaney; Review—David Davis, Geo. W. Hedding.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—H. C. Burlingame; Treas.—Leander Townsend; H. C.—J. W. Hammontree; J. P.—John T. Packer; Sch. Insp.—Rose B. Naldrett; Review—Perry Delaney, R. P. Houck.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—W. J. Everest; Treas.—Leander Townsend; H. C.—Wm. Crozier; J. P.—N. Brillhart; Sch. Insp.—Rose B. Naldrett; Dr. Com.—Perry Delaney.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—A. J. Chambers; Clk.—W. J. Everest; Treas.—Archie McKinstry; H. C.—W. J. Pendell; J. P.—N. H. Wells; Sch. Insp.—H. H. McWilliams.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—H. C. Burlingame; Clk.—W. J. Everest; Treas.—C. E. Passinger; H. C.—W. J. Pendell; J. P.—J. W. Hammontree; Sch. Insp.—Abbie McWilliams; Dr. Com.—M. L. Croy; Review—W. J. Pendell, N. H. Wells.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—H. C. Burlingame; Clk.—W. J. Everest; Treas.—C. E. Passinger; H. C.—Joseph Ronk; J. P.—A. J. Evans; Sch. Insp.—John Stoffs; Review—John Stoffs.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Godfrey Crouse; Clk.—W. J. Everest; Treas.—Robert McNabb; H. C.—Geo. Crozier; J. P.—A. P. Moore; vacancy, Jacob D. Helman; Sch. Insp.—C. E. Passinger; Dr. Com.—M. L. Croy; Review—Geo. Duerr, Adelbert Wiles.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—G. Crouse; Clk.—J. D. Helman; Treas.—Robert McNabb; H. C.—Sam. Ludwick; J. P.—Reneldo Noll; Sch. Insp.—Calvin D. Wiles; Review—Perry Delaney, Edwin Akin.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—G. Crouse; Clk.—J. D. Helman; Treas.—Clifton J. Chambers; H. C.—Sam. Ludwick; J. P.—Geo. Hedding; Sch. Insp.—H. H. McWilliams; Dr. Com.—M. L. Croy; Review—Geo. Duerr.

The board appointed Calvin D. Wiles census enumerator; John Hammontree, assistant.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Clifton J. Chambers; Clk.—J. D. Helman; Treas.—John Lepley; H. C.—Perry Delaney; J. P.—Wilmarth Freeman; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Bigelow.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—John Lepley; H. C.—Perry Delaney; J. P.—Albert Payne; Sch. Insp.—H. H. McWilliams; Dr. Com.—O. E. Rickard; Review—Geo. Duerr.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—G. Crouse; Clk.—A. P. Moore; Treas.—L. Townsend; H. C.—Perry Delaney; J. P.—A. J. Chambers; 3 yrs, N. H. Wells; 1 yr, John Stoffs; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Bigelow; Review—A. F. Bollinger.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Leander Townsend; H. C.—Perry Delaney; J. P.—John Stoffs; Sch. Insp.—H. H. McWilliams; Review—L. B. Wolford, L. D. Howe.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—T. M. Wilson; H. C.—Jas. Gager; J. P.—W. A. Furman; Sch. Insp.—W. G. Bell; Review—R. B. Noll.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—T. M. Wilson; H. C.—Jas. Gager; J. P.—M. L. Croy; vacancy, H. S. Eisenlord; Sch. Insp.—B. S. Cheney; Review—L. B. Wolford.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Hugh J. McLaren; H. C.—Arad E. Lindsay; J. P.—A. J. Chambers; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Everest; Review—Wm. Alderman, Herbert O. Church.

April 30, 1901, the board appointed L. B. Wolford and Wash. Merchant members of the board of review. Presumably those elected did not qualify.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—C. J. Chambers; Clk.—Eugene Bigelow; Treas.—Hugh J. McLaren; H. C.—Spencer Hodges; J. P.—John Stoffs; vacancy, W. J. Everest; Review—Sam. Ludwick, Wm. Standish.

Dec. 20, 1902, board appointed John Noll, supervisor, vice Chambers, elected county clerk.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Frank E. Squire; Clk.—Eugene Bigelow; Treas.—John Whitman; H. C.—Spencer Hodges; J. P.—N. H. Wells; Sch. Insp.—Milton M. Chambers; Review—John C. Morse.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—F. E. Squire; Clk.—Eugene Bigelow; Treas.—John Whitman; H. C.—Sam. Ludwick; J. P.—Henry B. Stuckey; Sch. Insp.—Amasa L. Crispell; Review—Geo. Duerr.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—F. E. Squire; Clk.—Amasa L. Crispell; Treas.—Jas. H. Wood; H. C.—Herbert O. Church; J. P.—Fred Wermuth; vacancy, W. J. Pendell; Review—Leander Townsend.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—F. E. Squire; Clk.—Amasa L. Crispell; Treas.—Jas. H. Wood; H. C.—W. J. Everest; J. P.—W. J Pendell; 3 yrs, A. F. Bollinger; 2 yrs, M. L. Croy; Sch. Insp.—M. M. Chambers, John Stoffs; Review—A. J. Chambers.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Alex. F. Bollinger; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Byron A. Procunier; H. C.—W. J. Everest; J. P.—S. S. Teed; Sch. Insp.—Hugh Roberts; Review—Mark C. Morse.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—A. F. Bollinger; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Byron A. Procunier; H. C.—D. B. McLaren; Overseer—Chas. H. Reynolds; J. P.—Orra N. Terry; vacancy, C. D. Wiles; Sch. Insp.—John Stoffs; Review—J. W. Seifried.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—W. G. Traub; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Geo. Manning; H. C.—D. B. McLaren; Overseer—Henry Woodward; J. P.—C. D. Wiles; vacancy, W. J. Everest; Sch. Insp.—W. L. Wiles; Review—M. C. Morse.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—A. F. Bollinger; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Geo. Manning; H. C.—C. H. Reynolds; Overseer—Ben. Parker; J. P.—W. J. Pendell; Review—W. J. McLaren.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—A. F. Bollinger; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Ora D. Akin; J. P.—M. L. Croy; Review—Fred Seifert; H. C.—C. H. Reynolds; O. of H.—Thos. Harris.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Calvin D. Wiles; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—Ora D. Akin; J. P.—Orra N. Terry; vacancy, M. L. Croy; Review—B. A. Procunier; H. C.—C. H. Reynolds; O. of H.—Burdette Myers.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—C .D. Wiles; Clk.—Wm. W. Davis; Treas.—John A. Delling; H. C.—Fred Wermuth; O. of H.—Benj. S. Pendell; J. P.—Rolla McLaren; Review—Jas. Wood.

Woman suffrage: Yes, 57; no, 135.

County road system: Yes, 95; no, 175.

### Supervisors.

Edwin C. Harrington, Nov. 2, 1855.
Joseph H. Bennett, ap. Dec. 24, 1855; 57.
Henry P. Clark, 1856, '58.
John A. Crispell, ap. Jan. 8, '59; '59, '60.
Addison H. Mack, 1861, '62.
Moses H. White, 1863, '64, '65, '66, '67.
Philip Burlingame, 1868, '69.
Chas. H. Morse, 1870, '71, '72, '74, '75, '76, '81.
Wm. S. Everest, ap. 1871; '73, ap. '76.
Sam. Y. Dickinson, ap. 1874.
David W. Gardner, 1877.
Sam. C. Robinson, 1878, '79, '80.
Aaron J. Chambers, 1882, '83, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89.
Gilson T. North, 1884.
Henry C. Burlingame, 1890, '91.
Godfrey Crouse, 1892, '93, '94, '97.
Clifton J. Chambers, 1895, '96, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02.
John Noll, ap. Dec., '02.
Frank E. Squire, 1903, '04, '05, '06.
Alex. F. Bollinger, 1907, '08, '10, '11.
W. G. Traub, 1909.
Calvin D. Wiles, 1912, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Henry P. Clark, Nov. 2 1855.
Jas. G. Sickles, 1856.
Geo. H. Phillips, 1857, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67.
Addison H. Mack, 1868.
Chas. H. Morse, 1869.
Philip Burlingame, 1870, '71.
Jas. W. McGinley, 1872, '73, '74.
Worden J. Everest, 1875, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92.
S. H. Van Leuven, 1876, '77.
Chas. Patrick, 1878, '79, '80.
Fred Petrie, 1881, '82.
David W. Gardner, 1883.
Jas. McClelland, 1884.
Henry C. Burlingame, 1885, '86, '87.
S. C. Robinson, ap. 1885.
J. D. Helman, 1893, '94, '95.
Wm. H. Davis, 1896, '98, '99, '00, '01, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.
A. P. Moore, 1897.
Eugene Bigelow, 1902, '03, '04.
Amasa L. Crispell, 1905, '06.

### Treasurers.

Moses H. White, Nov. 2, 1855, '56, '57, '59.
Joseph Wiles, Jr., 1858, '61, '62, '63, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74.
Richard Crispell, 1860.
John Pool, 1864, '65, '66, '67, '75, '76.
Edward Akin, 1877, '78.
David Davis, 1879, '80, '83, '84.
Wm. Standish, 1881, '82.
Theo. M. Wilson, 1885, '86, '99, '00.
Leander Townsend, 1887, '88.
Archie McKinstry, 1889.
C. E. Passinger, 1890, '91.
Robert McNabb, 1892, '93.
Clifton J. Chambers, 1894.
John Lepley, 1895, '96.
L. Townsend, 1897, '98.
Hugh J. McLaren, 1901, '02.
John Whitmore, 1903, '04.
Jas. H. Wood, 1905, '06.
Byron A. Procunier, 1907, '08.
Geo. Manning, 1909, '10.
Ora D. Akin, 1911, '12.
John A. Delling, 1913.

## NEW HAVEN BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### McLAREN.

The name of McLaren is one of the best-known in New Haven Township, and as much as any other name in Gratiot County it stands for honest and substantial citizenship. Donald B. McLaren, the subject of this sketch, who resides on section 13 of New Haven, is a worthy representative of the family. He was born in Fenelon Township, Victoria County, Canada, June 4, 1857, and is one of the nine children of Donald B. and Margaret (Daniels) McLaren. The father was born in Glengarry, Canada, in 1830. Margaret Daniels, the mother, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1832. Following are the names and birth-dates of the children of Donald B. McLaren, Sr.: Alexander, born in 1851; Catharine A., 1852; Malcolm, 1855; Donald B., 1857; Margaret E., 1859; Gilbert Ann, 1861; William J., 1863; Allen Hugh, 1865; John, 1868. Donald B. McLaren, the father, died in New Haven, March, 1906. The mother, Margaret McLaren, passed away February, 1890.

Donald B. McLaren, our subject, came to Gratiot County with his parents in 1869, settling in New Haven Township, where he experienced the usual hardships and pleasures of life in a new country where the farm had to be hewed out of a dense forest. He did his share faithfully and well, and is now enjoying the results of his labors in as fine a section as can be found in Gratiot County. He was married February 27, 1882, at Hubbardston, Mich., to Mary A. Williams, who was born in Clinton County, Mich., September 8, 1861, daughter of William and Mary A. Wil-

liams, the former born in Wales in 1837, the latter born in England in 1836. They removed from Clinton County to Gratiot in 1861, settling in Newark Township. Other children were born to them as follows: Ida Probst, 1867; Sidney J. Williams, 1869; Cora McLaren, 1871; Arthur Williams, 1873; Emery Williams, 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaren are the parents of children as follows: Clella, born June 4, 1884; Iva, born July 4, 1886; William, born September 13, 1888; Rollia, July 25, 1890; Flossie, August 31, 1892, died January 21, 1905; Ira, September 11, 1895; Zoah, October 19, 1897. Clella McLaren was married to Hugh Roberts June 5, 1906. They live in New Haven Township. Iva McLaren was married November 30, 1910, to Harry Barnes. They have one son, Veryl, born June 9, 1912. Rollia McLaren was married to Mattie Seifried, May 31, 1910, and to this union was born a daughter, Opal, May 19, 1911. William McLaren was married December 18, 1912, to Addie Wheeler.

This brief sketch tells of a good family, and will be appreciated by their many friends.

## CHAMBERS.

Daniel Chambers, farmer, section 34, New Haven Township, is a son of Elias and Christiana (Stockman) Chambers, natives of Stark County, Ohio, who died in Crawford County, Ohio, the former about 1838, aged 35, the latter in November, 1850, aged 45.

The subject of this sketch was born in Liberty Township, Crawford County, Ohio, July 14, 1836. After the death of his father he resided at various places, working at manuel labor during the summer seasons and attending school winters. By his industry he thus secured a good common-school education, and at 21 began teaching school, following this vocation for ten terms.

October 17, 1861, Mr. Chambers was married in his native county to Miss Rosannah Brillhart, daughter of John and Mary (Hull) Brillhart, natives of York County Pennsylvania. Mrs. Chambers was born in Stark County, Ohio, February 23, 1842, but was brought up and educated in Crawford County, that state. In 1878 Mr. Chambers sold his place in Ohio and purchased 80 acres of partly improved land on section 34, New Haven Township, where he now resides. He has the farm well improved. The buildings are large and commodious, and in good condition; the soil is in fine tillable condition, and there are present the usual appointments of a comfortable home.

Mr. Chambers is an Elder in the Church of the Brethren, or Dunkard Church, of which religious body his wife and children are active members. Mr. Chambers has always refused to accept the many offices which have been tendered him by his fellow-citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have had the following children: John W., Daniel E., Milton M., Mary R. and James M.; the too latter deceased. John W. completed his education at an early age, and devoted several years to the profession of teaching. He was very successful at the work, but at a later period took up farming as a more remunerative business. He is at present engaged in farming in New Haven, and devotes part of his time to the ministry.

Daniel E. is a very successful farmer on section 3, North Shade Township. He has a well-improved farm of 110 acres, equipped with all of the conveniences of the modern farm.

Milton M., for about 18 years, has been a successful teacher in the schools of this county. At present he is residing in Alma, engaged in commercial pursuits and is meeting with good success.

## MORSE.

The name of Charles H. Morse was among Gratiot County's household words for about thirty years, counting from 1867. For the past few years Mr. Morse has been a resident of Carson City, Mich., about half a mile west of the west Gratiot County line. He was born in Orangeville, Wyoming County, N. Y., January 27, 1838. His father, Harvey Morse, and his mother, Lydia (Watkins) Morse, were born, respectively, in Green and Madison Counties, N. Y. Mr. Morse traces his paternal ancestry back to the time of William the Conqueror.

In 1855 Mr. Morse came to Michigan with his father's family, settling in Orleans Township, Ionia County. His education was acquired in the common schools, supplemented with two terms in an academy. He worked at farming during the summer months and engaged in teaching during the winters, commencing as a teacher at the early age of sixteen years.

At the breaking out of the Civil War our subject enlisted in his country's service, becoming a member of Company D, 3rd Mich. Cavalry, September 14, 1861, at the age of twenty-three years. The following is a synopsis of his army record as found in the Adjutant General's office at Lansing: "Mustered October 14, 1861. Regimental Commissary Sergeant Dec. 10, 1862. Re-enlisted January 19, 1864, at Lagrange, Tennessee. Mustered January 27, 1864. Prisoner of war Dec. 20, 1862, and paroled the same day. Commissioned Captain in the 117th U. S. Colored Infantry, to date from August 16, 1864. Lieutenant Colonel same regiment, January 12, 1866. Mustered out August 10, 1867. Brevet Colonel U. S. Volunteers March 13, 1865, for faithful and meritorious services during the war." It will be seen that his service in the army was nearly six years, his regiment being the last regiment of volunteer troops in the service.

In November, 1867, Mr. Morse located in the Township of New Haven, this county, where he cleared up a large farm which he still owns. As a resident of Gratiot County he held many responsible official positions. November 6, 1868, he was appointed township clerk to fill a vacancy, and was elected clerk at the next spring's election. He was supervisor in the years 1870, '71, '72, '74, '75, '76 and '81. In the fall of 1872 he was elected to represent the county in the lower house of the State Legislature, and was re-elected in 1874. In 1876 he was chosen State Senator and served one term. In 1893 Gov. John T. Rich appointed him to the position of State Labor Commissioner, and re-appointed him in 1895. In 1898 he was appointed State Statistical Agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, a position which he still holds.

Mr. Morse was married February 14, 1864, to Miss Julia Sessions, of Ionia County, daughter of Nathaniel and Chloe (Thompson) Sessions. She was born at Matherton, Ionia County, December 13, 1838. Arriving at maturity she became a successful teacher. The names and birthdates of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Morse are as follows: John C., born March 8, 1870; Mark C., born October 27, 1872; Noel M., born January 10, 1874, killed by lightning, October 4, 1904; Katie M., born July 18, 1878. One child died in infancy.

Mr. Morse has always been a stalwart Republican, and he says he "is today a Stand-patter, having no use for the frills of more recent politics."

## WERMUTH.

It is a pleasure to mention Frederick Wermuth as one of the leading citizens of New Haven Township, and to include his biographical sketch in this volume. He was born in Switzerland, April 12, 1850, son of John and Anna (Steller) Wermuth. Coming to America in 1852, they located in Fulton County, Ohio, where the mother died the same year. The father married again, Mrs. Elizabeth Brauher becoming the second wife. By her former marriage she had two children —John, now a well-known resident of New Haven, and Maud, who married Alvin Shepard and is now deceased.



FRED WERMUTH.

John Wermuth and his wife Elizabeth had four children—William, who died in his youth; Mary, who is married to Eugene Caldwell and lives in Oscoda County; John, a resident of New Haven, and Elizabeth, who also lives in New Haven, wife of Charles Wasson. The father and mother, John and Elizabeth Wermuth both died in New Haven, the former, May 1, 1900, and the latter, February 19, 1901.

John Wermuth served his country as a soldier in the Civil War, a member of the 8th N. Y. Heavy Artillery. He was a prisoner for three months in Libby Prison.

Frederick Wermuth came to Gratiot County with an uncle and two aunts in the fall of 1856, making his home with those relatives. They took up land on section 15, New Haven. At the age of 19 Fred went for himself, buying 40 acres on section 13, same township, where he still resides and to which he has added by purchase till the farm now contains 160 acres.



MRS. FRED WERMUTH.

Ulrich Wermuth pre-empted his land on section 15, living on it about four months and then went back to Ohio where he was delayed by sickness, thus losing his claim on the land. When he returned he found another man in possession. He then went to section 24 and bought 40 acres of Joseph H. Bennett who was the first supervisor of the township.

Frederick Wermuth was married to Rosetta L. Wiseman, daughter of Henry and Rosina Wiseman, of Newark Township, December 27, 1874. She was born September 17, 1853. She was of a family of eight children—Rosetta, born as above stated; Caroline, born August 27, 1857, died November 2, 1870; Sophronia E., born February 9, 1859, died September 16, 1870; Dora and Lutheria, born July 2, 1861; Dora died November 19, 1870; Charles, born July 8, 1866, died January 27, 1906; John H. Wiseman, born February 23, 1869; Morris E., born August 1, 1874. Mrs. Rosina Wiseman, the mother, was born

February 19, 1833, and now resides on the old homestead in Newark. Henry Wiseman, the father, was born September, 1831, and died July 13, 1901.

Eight children have been born to Frederick and Rosetta Wermuth, four of whom are living. Caroline was born October 20, 1875, and died June 15, 1879; George H., born November 6, 1876; Sophronia E., born August 4, 1878, died May 20, 1881; Bert, born August 20, 1880; Peter, born May 29, 1882; Clara M., born November 25, 1884, died February 11, 1887; Ida, born July 4, 1891; Harvey, born January 8, 1896, died January 10, 1897.

George H. is married to Edith Drayer and lives on section 24, New Haven. Their children are Marie, Howard, Ruth, Carl, Lucile and Maynard. Murl, whose birth followed that of Carl, died at the age of one and a half years. After Murl, followed twins, who died in infancy.

Bert is married to Katharine Stevens and lives in Detroit.

Peter is unmarried and lives at home with his parents.

Ida resides in New Haven, the wife of Robert Brauher. Their children are Lester M. and Pearl.

As a trustworthy and honorable citizen Fred Wermuth stands high in the esteem of his townsmen, and the same may be said of the entire family. Mr. Wermuth was elected highway commissioner of his township in the spring of 1913. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and Masons and to the Democratic party. Mrs. Rosetta Wermuth died in hospital, Detroit, September 1, 1913; a death greatly mourned by a host of friends.

## WOLFORD.

Lewis B. Wolford, a farmer residing on section 22, New Haven Township, is well-known in Gratiot County as one of New Haven's prominent and influential citizens, deservedly popular with all so fortunate as to form his acquaintance. He is the son of David and Laverna (Conger) Wolford, both of whom were born in the State of New York. He was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., November 11, 1847. Coming to Gratiot County in 1859 with his parents, Lewis B. obtained a common school education, and took part in all the usual activities of a farmer's career, and experienced many of the inconveniences and hardships incident thereto in a new country. He was the fourth in a family of five children. The father died in November, 1866, the mother passing away in August, 1892.

Mr. Wolford was married to Mrs. Ellen M. Wiles, January 14, 1881. She was the daughter of Peter and Mary Babcock Pendell, of New Haven. A daughter was born to this union, who died at the age of 16 years. January 19, 1895, Mr. Wolford was married to Mrs. Anna Dumas, whose maiden name was Woodward. A daughter—Artie L.—was born to this union November 26, 1896. The mother, Mrs. Anna Wolford, died July 11, 1909. The daughter, Miss Artie L., is her father's faithful and competent housekeeper.

Mr. Wolford takes an active interest in local and county politics, being an enthusiastic member of the Republican party. He has held various positions of responsibility in his township and school district, and is reckoned as one of the wheelhorses of his party in the county. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., of the K. O. T. M. M., and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. In church affairs he affiliates with the Methodists.

July 11, 1911, Mr. Wolford had the great misfortune to lose his house and nearly all of its contents by fire. There was an insurance of only $500 all told; hardly enough to cover one-fourth of the loss.

## PARKER.

James Barry Parker, of New Haven Township, was born in Wayne County, Mich., January 14, 1837. He is son of John Parker who was born in Vermont, November 21, 1809. His father, Robert Parker, was born February 9, 1760, and Betsey Brooks, his mother, was born July 23, 1764.



JAMES B. PARKER.

Robert and Betsey Parker's children were Betsey, born October 29, 1784; Jonas, born May 20, 1789; Mary, born April 6, 1787; John, August 25, 1791, died young; William, born October 18, 1793; Violetta, born September 12, 1795; Leonard, born September 12, 1797; James, November 10, 1802; Nathan, March 29, 1800; Erastus, August 16, 1807; John, November 21, 1809.

Mary Barry, mother of our subject, was born May 26, 1812, in New York State. Her father was Benjamin Barry, born August 19, 1781. Her mother was Catharine (Stissor) Barry, born November 6, 1786, in Germany. Her father was a German surgeon.

Children of Benjamin and Catharine Barry were the following: Richard, born June 30, 1804; Jemima, June 17, 1806; Augustus, May 5, 1808; Martin R., May 9, 1810; Mary, May 26, 1812; Calista, April 6, 1816; Alvira, December 29, 1817; James, April 8, 1820; Charles F., May 29, 1822; Benjamin B., August 18, 1824; Archibald, October 23, 1827; Eliza Ann, August 7, 1830.

Robert Parker, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Barry, Sr., was in the War of 1812.

John Parker and Mary Parker, parents of our subject, were married in the State of New York. Following are the names and birth-dates of their children: Martin R., born September 8, 1833, died February, 1873; Louisa J., February 27, 1835, died in 1906; James B., born January 14, 1837; Levi, January 2, 1839; John S., March 25, 1841; Catharine Mary, February 10, 1843; George M., February 1, 1845; Evaline Alvira, July 21, 1848; Edward Pierpont, August 9, 1850; William F., March 26, 1855. Evaline is deceased. William F. died December 1, 1880. Edward P. died May 3, 1906.



MRS. KATE (PARKER) WONDERLY.

John Parker removed with his family from Onondaga, Ingham County, Mich., to Gratiot in November, 1854, and settled on section 18, Newark. Here James, our subject, remained until 1861, when he enlisted in the military service of his country, and served until 1863. He afterward settled in New Haven Township, where, with the exception of about six years spent in Dakota, he remained engaged in agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1913, when he went to live with his niece, Mrs. George Smith, at Mt. Pleasant, Mich. He

has never married. He is of a genial and kindly disposition, a man of integrity, and has many friends, especially among the old soldiers and the pioneers of the county. In politics he is an ardent Democrat and is glad of it, and is a valued member of Gettysburg Post No. 132, G. A. R. of Dakota.

In the nature of a reminiscence, James B. Parker tells something of his first experiences in Gratiot. He and his father and brother John came from Onondaga, Mich., with an ox team in November, 1854. "The first night," as he tells it, "we only got as far as Aurelius. The next night we stopped with 'Whispering Smith,' near Muskrat Lake. The third day we reached Maple Rapids, and on the fourth day we landed on section 18, town 10 north, range 3 west—Newark. A man by the name of Chamberlin had raised a log house on the Dr. Howland farm. There were a few boards piled up near the house and we used them to make us a shelter for the night, which was clear and cold. We heard the wolves howling in the night; and a deer came near and snorted and made such a fuss that father got up, took his gun and tried to get him but could not get sight of him.

"Next we commenced our shanty. Our shanty was known as the 'Buck Horn Shanty', it being ornamented with three nice bucks' heads. After building the shanty father took the oxen back to Ingham County, leaving John and I to do some chopping. The latter part of the winter my oldest brother, Martin, came and stayed until the 24th of March, when he and I went back to Ingham County. The snow was 18 inches deep, with a crust that would hold up an ox. I worked on a farm the summer of 1855; a very wet season, wheat sprouting and growing before it was harvested. I then went back to Gratiot, joining the family in Newark, and grew up with the country."

The portraits of Jas. B. Parker and of his sister, Catharine Mary (Parker) Wonderly, add much to the interest and value of this sketch.

## JASON.

Elmer E. Jason, one of the substantial farmers of section 28, New Haven Township, was born in that township January 22, 1868. He is son of Isaac Jason who was born in Ionia County, Mich., November 2, 1839, and died July 22, 1888. Elmer E. Jason's mother's maiden name was Charity White. She was born September 12, 1846, in Aurelius Township, Ingham County, Mich., daughter of Moses and Miranda (Wheelock) White. Isaac Jason and wife were the parents of three children—Elmer E., the subject of this sketch, Jessie Belle, born September 18, 1869, now the wife of John Hardman, residing in the northern part of the state. Another daughter, Myrtle, now deceased, was born December 20, 1872.

Elmer E. Jason was married January 18, 1898, to Ella May Johnson, at Carson City, Mich. She was born in Bloomer Township, Montcalm County, Mich., August 4, 1879, daughter of Charles L. and Emma Jane (Collett) Johnson. She has one sister living, Violet Floy Johnson, who was born in New Haven Township, December 15, 1885. Charles L. Johnson, the father, was born at North Windom, Connecticut, January 15, 1851. He died September 5, 1909. The mother, who was Emma Jane (Collett) Johnson, was born in North Shade Township, July 15, 1858, and died December 21, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Jason have three living children—Ruby Dorris, born January 5, 1902; Bernice Belle, born September 28, 1908, and Forest Dale, born January 27, 1912. Mr. Jason and family live on the farm that

belonged to Mr. Jason's father. The father was one of the pioneers of Gratiot, coming to the county in 1854 when it was a wilderness. He did the pioneer work on his 80-acre tract, which, carried forward by the son, has developed into one of the finest farms in the county. The 40 acres on the east formerly owned by the father-in-law, Chas. L. Johnson, now forms part of the farm of 120 acres owned and occupied by Elmer Jason and family. Moses H. White was one of the prominent men of early Gratiot. He and Isaac Jason, his son-in-law, took a leading part in all public matters in their part of the county, laying out the roads and otherwise aiding in the improvements that have made the county what it is today. Mr. White served his township five years as supervisor, and the record shows that he was a leading spirit in the "county legislature" of those early, strenuous days.

It is a gratification to be able to include this family history in the list of the pioneers and their descendants.

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## MEYER.

Dettmer Meyer, who resides on section 4, New Haven Township, was born in Clovenhagen, Amb Aachen, Hanover, Germany, March 29, 1836. His father, John Ahrend Meyer was also born in Clovenhagen, about 1798, and was a lad of 14 years when Napoleon returned from his disastrous trip into Russia. Napoleon stopped at the home of the lad's father and asked for team and help to take him back to France. He often solicited aid along the way promising to make it good at a stated time, and often forgetting when the time came around. Mr. Meyer sent John with a team in company with a neighbor to aid the emperor, but when the time came for them to return, nothing was said or done toward having them return. So the boy went home and let his father know about it. The father immediately set out, overtook Napoleon and had the team and his neighbor returned.

Mr. Meyer's mother was Margarette Adelaide Rathjen, and was born in Baden, Germany about 1808. Her father's name was Dettmer Rathjen. John Ahrend Meyer and Margarette Adelaide Rathjen were married about 1832. To them were born six children, viz.: Frederick, born in Clovenhagen, in 1834; lived and died on the old farm, taking care of the old folks, as is the custom there. Dettmer, born in 1836 was destined to roam, as we shall see later. Anna was born in Clovenhagen and was married to Mr. Rathjen. Mrs. Rathjen died in 1907. Adelaide was born in Clovenhagen, was unmarried, living at home until her death in 1873. Herman, born in Clovenhagen, was educated at Stade and taught school in Flesta Bremershaven until his death. John was born at Clovenhagen, educated at Stade, and taught school at Longenedel until his death.

Dettmer Meyer left his old home while quite young and went to work in Bremen. Hearing of the opportunities open to young men in America, he determined to see for himself, and embarked on the steamer Bremen in the autumn of 1860, landing in New York City with $15 left. Hustling to find something to do for a living he obtained work in a grocery at $8 a month. A distant relative living at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, wrote him to come and see them. So, after one and a half years in the city he proceeded to Ft. Wayne where he obtained work at $100 per year. He worked at this place five and a half years, until his marriage.

Mr. Myer was married November 20, 1867, to Miss Louise Wilhelmina Charlotte Becker, at the Emanuel Church, in Milen Township, Allen County,

Indiana. She was born in Havern, Minden, Prussia, October 21, 1840. Her father, Ernest Becker, was born in Havern, Prussia, also. Her mother, Louise Rather, was born in Prussia. She died in 1847, leaving three daughters. Mr. Becker then married Miss Marie Stethorn. To this union three sons were born, two dying in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Becker, Louise and her two older sisters embarked on the sail ship Amelia, September 1, 1854, and were tempest-tossed for seven weeks on the great ocean. After reaching Indiana, Mr. Becker bought a farm near Ft. Wayne, upon which Louise—the future Mrs. Meyer—did a great deal of hard work helping to clear up this new farm.

After their marriage Dettmer and Louise Meyer lived with the latter's father for about a year when they moved to Ft. Wayne, living there till spring. Their oldest son, Carl Ernst, was born there, March 20, 1868. He is married to Lizzie Ebach, and resides six miles west of Ithaca upon a farm.

Mr. Meyer came to Michigan in the noted fall of 1871, while the forest fires were raging, the train often passing between the raging flames on either side. Arriving at Saginaw, Mr. Meyer walked to St. Louis and then on to New Haven where he now resides. Being favorably impressed with Michigan, he returned to Indiana, disposed of his personal property excepting a team and wagon, and putting in what they could carry handily, with wife and two children, (the second one having been born May 1, 1870, and who died during their first summer here—August 8, 1872) journeyed across the country in a covered wagon, occupying six days in the trip, and arriving April 6, 1872. Shortly afterward he bought the east forty of his present farm of 120 acres, and commenced the arduous work of cutting the timber, building the house and other necessary structures, and clearing away the forest for a farm and home. Rude indeed were the structures and furnished with home-made furniture. But it was the beginning of a home. The roads were merely tracks winding through the forests, following the high places. It was 11 miles to Carson City for medical aid, if such aid was needed. Grain mostly was taken to Hubbardston, and milling was done at Matherton, about 20 miles away.

To Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, after coming to Gratiot, five children were born, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are Louise Margarette, born July 6, 1874; Dettmer Jacob William, born September 21, 1878, and Herman Carl, born July 10, 1882.

Louise Margarette became one of Gratiot's popular teachers. She was married to Otis Terpening, April 8, 1904. They now reside on their fine farm on section 23, New Haven, and have two children—Maurice Meyer Terpening, born January 28, 1908, and Irene Ella Terpening, born May 13, 1912.

Dettmer Jacob William married Carrie Leonard, March 13, 1907. They are the parents of James, Louis and Murl, and live on a farm nine miles west of Ithaca.

Herman Carl married Lulu Gallant, June 14, 1904. Their children are Hazel, and Carl Herman.

Their children having gone for themselves, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer live alone in the fine home they worked so hard to make for themselves, having one of the best farm houses in New Haven Township, and other buildings to correspond. They are people of integrity and, as such, they enjoy the respect of all with whom they come in contact, both in a business and social way.

## MOORE.

Andrew P. Moore was born in Caroline, Seneca County, Ohio, in 1852. His father's name was James Moore, and he also was born in Caroline, Seneca County, Ohio, and was married to Susan Pennock. They had a large, well-stocked farm, and also a half interest in a bank. But one day the partner took all the money available, went to Canada, and no trace of him could be found. So Mr. Moore lost all his possessions in settling with the depositors of the bank, and was compelled to work by the day in order to support his family. His father, Andrew Moore, grandfather of our subject, was born in County Cork, Ireland, and was married to Eleanor Allison. They came to America, afterward, and settled in Pennsylvania. After a few years they removed to Ohio, and were the first to settle in that part of the state. Indians were very numerous there at that time and they often came to spend the night, always lying upon the floor with their feet to the fire-place. Mr. Moore was a justice of the peace. He was killed by being kicked by a horse. His wife, Eleanor (Allison) Moore, was of Scotch descent. They had six children—one daughter and five sons. The daughter married R. C. Layton and settled in Ohio, but all the sons, excepting James, went west, where they are still living.

Susan Pennock, who became the wife of James Moore, was born in Reed Township, Seneca County, Ohio. She taught school for a number of years, and was married at the age of nineteen years. They had six children —two sons and four daughters. All are married and have families. The maternal grandfather's name was Porter Pennock, and he was born in the State of New York. The grandmother's name was Margaret Hillis, born n Vermont, and was married in that state, but soon afterward they moved to Huron County, Ohio. They were ardent Quakers in religious belief. Their children were six in number—two boys and four girls. Both sons lost their lives in the Civil War, one at Antietam, and the other, who was a scout under Gen. Thomas, was captured and killed. All the daughters married and had large families.

Andrew P. Moore was married November 22, 1879, to Samantha MacClelland, who was born in Venice Township, Seneca County, Ohio, July 7, 1852, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hannah) MacClelland. The mother was born in Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg, where she lived until her marriage at the age of twenty-two. The father was also a native of Pennsylvania. After their marriage they soon moved to Ohio, being among the early settlers of Seneca County. They had twelve children—six sons and six daughters. Two sons and two daughters died in infancy. Three of the sons were in the Union army during the Civil War, and one of them served during the entire war. The daughters all married and have families. Mrs. Andrew P. Moon's grandparents, Samuel MacClelland and Martha (Crooks) MacClelland, were born and married in Scotland. They were married in 1800, and remained in Scotland until 1807, when they came to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania. Three sons and five daughters were born to them. The grandfather was killed in the War of 1812, and on the same day his brother was captured by the Indians and burned at the stake.

Andrew P. and Samantha (MacClelland) Moore, after their marriage, as heretofore stated—November 22, 1879—removed to Michigan in the following February, buying a farm in New Haven Township, Gratiot County. The farm was entirely covered with timber excepting six acres, and the only buildings were a board shack and a log barn. They brought with them some furniture, 100 pounds of flour, one-half bushel of beans, a

little meat and a pair of horses. Their cash was soon gone, and for some years they experienced as hard times as they cared to see, getting down at one time to the necessity of sifting the meal out of some mill feed to make johnny cake. Neighbors, however, were kind, and they especially mention Mr. Bunce with gratitude for aid in their time of need. "However, we are here yet," says "Port.," "on a good farm of one hundred acres, with good buildings, and all the land improved."

Four children were born to Andrew P. Moore and wife—one son and three daughters. The son, Scott, died at the age of four years. Ethel, the eldest daughter, married Joseph McNabb, and had one child. The second daughter, Laura, married Fred Wilson, and had three children, all girls, one of whom died in infancy. Lottie, the youngest daughter, is still at home with her parents.

## RASOR.

Rosella (Austin) Rasor, of New Haven Township, is the daughter of Ezra and Harriet (Lee) Austin. Ezra Austin was the oldest son of James and Betsey (Hildreth) Austin, and was born in Crown Point, Essex County, N. Y., May 24, 1829. He came to Allen, Hillsdale County, Mich., with his parents in 1836. In 1854 he came to Gratiot County, and, with his brother Joseph, located on section 7, Newark Township. April 9, 1855, he purchased from the government 80 acres on section 14, New Haven Township, the place now occupied by our subject.

Ezra Austin was married to Harriet, daughter of Daniel O. and Sally (Haner) Lee who was born in Royalton, Niagara County, N. Y., December 27, 1837, coming to Jackson County, Mich., with her parents in 1844, and to Gratiot in 1861. In the spring of 1862 Ezra Austin and his wife moved into their log house, built in the midst of the forest, with nothing but a blazed trail leading to it, and with their neighbors from one to three miles distant. The lumber for their floors was brought from St. Johns, and the roof was made of shakes, held down with poles. Flour was $20 per barrel, tea $2 per pound, thread 10 cents a spool, and the very poorest grade of calico 25 cents per yard. They undrewent the hardships of the early pioneers, but by hard work succeeded in keeping the wolf from the door, and this without the aid of the so-called charities that claimed to be giving to "Starving Gratiot," and at the same time was charging the Gratiotites a good round price for articles contributed by older counties.

Two children were born to Ezra and Harriet Austin—Rosella, born November 6, 1865, and J D, born July 22, 1873. The mother died September 11, 1892. The father resides alternately with his daughter, Rosella Rasor, and his son, J D Austin.

Rosella Austin received her early schooling in the district known as the Wermuth district. In 1882-'83 she spent seven months in the Ithaca Union Schools, under H. R. Pattengill, after which she began teaching in the schools of the county, and taught until she was married—June 23, 1891—to Edwin E., oldest son of T. J. and Elizabeth (Wright) Rasor, natives of Medina County, Ohio, and Buck County, Penn., respectively. They were residents on section 13, New Haven. Edwin E. was born November 14, 1865. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rasor settled in Middleton, remaining there several months. After the death the mother, Mrs. Ezra Austin, September 11, 1892, they removed to the old home on section 14, New Haven, where they have since resided.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rasor—Orion Dale, born Sunday, June 7, 1896; Coila, born Saturday, May 12, 1900, and Amy, Saturday, June 6, 1903.

Mr. Rasor is a member of Garfield Lodge No. 411, I. O. O. F., of New Haven Center, and is also a member of the M. W. A. of New Haven Center.

Mrs. Rasor belongs to New Haven Center Tribe of Ben Hur, and to Pine River Lodge of the Royal Neighbors of America, at Sumner. She is also an active worker in the Sunday school.

## WHITE.

Moses H. White, supervisor of New Haven Township from 1863 to '67, was born in Waldron, Vermont, October 26, 1815, son of Noah and Dorothy (Sleeper) White, natives of New Hampshire and descended from Scotch ancestors. Moses H. worked at various vocations—stage-driver, carpenter, liveryman and farmer. He was married April, 1838, to Miranda Wheelock, and they removed to Jackson County, Mich., the same year, engaging in farming in that county and in Ingham County. In 1856 they came to Gratiot County, taking up land on section 33, New Haven Township, where he resided until his death which occurred January 9, 1886.

Mr. White was an energetic and influential citizen in the early days of Gratiot County and was entrusted with many local positions of importance, among others that of supervisor, five years, as stated. He was a member of the Baptist Church and of the I. O. O. F.

It is a pleasure to record the names of at least a part of New Haven's noble band of pioneers, together with a goodly number of those who upheld the interests and honor of the township in more recent times; and it is a matter of regret that more of the names cannot be given a place in these annals. The following will be recognized as a few of those worthy of mention, to be added to those dealt with elsewhere:

**William S. Everest,** a preacher in the Baptist Church, settled in Montcalm County in 1854, preached at Ithaca in 1864 and '65. He settled in New Haven in 1871, served as supervisor three years and held other positions of responsibility. He died April 3, 1885, aged 65 years. His son, Worden J., has served as township clerk several years.

**Samuel C. Robinson** settled on section 24, New Haven Township, in 1873. He served as supervisor in 1878, '79 and '80, and was appointed county drain commissioner in 1882 and again in 1884.

**Joseph H. Bennett,** while generally given credit for being the first supervisor of New Haven, was really the second, and then only by appointment of the township board. At the first election, held November 2, 1855, Edwin C. Harrington received all the votes cast for supervisor. At a meeting of the township board, held December 24, 1855, according to the records, the board appointed Joseph H. Bennett to the office of supervisor, to fill a vacancy that existed. The record is a little mixed and obscure, but the inference to be drawn from what is said, is that Edwin C. Harrington, the supervisor, had removed from the township. Mr. Bennett served until the following April—1856—when his successor, Henry P. Clark, was elected. Mr. Bennett was elected supervisor in April, 1857. He served several years as justice of the peace.

**Edwin C. Harrington** was the first supervisor, elected November 2, 1855, and was elected justice of the peace in 1856.

**John A. Crispell** settled on section 4, New Haven, in 1854, and was, therefore, one of the first settlers. He was prominent for a few years, and was elected supervisor in 1859 and '60. He died October 7, 1880, at the age of 70 years. His brother, Richard, was also a leading citizen in the early days, serving as clerk and treasurer of the township.

**George H. Phillips** was township clerk eleven years in succession, beginning with the year of 1857. Philip Burlingame served two years as supervisor—in '68 and '69—and two years as clerk. His son, Henry C. Burlingame, was supervisor in '90 and '91.

**John Pool** settled on section 12 in 1855 and was prominent in the history of the township several years, removing to Ithaca in 1893. He died in March, 1908, aged 84. Joseph Wiles, Sr.; Joseph Wiles, Jr.; Isaac Jason; John T. Packer; Richard P. Houck; David Wiles; Emanuel Wiles; William Procunier; Daniel Wiles; Norman H. Wells; Samuel Y. Dickinson; William J. Pendell; D. B. and W. J. McLaren; William and Thomas Culy; John and Robert McNabb; Archie McKinstry; William and Milo Standish; Aaron J. Chambers; Addison H. Mack; John Hammontree; John Stoffs; John Noll; Mark C. Morse; William H. and Reuben Botsford; Fred Wermuth; A. P. Moore; Thomas J. Rasor; Thomas M. Wilson; Godfrey Crouse; Clifton J. Chambers; Jacob D. Helman; Frank E. Squire; George Duerr; William W. Davis; L. B. Wolford; John A. Hanna; M. L. Croy; H. H. McWilliams; William G. Traub; Alexander F. Bollinger; Calvin D. Wiles; all these have been important factors in the development of New Haven township. Joseph B. Teed who first settled in North Star in 1854, removed to New Haven in 1868, leading an active life until his death, November 27, 1878.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Austin, Mrs. Ezra,** Sept. 11, 1892, aged 54. An esteemed pioneer.

**Allen, Mrs. Josephine,** wife of Leviticus Allen and daughter of George and Mary Parker, at the home of her uncle, James Parker, New Haven, Jan. 19, 1913, aged 47 years. A husband and three children were left.

**Brillhart, John,** February 17, 1888, at the age of 75. A farmer and minister in the German Baptist Church.

**Bell, Mrs. Anna,** Nov. 1, 1893, aged 78. A resident 25 years.

**Botsford, Reuben,** Dec. 13, 1895, aged 68 years. Came to Gratiot in 1870; was storekeeper and postmaster at New Haven Center several years.

**Bollinger, Mrs. Gertrude (Daniels),** wife of Alex. F. Bollinger, May 8, 1912, aged 36.

**Culy, Wm.,** about Aug. 25, 1901, aged 76. He settled in an early day upon the farm where he died, on section 36. His wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Naldrett, died about four years previous to his decease.

**Crouse, Mrs.,** wife of Godfrey Crouse, Nov. 13, 1895. Mr. Crouse was supervisor four years, in the '90s.

**Crispell, Mrs. Mindwell,** widow of John A. Crispell, Sept. 16, 1905, at the age of 84 years. Mr. Crispell who died in 1880, had been one of the pioneer supervisors of the township.

**Cheney, Paschal,** at the home of his son Byron, May 3, 1904, aged 80 years.

**Cheney, Mrs.,** wife of Paschel Cheney, at the home of her son Byron, March 25, 1904, aged 79.

**Chambers, Mrs. Hattie A.,** esteemed wife of Aaron J. Chambers, January 11, 1907, aged 64. Mr. Chambers was for many years the efficient supervisor of the township.

**Culy, Thomas,** April 4, 1907, aged 71. A pioneer and popular citizen.

**Callahan, John S.,** May 20, 1911, aged 74. His wife preceded him six years.

**Everest, Mrs. Eliza,** widow of Rev. W. S. Everest, Oct. 22, 1905, aged 78.

**Eyer, Mrs.,** Nov. 3, 1911, aged 49 years; wife of Chris. Eyer, and daughter of Jacob Ebright.

**Gordon, Hugh,** February 4, 1888, aged 80.

**Gunderman, Mrs. John,** June 23, 1894.

**Gunderman, John,** Nov. 10, while on a visit in the Upper Peninsula.

**Hull, Geo.,** July 3, 1910. An old resident and a soldier in the Civil War.

**Heisted, Josiah,** March 19, 1910, aged 82.

**Isham, Orin A.,** Nov., 1906, aged 63. He settled in North Shade in 1854, was a soldier in the Civil War, and much respected.

**Jason, Isaac,** July 22, 1888, aged 48. He came to the township in the early '60s, and was an active and influential citizen.

**Kleinhenn, Fred. J.,** at the home of his daughter in Lansing, January 30, 1912, aged 62. A resident of Gratiot about 30 years, for the most part in New Haven.

**Koehler, Franklin,** June 13, 1913, aged 66 years. He settled in New Haven in 1895, and was a popular citizen. He was single, having never married.

**Leete, Noah A.,** March 15, 1912, aged 66 years. A respected resident since 1868.

**Morse, Mrs. Lydia,** at the residence of her son, Hon. Chas. H. Morse, Dec. 3, 1881, aged 73.

**McCrary, Robert,** April 29, 1883, aged 55.

**Mack, Addison H.,** at Wichita, Kansas, July 9, 1886, aged 62. An early settler of New Haven, and supervisor in 1861 and '62.

**McLaren, Mrs. Margaret,** wife of Donald B. McLaren, Sr., February 9, 1890, aged 58. An esteemed pioneer.

**McLaren, Sr., Donald B.,** Dec. 2, 1905, aged 77. Came to New Haven in 1871.

**McNabb, Sr., Geo.,** January 23, 1892, aged 66.

**Murphy, Wm.,** April 29, 1893, aged 89. An 1856 pioneer.

**Manning, Wm.,** April, 1908. An army veteran, coming to New Haven in 1871.

**McAfee, Joseph,** May 14, 1910, aged 72.

**Miller, Francis J.,** May 23, 1911, aged 78. A soldier in the Civil War.

**Miller, Mrs.,** Feb. 13, 1913, aged 37 years. Devoted wife of Walter Miller and daughter of Anton Boyer, of Sumner.

**North, Mrs. Hannah M.,** June 1, 1886, aged 78.

**Naldrett, Wm. J.,** Aug. 24, 1897, aged 69. Settled on section 30, Newark, in 1855, afterward changing to section 36, New Haven. As "Uncle Jim Naldrett" he was one of the best-known residents of Southern Gratiot; a man of integrity.

**North, Mrs.,** wife of Melvin North, January 26, 1909, aged 53.

**Noll, Geo.,** July, 1909, aged 95; at the home of his son John. Settled here in 1867.

**Nickert, Mrs. Ella M.,** estimable wife of Wm. Nickert, and daughter of the late Norman H. Wells, Nov. 3, 1912, aged 25 years.

**Pendell, Peter E.,** Sept. 14, 1881, aged 83; at the home of his son, Wm. J. Pendell. Among the pioneers of 1856.

**Passinger, John,** April 26, 1898, aged 73. Settled in 1881.

**Passinger, Mrs. Lucy,** wife of John Passinger, May 4, 1898, one week after the death of her husband; aged 69.

**Passinger, Chas. E.,** May 5, 1898, aged 39. His wife, who was Miss Clara Wood, of Newark, preceded him about three years. Mr. P. was township treasurer in '90 and '91.

**Pool, Mrs. Lucy (Kanautz)** wife of John Pool, July 14, 1892, aged 61. Settled in New Haven in 1856.

**Pendell, Mrs.,** wife of Wm. J. Pendell, January 1, 1911, aged 67. They settled in New Haven in 1867.

**Plank, J. A.,** January 13, 1905, at an advanced age.

**Pendell, Henry J.,** at the home of his brother, Wm. J., New Haven, May 9, 1911, with apoplexy, at an advanced age.

**Procunier, Lafayette,** son of Wm. Procunier, March 3, 1912, aged 56.

**Reed, Otis H.,** January, 1877, aged 77. Among the pioneers of 1854.

**Reed, Mrs.,** widow of Otis H. Reed, about May 3, 1892, aged 83.

**Robinson, Tryphena,** Nov. 22, 1874, aged 66.

**Roberts, Charles,** Oct. 24, 1900, aged 72.

**Rasor, Thomas J.,** February 12, 1912, at the age of 70 years. A well-known resident since 1876, with many friends.

**Shepard, Proctor,** Nov. 4, 1892. A respected pioneer.

**Standish, Mrs. Milo,** Sept., 1905, aged 61. Well-known pioneers.

**Steadman, Mrs. Mary,** wife of George Steadman, January 10, 1908, aged 75. Came with the pioneers of 1855.

**Squire, Frank E.,** February 7, 1912, at the age of 59 years. Son of Franklin Squire, who settled in North Star in 1854. Had been a resident of New Haven since 1884, one of its foremost citizens, holding the office of supervisor several years, commencing with 1903.

**Teed, Joseph B.,** Nov. 27, 1878, aged 61. He came to North Star in 1854, locating on section 17. In 1868 he removed to New Haven.

**Teed, Louise J.,** widow of Joseph B. Teed, at the home of her son, Seymour S., April 25, 1888, aged 52.

**Townsend, Mrs. Jane,** wife of Andrew Townsend, April 11, 1896, aged 71. Pioneers from 1866.

**Wiles, David,** April 20, 1877, aged 44. An esteemed citizen who died at the Hopkins House, Alma, on his way home from Saginaw.

**Wiles, Joseph, Sr.,** January 28, 1888, aged 81. Came in 1855; was a farmer and minister of the Dunkard Church.

**Wiles, Mrs. Joseph,** March 14, 1881, aged 72.

**Wolford, Mrs. Laverna R.,** widow of David Wolford, Aug. 17, 1893, aged 77. Pioneers of 1859.

**Wermuth, John, Sr.,** May 3, 1899, aged 81. An early settler, father of sons and daughters well-known and esteemed.

**Wermuth, Mrs. Elizabeth,** February 20, 1900, aged 77; widow of John Wermuth, Sr.

**Wiles, Emanuel,** February 24, 1898, aged 64.

**Wells, Geo.,** April 11, 1906, aged 67. A pioneer.

**Wells, Mrs. Martha,** wife of Norman H. Wells, February 10, 1904, aged 52.

**Wells, Norman H.,** Oct. 20, 1910, aged 67. Came to New Haven in 1864, and was always known as an energetic citizen. He was entrusted with several important official positions all of which were filled satisfactorily.

**Wiles, Jacob,** January 29, 1907, aged 71. One of the early settlers.

**Wiles, Solomon,** Oct. 30, 1910, aged 67.

**Wiles, Benjamin E.,** Sept. 19, 1913, aged 46 years; son of Daniel Wiles, early settlers in New Haven.

### DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1891, March 13—The house of former Supervisor Aaron J. Chambers was destroyed by fire, with nearly all the household goods. Probably originated from sparks on the roof. There was no insurance.

1894, Dec. 29—Ransom Reynolds lost house, barn, cow and some sheep, by fire.

1897, Jan. 24—John Brauher's house and most of his household goods were destroyed by fire. There was an insurance of $500.

1904, June 4—Lightning struck the house of Geo. Van Norman, and the resulting fire destroyed it, together with a portion of the contents. There was some insurance.

1908, July 1—John McNabb's farm house went up in smoke at dinner time, the fire starting in the kitchen roof. Some goods were saved, and there was $300 insurance on the house.

1909, Nov. 1—The house owned by James Cummings, occupied by Mrs. Alonzo Hagerman, was destroyed by fire, with the contents, and with no insurance on anything.

1911, July 11—Lewis B. Wolford's residence, a mile south of New Haven Center, was destroyed by fire. Origin of the fire unknown. There was some insurance.

## NORTH SHADE TOWNSHIP.

In "sizing up" the townships of Gratiot County, as to their merits agriculturally, it has to be conceded that North Shade—town 9 north, range 4 west—takes a position in the front rank. Though the writer has never been over the township as thoroughly as he has over most of the other townships, he has to remark that as far as he has been, he has seen no waste land worth mentioning. It may be described as a level township, in the main, though far from being a dead-level. The soil averages excellent, and there are many farms that have to be rated as among the very best in the county. The first settlers of the township were on the ground soon enough to make the statement a truthful one, that its settlement in point of time, was second only to that of its neighbor, Fulton.

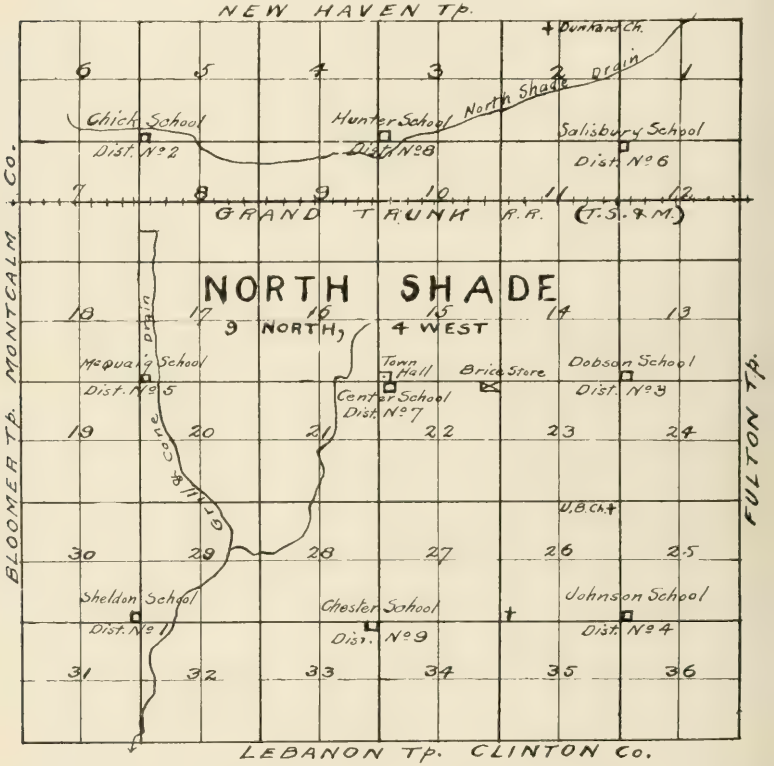
The township had its first election of officers in the spring of 1854, the first ever held in the county. The township was an appendage of Clinton County and the supervisor met with the Clinton County board. The township also took part in the general election of November, 1854.

North Shade has been favored with a mighty good class of citizens from the very first; which means, also, that there are many in that class even at the present day. But here! Let one speak who knows. Mrs. Nettie Todd, of that township, who is a daughter of the late well-known Ionia attorney, Hon. John Blanchard, gave some reminiscences of the township at a pioneer meeting held at the Court House, Ithaca, in September, 1907. I retire to the background long enough to give the reader the benefit of her researches and findings, thanking her in advance for the favor:

"In attempting to give a history of North Shade Township from its earliest settlement until 1866, I am compelled to use such information as I can gather from biography and from supervisors' rolls and from the few old residents I may meet. I realize that while I am telling of those I have been able to learn about, there are others just as worthy of mention, if I

only knew who they are. To no one will this be as interesting as to those, if there be any who hear my voice today, who shared in the privations of the pioneer days as well as enjoyed the pleasures that only life in a new country can give, and they will be the best critics I can have, for they know the facts.

"North Shade was the first township organized in the county—in 1854, with Henry Lane as supervisor. His mother, Mrs. Lane, proposed the name—North Shade—which was afterward adopted as the name of the township. The supervisors' rolls show us that in 1854 and '55 North Shade




was attached to Clinton County. Gratiot County was organized in 1856. The first Monday in January, 1856, Gratiot County officers entered upon their duties, and Henry Lane, of North Shade, was chairman of the board of supervisors. North Shade also has the honor of furnishing the first sheriff of Gratiot County—Geo. E. Walker.

"In 1854 the number of acres assessed in the township was 16,833, and the valuation, as determined by the board of supervisors of Clinton County, was $28,921. According to the roll there were 35 taxable residents, and

62 non-residents. In 1856 the valuation was $52,136. In 1865 there were 21,595 acres assessed, and the valuation was $65,000, as fixed by the board of supervisors. And we must bear in mind that these years took us through the period of the Civil War, when the fathers, husbands and brothers were defending their country instead of making improvements on individual homes.

"The first permanent settler was Wm. Avery, who, with his wife, located on section 31, in 1847. The following spring his father-in-law, John Sturgis, came, and with his family, occupied part of the house built by Mr. Avery. Geo. E. Walker located on section 31 in 1850. His biography says that to relate the many trials and difficulties through which he passed, the indomitable pluck and energy he must have possessed to locate his home in a wilderness and look for the wonderful development which his good judgment told him would surely come, would require a volume. He lived to see the fulfillment of his prediction and his hopes. And what is true of Mr. Walker is also true of all the early settlers who stayed and made North Shade what it was, not only in 1866, but what it is today, one of the first in the county.



SUGAR BEETS IN NORTH SHADE.

"Truman Wilson and family came in 1851. Roman Fyler and wife came in 1852, and were the first settlers in the east two-thirds of the township. He was a leader, and had much to do in making the township what it is. He held various offices, was one of the first jurors while North Shade was yet attached to Clinton County, was justice of the peace several terms, and held some office almost continually while he lived in the township. He was a strong Republican and always faithful to his party.

"One incident on record in connection with his family in the days of destitution, will illustrate what many had to endure. They had taken a little girl four years of age to bring up. The first evening they were making a meal on potatoes which had been saved for seed. The little girl surveyed her potato and the glass of water by her plate with anything but satisfaction. Nerving herself for the occasion she asked, 'Please, mama, can I have some gravy?' 'My dear', replied Mrs. Fyler, 'we have no gravy this evening.' 'Will you please give me some butter,' then asked the child. This request was not complied with, of course. Thinking that anything was

preferable to nothing for potato seasoning, she then asked, 'Have you got any salt?' The supplicating tone of the child as the last question was asked and answered in the negative, brought both smiles and tears to the face of Mrs. Fyler, who pacified the child by saying they would soon have gravy, butter and milk in abundance.

"I am reminded by this of an incident in my own life. On my way to North Shade in 1881, I stopped at my old home in Ionia, and an old friend said to me, when I told her where I was going to live, 'Why, that is where they starve to death; Starving Gratiot.' But I learned after coming to North Shade that no one actually starved to death, although there was much suffering. An old pioneer said to me that while they were never entirely without food, there were days when, in the morning, they did not know where their supper would come from; but to use her words, 'The Lord always provided.'

"Lewis B. Loomis came to North Shade in 1853. He assisted Mr. Lane in the organization of the county. Wm. Brice came with his wife in 1854. He truly was one of the representative men of the township. He held the position of supervisor of the township fourteen years, treasurer nine years, and was county treasurer two terms; which shows plainer than words, the confidence and esteem in which he was held. North Shade was fortunate in having men of that class for early settlers. John Carr came in 1854. I have heard Mrs. Carr relate something of their lives in those first years, especially of the struggles of the wives to live while their husbands were away in the war; not much land cleared; no one to work it but themselves; many miles away from supplies, and what was hardest of all to bear, so difficult to get any word from the absent ones. She said she carried one child and led another, and followed a blazed trail to a neighbor's between two and three miles distant to learn if the neighbor had any news from her husband in the war. Mrs. Christian Mertz walked to Maple Rapids, a distance of seven miles, for her mail. And we must bear in mind that it was mostly dense forest she had to pass through. Think of it, you who today have your mail brought to your doors. The wives and mothers had no small part in making the early history of North Shade, especially during the period of the Civil War, when they had to bear, practically alone, the burdens of pioneer life.

"I find among those who came in the '50s the names of Charles Chick, Stephen Collett, Marshall Runyan, Geo. Hill, Charles Proctor, John Dobson, John H. Salisbury, Peter Shong, Christian Mertz, John Kipp, Darius Roop, Henreich Moench and Jas. Harlow. I believe that Mr. Harlow is the only one of the earlier settlers of the township now living. Later, in the '60s came Wm. Franklin, John McCuaig, Alex. McCuaig and John O. Clark, all prominent men in the township.

"The history of North Shade shows us that during the earlier years Lyons was the nearest trading point, and goods were almost entirely carried on the backs of the settlers, owing to the impassable swamps and the lack of teams. It was not accounted a great feat to carry a hundred pounds of flour twenty miles. In 1854 the nearest mill was at Matherton, ten miles from the center of North Shade. The only wagon for many miles around was owned by Wm. Hall, a Baptist minister. This was used generally by all who had teaming to do.

"The first school house was built on section 31. Miss Mary Webster taught the first term. In 1865 there were four schools in the township. There was a postoffice established in 1854, but it was moved to Montcalm County the following year and there was no other until after 1866.

"Geo. E. Walker's was the first wedding in the township and Mrs. Lane's the first death. Our early settlers were religious people. When it was possible, preaching services were held in private homes, or in the log school houses; and in the early '60s there was a Sunday school held in what is now the McCuaig school house.

"The pioneers were hopeful, persevering and successful, many living to enjoy the fruits of their labor; and it is difficult for us, who in a few hours can drive from the farthest corner of the county to the county seat,



NORTH SHADE FARM VIEW.

to in any degree appreciate what it meant to follow a blazed trail through the woods with an ox team, through swamps and over logs, to transact necessary business, or to purchase the necessaries of life. Is it too much for me to say, that, side by side with the soldier who offered his life for his country, we should honor the pioneer who sacrificed and endured so much; while we today are reaping the benefits of his labor! Both served their country."

## NORTH SHADE ELECTIONS.

**April, 1854:** The first election ever held in Gratiot County was held in the Township of North Shade, April 3, 1854, when a full set of township officers was chosen. The township was still an appendage of Clinton County, being attached for judicial and taxation purposes to Lebanon Township, the northwest corner township of Clinton County. The township records of North Shade give no preliminary warning of the election, in the way of a call, or any reason for the election at that time and nothing to show who called it. Abruptly the record starts in with the statement that an election for township officers was held April 3, 1854. As a matter fact, however, the order and authority came from the board of supervisors of Clinton County at its October session, 1853, an account of which action is set forth in this volume, in the department treating of the first settlement of the county. The legislature, by special act of February, 1855, confirmed the action of the Clinton County supervisors, in organizing North Shade. The number of votes cast was 26, and they were cast as follows:

Supervisor—Henry Lane, 24 votes; Clerk—Alexander H. Briggs, 25; Treasurer—George E. Walker, 25; Justices of the Peace—Charles Proctor, 25; Joseph Comstock, 25; Marshall F. Runyan, 25; William Avery, 23; Highway Commissioners—Stephen Collett, 25; Truman Wilson, 25; Joseph

Comstock, 25; School Inspector—Lewis B. Loomis, 22; Directors of the Poor—John Sturgis, 25; Joseph Roberts, 25; Constables—William Caruth, 24; Consider Sturgis, 25; Henry Burt, 25; G. W. Hill, 17.

One overseer of highways was deemed sufficient and the honor was conferred on Hiram Artney. As there were three highway commissioners elected, the road system would seem to have been a little top-heavy, and it would be interesting to know how the lone overseer got along with three bosses. But the records are silent on that phase of the matter.

A contingent fund of $100 was voted.

**November, 1854:** North Shade was the only township in Gratiot County that participated in the general election of November, 1854. The township being only a suburb of Clinton County, the electors had the privilege of voting the Clinton County tickets. From a local viewpoint, however, there was one redeeming feature in the fact that the Democratic ticket, headed by John S. Barry against Kinsley S. Bingham for governor, had for one of its coroners Henry Lane, an inhabitant of North Shade, and its supervisor, elected the previous April. The total vote was 21, the Republican ticket getting 19 to the Democratic ticket's two, all the way down to the last coroner when the order was reversed, Mr. Lane's townsmen, either to gratify their local pride or else on account of the personal popularity of the local candidate—probably for both reasons—gave Mr. Lane 15 votes, to two for his opponent.

**1855:** The number of votes cast was 28, and there was but one ticket. Sup.—Henry Lane; Clk.—Alex. H. Briggs; Treas.—Geo. E. Walker; High. Com.—Erastus Perry, Roman Fyler; J. P.—Joseph Comstock; vacancy, Roman Fyler; Sch. Insp.—Orin D. Hough; Directors of the Poor—Joseph Comstock, Joseph Roberts; Const.—Henry Burt, Wm. Towner, W. Barker, Consider Sturgis.

By this time the township had been divided into 11 road districts and overseers were elected as follows: No. 1—Wm. Lane; 2—Chas. Proctor; 3—J. Comstock; 4—Stephen Collett; 5—J. Roberts; 6—Wm. Isham; 7—Robert Pervorce; 8—(none); 9—Wm. Culy; 10—John Crispell; 11—Alex. Chapman.

The meeting voted $25 for the support of the poor.

**1856:** The vote had increased to 31 at this election. Sup.—Henry Lane; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker; Treas.—Homer Roberts; High. Com.—Truman Wilson; J. P.—Hiram McCartney; Sch. Insp.—Henry Lane; Directors of Poor—Joseph Roberts, Geo. Hill.

Dec. 20, 1856, the township board appointed Chas. Proctor supervisor in

**1856:** The vote had increased to 31 at this election. Sup.—Henry Lane; was elected register of deeds Nov., 1855, and seems to have served as supervisor and register of deeds at the same time. In the fall of 1856 he changed his residence to Lebanon, Clinton County, where he was elected justice and school inspector in 1858, and supervisor in 1859.

**1857:** Thirty votes were cast at this election. Sup.—Erastus Perry; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker; Treas.—Stephen Collett; High. Com.—John H. Salisbury; J. P.—Lowell Proctor; Sch. Insp.—Emery Crosby; vacancy, Roman Fyler; O. of Poor—Geo. E. Walker, Wm .Lane.

**1858:** The vote shows an increase of more than 100 per cent., 66 being cast...

Sup.—Emery Crosby; Clk.—tie between Nathaniel Crosby and Geo. E. Walker, the latter winning at the drawing; Treas.—Stephen Collett; High. Com.—Henry Burt; vacancy, Jas. Shepard; J. P.—tie between Wm. H. Hall and Wm. L. Isham, the former winning by lot; Sch. Insp.—tie between

Roman Fyler and Wm. L. Isham, the former winning the prize. This was for a vacancy. For the full term Emery Crosby was elected.

In Nov. of this year Supervisor Emery Crosby was elected county clerk, and the township board appointed Chas. Proctor supervisor in his place.

**April, 1859:** The number of votes polled was 64.

In the following the men elected are named first.

Sup.—Erastus Perry, Heinrich Moench; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker, Nat. Crosby; Treas.—Homer Roberts, Chas. Proctor, Lewis B. Loomis; J. P., full term—Wm. L. Isham; vacancy, Oramel Burt, Jonathan E. Wade; High. Com.—Truman Wilson, Stephen Watkins, Horace Chaffee; O. of Poor—Bayard Locke, Joseph Roberts, Wm. H. Hall.

**April, 1860:** The record shows that 81 votes were polled.

Sup.—Erastus Perry, 57; Albert J. Worden, 23; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker, 41; Henry Lyons, 40; Treas.—Homer Roberts, 37; Horace Chaffee, 19; Lowell Proctor, 18; Joshua Stevens, 2; High. Com.—Clark Thompson, 40; Jas. Shepard, 37; J. P.—Jonathan E. Wade, 44; Chas. Proctor, 17; Hiram McCartney, 15; vacancy, Mumford Felton, 46; J. C. Wade, 26; Sch. Insp. —Nat. Crosby, 40; Homer Roberts, 32; Henry Lyons, 7.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Erastus Perry; Clk.—John H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—Amos Dean; J. P.—John B. Coon; Sch. Insp.—Roman Fyler.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Erastus Perry; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—Jas. Shepard; J. P.—Wm. H. Hall; Sch. Insp.—Nat. Crosby; vacancy, Geo. E. Walker.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Erastus Perry; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—J. E. Wade; J. P.—Wm. L. Isham; vacancy, Albert J. Worden; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Bennett; vacancy, L. B. Loomis.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Erastus Perry; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; J. P.—J. F. Proctor; vacancy, Clark Thompson; Sch. Insp.—L. B. Loomis.

Aug. 20, '64, the township board appointed Geo. E. Walker supervisor vice Erastus Perry, resigned.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Geo. E. Walker; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—John Wilson; J. P.—Geo. Bartholomew; three years, Chas. Proctor; two years, Chas. Chick; Sch. Insp.—Roman Fyler; vacancy, Wm. Brice.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Geo. E. Walker; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—Spencer Walker; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Reynolds.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Geo. E. Walker; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—Orin D. Hough; vacancy, Samuel F. Cranson; J. P.—Darius Roop, Chas. Chick, (tie); vacancy, Roman Fyler; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Chick; vacanc y,Orin D. Hough.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Andrew P. Smith; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High Com.—Truman Wilson; J. P.—Roman Fyler; vacancy, Chas. Chick; Sch. Insp.—Horace W. Chaffee.

Supervisor Andrew P. Smith died sometime after the October session of the board of supervisors and Geo. E. Walker was appointed to the vacancy, representing the township at the following January session.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Geo. E. Walker; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Wm. Brice; High. Com.—John Wilson; J. P.—Geo. B. Bartholomew; Sch. Insp.—Irvin McCall.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—John B. Luther; Clk.—Orin D. Hough; Treas.—Birdsey P. Eldred; High. Com.—Jas. Shepard; J. P.—Jas. Foley; Sch. Insp.—H. W. Chaffee.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—John B. Luther; Clk.—John D. McClellan; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Truman Wilson; J. P.—O. D. Hough and Geo. E. Walker, tie, Walker winning at the drawing; vacancy, Darius Roop; Sch. Insp.—Irvin McCall.

Aug. 1, 1871, township board appointed Hiram W. Havens, highway commissioner vice Truman Wilson, deceased.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—John D. McClellan; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Hiram W. Havens; J. P.—Roman Fyler; vacancy, Wm. Franklin; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Chick; Drain Com.—Irvin McCall.

May 28, '72, the township board appointed John McCuaig drain com. vice Irvin McCall.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—John D. McClellan; Treas.—John McCuaig; High Com.—Alex. McCuaig; J. P.—Geo. Bartholomew; vacancy, Silas B. Canfield; Sch. Insp.—Roman Fyler; Dr. Com.—R. D. Tabor.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Chas. Robertson; J. P.—Theo. Everest; vacancy, Duncan McNaughton; Sch. Insp.—Edgar Hutchins.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Geo. E. Walker; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Alex. McCuaig; J. P.—J. H. Salisbury; vacancy, Irvin McCall; Supt. Sch.—Nathan J. Baker; Sch. Insp.—J. H. Salisbury.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Alex. McCuaig; J. P.—Roman Fyler; vacancy, J. H. Salisbury; Supt. Sch.—Nathan J. Baker; Sch. Insp.—J. H. Salisbury.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Andrew J. Goodell; J. P.—Thos. T. Newton; vacancy, Wm. E. Hamilton; Supt. Sch.—Robert Garner; Sch. Insp.—Wm. E. Hamilton; Dr. Com.—Wm. Wright.

An appropriation was voted for the erection of a town hall—yes, 124; no, 5.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Andrew J. Goodell; J. P.—Theo. L. Everest; Supt. Sch.—Nathan J. Baker; Dr. Com.—Alex. McCuaig.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—J. H. Salisbury; Treas.—Jas. Foley; High. Com.—Andrew J. Godell; J. P.—John B. Luther; Supt. Sch.—N. J. Baker; Sch. Insp.—Hiram Havens; Dr. Com.—Roman Fyler.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Thos. T. Newton; resigned later on, and the board appointed Wm. Brice to the vacancy; Clk.—Hiram Haring; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Orin Jolls; resigned, and board appointed Jesse Casteel in his place; J. P.—Robert Garner; Supt. Sch.—Eugene Straight; Dr. Com.—Roman Fyler.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Chas. Gordon; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Jesse Casteel; J. P.—Jas. McClellan; vacancy, Thos. Franklin; Supt. Sch.—Edwin P. Waterman; Sch. Insp.—Hiram Havens.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Hiram Haring; Treas.—Irvin McCall; High. Com.—J. H. Salisbury; did not qualify, and board appointed Alex. McNaughton highway commissioner; J. P.—Theo. L. Everest; vacancy, Jas. McClellan; Sch. Insp.—David G. Locke, Eugene Straight; Dr. Com.—Albinus L. Todd.

Supervisor Wm. Brice resigned and Richard W. Brice was appointed and served at the January term of the board of supervisors.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Chas. Gordon; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—Roman Fyler; three years,

Eugene Straight; two years, Freeman Salisbury; Sch. Insp.—David G. Locke.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Chas. Gordon; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—Curtis B. Willoughby; vacancy, Francis T. Runyan; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Straight; Dr. Com.—Richard W. Brice.

April 29, '84, R. W. Brice was appointed census enumerator and Aug. 19th, the board appointed H. Haring drain commissioner vice R. M. Brice, resigned.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Wm. Brice; Clk.—Hiram Haring; Treas.—Justus B. Gardner; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—John O. Clark; Sch. Insp.—David G. Locke.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Hiram Haring; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Justus B. Gardner; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—Eugene Straight; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Straight; Dr. Com.—Jesse Casteel; Bd. Review—Hiram Havens, Geo. Blucher.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—H. Haring; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Henry R. Moench; J. P.—Roman Fyler; vacancy, Lewis B. Loomis; Sch. Insp.—Calvin E. Burton; Review—H. R. Moench, Geo. Blucher.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—H. Haring; Clk.—Louis W. Moench; Treas.—John McCuaig; High. Com.—Henry R. Moench; J. P.—L. B. Loomis; Sch. Insp.—D. G. Locke; Dr. Com.—Jesse Casteel.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—D. G. Locke; Treas.—J. B. Gardner; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—Henry R. Moench; three years, L. B. Loomis; Sch. Insp.—Degolyer D. Straight.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Haring; Clk.—R. W. Brice; Treas.—S. S. Slanker; High. Com.—John Gillam; J. P.—Eugene Straight; Sch. Insp.—Mary Franklin; Review, 2 years—David Gardner; 1 year, Geo. Blucher.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—H. Haring; Clk.—R. W. Brice; Treas.—S. S. Slanker; High. Com.—Geo. Van Dusen; J. P.—Geo. Garner; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Van Dusen; Review—Elias Churchill.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—H. Haring; Clk.—R. W. Brice; Treas.—Orin Ranger; High. Com.—Andrew J. Goodell; J. P.—S. S. Slanker; Sch. Insp.—Mary Franklin; Dr. Com.—John W. Rule; Review—David W. Gardner.

May 2, '92, the board appointed Jas. Cusick drain com. to fill a vacancy, and Jas. Ranger school inspector to fill a vacancy.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Orin Ranger; High. Com.—Hiram Havens; J. P.—John W. Locke; vacancy, Curtis B. Willoughby; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Van Dusen; Review—Wm. Brice.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Hiram Havens; High. Com.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—C. B. Willoughby; vacancy, Robert Patrick; Sch. Insp.—D. G. Locke; Dr. Com.—Francis T. Runyan; Review, 2 yrs—Wm. Brice; 1 yr, R. Fyler.

April 28, '94, board appointed Jonathan Reynolds Dr. Com. to fill vacancy, and C. B. Willoughby census enumerator.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—H. Havens; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—Alex. McCuaig; vacancy, Henry R. Moench; Sch. Insp.—Robert Carr; Review—John O. Clark.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Geo. Van Dusen; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—D. G. Locke; Sch. Insp.—D. G Locke; Dr. Com.—Fred Ladue; Review—Wm. Brice.

July 22, '96, board appointed Degolyer D. Straight drain com. to fill vacancy, and Calvin E. Burton school inspector to fill vacancy.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—John McCuaig ; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Geo. Van Dusen; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—Royal M. Scott; 3 yrs, D. G. Locke; Sch. Insp.—Robert Carr; Review—Benjamin Wineland.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—R. W. Brice; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—Samuel E. Sower; Sch. Insp.—Thos. C. Houghtailing; Review—Wm. Brice.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—John McCuaig; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—R. W. Brice; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—Alex. McCuaig; 3 yrs, Emery Dobson; Sch. Insp.—Robert Carr; Review—Benj. Wineland.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Roy Cushman; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—Henry R. Moench; H. C.—Orin Ranger; J. P.—D. G. Locke; vacancy, Calvin E. Burton; Sch. Insp.—Jas. D. England; Review—Geo. Van Dusen.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—Geo. Blucher; Treas.—H. R. Moench; H. C.—Mathew Kavanaugh; J. P.—Joseph Sellmyer; Sch. Insp.—Robert Carr.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—Edward Bohen; Treas.—Jas. D. England; H. C.—H. R. Moench; J. P.—Calvin E. Burton.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Roy Cushman; Clk.—Jas. Henry Fockler; Treas.—Emery Dobson; H. C.—Frank Simmet; J. P.—Alex. McCuaig; Sch. Insp.—Jas. D. England; Review—Benj. Wineland.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—John W. Chambers; Clk.—Calvin E. Burton; Treas—H. R. Moench; J. P.—D. G. Locke; Sch. Insp.—Chas. E. Blucher; Review—Emery Dobson; vacancy, R. W. Brice.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—Winfield A. Blucher; Treas.—H. R. Moench; H. C.—Frank Simmet; J. P.—Joseph Sellmyer; vacancy, Volney E. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Roy Salisbury; Review—Wm. H. Abbott.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Henry R. Moench; Clk.—W. A. Blucher; Treas.—Geo. Van Dusen; H. C.—Wm. H. Abbott; J. P.—Valois B. Todd; Sch. Insp.—Emery C. Dobson.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—H. R. Moench; Clk.—W. A. Blucher; Treas.—Geo. Van Dusen; H. C.—Daniel Wright; J. P.—Jas. McNaughton; vacancy, Jay Rosecrans; Sch. Insp.—Roy Salisbury; vacancy, Will Nickert; Review—Wm. McCuaig.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—H. R. Moench; Clk.—C. E. Burton; Treas.—Joseph Sellmyer; H. C.—Daniel Wright; Overseer—Richard Kavanaugh; J. P.—Harlow P. Sage; vacancy, Alex. McCuaig; Sch. Insp.—Will Simmet.

Vote on local option—yes, 125; no, 93.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—C. E. Burton; Treas.—J. Sellmyer; H. C.—Daniel Wright; Overseer—Fayette Roop; J. P.—Chester Coryelle; Review—Wm. McCuaig.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—C. E. Burton; Treas.—Geo. Van Dusen; H. C.—Daniel Wright; J. P.—Jay Rosecrans; Review—H. R. Moench.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—R. W. Brice; Clk.—C. E. Burton; Treas.—Jas. McNaughton; J. P.—Wm. T. Hill; Review—Will McCuaig; H. C.—Geo. Emerick.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—David G. Locke; Clk.—C. E. Burton; Treas.—Jas. McNaughton; J. P.—Harlow P. Sage; Review—H. R. Moench; H. C.—Geo. Emerick.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—David G. Locke; Clk.—W. Ray Salisbury; Treas.—Will McCuaig; H. C.—Jesse B. Harlow; J. P.—Chas. A. Coryelle; Review—Jas. A. McNaughton.

Woman suffrage amendment: Yes, 43; no, 83.

County road system: Yes, 10; no, 115.

### Supervisors.

Henry Lane, 1854, '55, '56.
Chas. Proctor, ap. 1856, ap. Dec., '58.
Erastus Perry, 1857, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64
Emery Crosby, 1858.
Geo. E. Walker, ap. Aug., 1864; '65, '66, '67, ap. Dec., '68; '69.
Andrew P. Smith, 1868.
John B. Luther, 1870, '71.
Wm. Brice, 1872, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, ap. '80; '81, '82, '83, '84, '85.
Thos. T. Newton, 1880. Resigned and Wm. Brice ap.
Richard W. Brice, ap. 1882; '01, '02, '05, '09, '10, '11.
John McCuaig, 1889, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99.
Hiram Haring, 1886, '87, '88, '90, '91, '92.
Roy Cushman, 1900, '03.
John W. Chambers, 1904.
Henry R. Moench, 1906, '07, '08.
David G. Locke, 1912, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Alex. H. Briggs, 1854, '55.
Geo. E. Walker, 1856, '57, '58, '59, '60, '74, '75.
John H. Salisbury, 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '76, '77, '78, '79.
Orin D. Hough, 1870.
John D. McClellan, 1871, '72, '73.
Hiram Haring, 1880, '82, '85.
Chas. Gordon, 1881, '83, '84.
Geo. Blucher, 1886, '87, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01.
Louis W. Moench, 1888.
D. G. Locke, 1889.
Richard W. Brice, 1890, '91, '92.
Edward Bohen, 1902.
Jas. H. Fockler, 1903.
Calvin E. Burton, 1904, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12.
Winfield A. Blucher, 1905, '06, '07.
W. R. Salisbury, 1913.

### Treasurers.

Geo. E. Walker, 1854, '55.
Homer Roberts, 1856, '59, '60.
Stephen Collett, 1857, '58.
Wm. Brice, 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69.
Birdsey P. Eldred, 1870.
John McCuaig, 1871, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '80, '81, '83, '84, '87, '88.
Jas. Foley, 1879.
Irvin McCall, 1882.
Justus B. Gardner, 1885, '86, '89.
Sam. S. Slanker, 1890, '91.
Orin Ranger, 1892, '93.
Hiram Havens, 1894, '95.
Geo. Van Dusen, 1896, '97, '06, '07, '10.
Richard W. Brice, 1898, '99.
Henry R. Moench, 1900, '01, '04, '05.
Jas. D. England, 1902.
Emery Dobson, 1903.
Joseph Sellmyer, 1908, '09.
Jas. McNaughton, 1911, '12.
Will McCuaig, 1913.

## NORTH SHADE BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### FYLER.

Roman Fyler was one of North Shade's most staunch and sturdy pioneers, settling on section 24 of that township in 1854. He was born in Madison County, N. Y., August 28, 1822. His father, Shaler Fyler, died in New York State, October 12, 1850. His mother, Mary (Hulbert) Fyler, died September, 1824. After his mother's death he was cared for by relatives and received a common school education. At the age of 21 he came

to Michigan and for about ten years was a resident of Jackson County, at the end of which time he removed to this county, and took up land for a home, passing through the varied experiences that were the common lot of Gratiot's early settlers.

Mr. Fyler was married in 1852, to Elizabeth M., daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Kinney) Brinck, natives of New Jersey. No children came to this marriage. In politics Mr. Fyler was an energetic and faithful Republican. He served his township in many official positions, such as justice of the peace, highway commissioner, school inspector, etc., and he was well-known throughout the county as a leader in his party, and an honest and dependable citizen. He was drawn as a juror before the county was organized, having to report at Dewitt, Clinton County, for duty. He was also a member of a so-called grand jury called in this county in January, 1859.

Mr. Fyler passed away at his home in Middleton, which had been his home for several years, March 5, 1904, at the age of 81 years.

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## BRICE.

Among the names of Gratiot's most respected citizens may very properly be placed that of William Brice, now deceased, late of North Shade Township. He was born in Kent County, England, March 10, 1830, son of Thomas and Charlotte (Gore) Brice. He came to America in 1855, and directly to this county, securing a tract of wild land on section 17 of North Shade Township, which he proceeded to transform into one of the best farms in the township. As was the case with all of the other first settlers it was the customary hard work and privations that fell to the lot of Mr. Brice and his family. But by energy and perserverence they conquered and in later years were enabled to live surrounded with all the comforts and luxuries that could reasonably be desired.



WM. BRICE.

Mr. Brice's townsmen selected him many times for official honors. In 1861 he was elected township treasurer, and held the office nine successive years. He was chosen supervisor in the spring of 1872 and was continued in that position thirteen years. In 1886 he was elected county treasurer and was re-elected in 1888. He discharged all of his duties with ability and fidelity. After his term of service at Ithaca he returned to the farm. He died at his home February 22, 1907.

Mr. Brice was married in England early in 1855 to Rebecca M. Harlow, daughter of Richard and Sarah (Martin) Harlow. Children born to this union were Richard W., Maria H. and Sarah E. Mrs. Rebecca M. Brice died September 27, 1865, and in October, 1866, Mr. Brice was married to Mrs. Caroline E. Burt, daughter of Norman and Catharine Sturgis, who were among the first settlers of North Shade. Two children resulted from this marriage—Celestia E. and John N. (See biographical sketch of Richard W. Brice.)

## BRICE.

Richard W. Brice, of North Shade, is a native of that township, born April 15, 1856. His father, William Brice, was born in Kent County, England, March 10, 1830. His mother, Rebecca M. Harlow, was born in England, November 25, 1834, daughter of Richard and Sarah (Martin) Harlow, both of England. William Brice and Rebecca Harlow were married in England in the early part of 1855. In December of the same year they arrived at New York, and reached North Shade, Gratiot County, on Christmas Day. Their children were Richard W., born April 15, 1856, Maria H., born September 20, 1859, and Sarah E., born July 23, 1862.



RICHARD W. BRICE.

Rebecca M. Brice died in North Shade September 27, 1865, and in October, 1866, William Brice was married to Caroline E. Burt. To this marriage two children were born—Celestia E., August 20, 1871, and John N., January 14, 1875. William Brice died February 22, 1907.

Richard W. Brice was married to Delora M. Straight, February 18, 1883. She was the daughter of William C. and Mariette Straight and was born September 7, 1861. William C. Straight, the father, was born in Genesee County, N. Y., June 2, 1821, and died in North Shade November 17, 1891. He came to Michigan when it was a territory and lived in Hillsdale County. In 1848 he was married to Mariette Allen who was born in New York, August 31, 1832, and removed with her mother to Hillsdale County, Mich., when about seven years of age. To their union were born Angelina A., May 21, 1850; Olive A., September 27, 1852; Eugene D., August 15, 1855; Degolyer and Delora M., September 7, 1861; Chester F., November 25, 1868, and Martin R., February 7, 1873.



MRS. DELORA M. BRICE.

To the union of Richard W. and Delora M. Brice were born Minnie E., September 27, 1883; Hazel M., May 31, 1887; William C., August 7, 1890; Beatrice and Bernice January 5, 1900. Beatrice died April 13, 1900.

Minnie E. Brice was married to Roy E. Warner, of North Shade, January, 1901. To their union four children were born—Fred G., September 9, 1901; Paul R., August 14, 1903, died April 7, 1904; Letha L., born December 28, 1904; Brice Roy, born May 27, 1910.

William C. Brice is married and has a daughter, born March 25, 1913. Hazel M. was married to Roy C. Brooks, July 3, 1912.

William Brice, father of Richard W., was a prominent and influential citizen from an early day, and was entrusted with many positions of responsibility. He was supervisor of his township 14 years in succession,

having first been elected in 1872, and was for several years chairman of the board of supervisors. He was elected county treasurer in 1886, holding the office four years. For nine years he was treasurer of his township. He was an earnest and active member of the M. E. Church from the age of 18 years.

William C. Straight united with the M. E. Church when a boy, and held many important church positions.

Richard W. Brice had a common school education and has devoted most of his life to agricultural pursuits in connection with and upon his fine farm. He is justly considered one of the solid and reliable residents of the township. He has been four years township clerk, two years treasurer and four years supervisor. He was also postmaster at Brice five years and has served many years as notary public. He united with the M. E.



R. W. BRICE'S RESIDENCE VIEW.

Church in early life and ever since that time has been an earnest worker in the Christian cause, holding the positions of Sunday school superintendent and teacher almost continuously. His farm consists of 160 acres of fertile and productive land, and has suitable and commodious farm buildings.

Delora M. Brice acquired a good high school education and taught in the public schools two years. She joined the M. E. Church in early life and has always been an efficient Sunday school worker. The daughter, Hazel, finished the common school work in the district school, and at the age of 15 passed the teacher's examination, but, being too young to teach, she began work at the Mt. Pleasant Normal, and graduated from the rural course in 1904. She has since taught four years in district No. 5, North Shade, and four years in district No. 7. The son, Will C. Brice, completed the rural school work and attended the Mt. Pleasant Normal one year. December 20, 1909, he was married to Miss Lena Abbott, and is now devoting himself to farming.

This biographical sketch of one of North Shade's most worthy families will justly be considered as a distinct addition to the value of this volume.

## HULL.

Residing upon, managing and cultivating his fine farm of 200 acres no sections 12 and 13, North Shade, Lewis C. Hull very properly enjoys and merits the distinction of being one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers of his township. He was born in Washington County, Maryland, July 31, 1851. His father, John Hull, and his mother, Sarah (Householder) Hull, were both natives of Bethel Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, the former born April 24, 1819, the latter born March 20, 1822. John Hull's father was Abraham Hull; his mother, Mary (Miller) Hull.

Lewis C. Hull is one of a family of eleven brothers and sisters, as follows: Zephaniah William; Matilda Jane Armitage; John Wesley, Lewis C., Mary Catharine Hanna; Joanna who died in infancy; another sister who died in infancy, unnamed; Abraham Franklin; Alva Pierce; Martha Leppard whose twin-sister died unnamed.



L. C. HULL'S MODEL BARN.

Mr. Hull moved with his parents from Maryland to Seneca County, Ohio, in November, 1855, settling near Attica, where the parents resided during the rest of their lives, the father dying August 19, 1906, the mother having passed away September 18, 1897.

January 6, 1876, Lewis C. Hull was married in Seneca County, Ohio, to Miss Catharine E. Huffman, who was born in that county, November 21, 1852, daughter of Jacob and Arey J. (Gribben) Huffman. The father was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, September 14, 1827. The mother was a native of Ashland County, Ohio, born April 13, 1831. She died at Attica, Ohio, October 6, 1909. The father, Jacob Huffman, died February 4, 1913.

Mrs. Catharine E. Hull is one of a family of eleven children as follows: Jane Bigham, Delilah Wright, Ida M. Coder, Clara Belle Hull, Ella Fritz, Oscar Huffman, Josephine Waltz, John A. Huffman. McClellan and Dolly died in infancy.

Mr. Hull came to Gratiot in 1877, arriving at his destination December 10th, locating in North Shade Township, on the tract of land where he still resides. His first purchase consisted of 120 acres of heavily timbered forest land. To this he has since added 80 acres more by purchase, making him a farm of 200 acres in a body in one of the best—perhaps the very best—agricultural portions of the county. By hard and persistent labor, guided by careful and intelligent judgment, the once dense forest has been made into fertile fields which respond liberally, in abundant crops, to the most advanced methods of modern husbandry. Mr. Hull devotes his energies to diversified farming, as a whole, but specializes along the lines of dairy farming, his dairy stock, both in extent and breeding, being equal to that of any other operator in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hull are the parents of three children, born in the following order: Asa J., born February 23, 1877; Lauren Ray, March 13, 1883; Ada May, September 1, 1886. Asa J. Hull married Miss May Reinckey. Their children are Eva Enola, Kenneth Rowene, Thelma and Frederick. Lauren Ray Hull married Miss Edna Clark. They have children as follows: Opal Dorris, Ronald R. and Norris Wayne. Ada May Hull is married to Vern M. Colburn. They have two sons—Lionel Richard and Wayne E., and live on the old Colburn homestead, section 35, Pine River.

In political faith, Mr. Hull is a staunch Democrat. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Knights of the Maccabees. His farm buildings include an up-to-date dairy house, and a barn that is the pride of the township, in that line, and is perhaps the best barn in the township. A brief description: Size, 40 by 80, with 18-foot posts. It rests on a four-foot concrete wall, and is what is called a "half-basement barn." The roof is of crescent or oval form, with bent rafters, and is covered with the best Washington red shingles. It is sided with Michigan white pine. The floors are of concrete throughout. The floor space is taken up with a horse stable 18 by 40, a driveway 14 by 40 and a sheep ranch 40 by 48.

The erection of a fine residence is a project in contemplation for the near future.

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## HARLOW.

George Harlow, of North Shade Township, Gratiot County, was born in that township March 16, 1861. His father, Henry Harlow, was born in Kent County, England, July 5, 1830. His mother, Elizabeth Harlow, was also a native of Kent County, born September, 1830. They came to Gratiot County and to North Shade Township in 1855, and were, therefore, among the earliest settlers.

George Harlow had one brother—William—born August 15, 1856, and one sister—Mary (Harlow) Barnes—born March 7, 1858. He was married April 29, 1883, to Ella Straight, of North Shade, who was born June, 1863. She died August 3, 1891, leaving no children.

December 31, 1892, Mr. Harlow was married to Mrs. Fredericka Helwig, who was born February 18, 1858, daughter of Matthew and Annie Gunther, of Wurtemberg, Germany, the former born in March, 1821, the latter born March 9, 1826. She was one of a family of eight children as follows: Fred Gunther, born March 7, 1848; Mrs. Dora Bishop, born March 9, 1849, died in 1884; Mrs. Christina Nickert, born March 12, 1854; Matthew Gunther, born December 12, 1856; Mrs. Katherine Anna, born June, 1865; Andrew Gunther, born in July, 1862; Mrs. Mary Moench, born October 16, 1868.

Fredericka Gunther was married April 12, 1883, to Christian Helwig who was born March 22, 1856. He died April 3, 1887.

Henry Harlow, father of our subject, served six months as a soldier in the Civil War. He took a severe cold while on duty, resulting in pneumonia which caused his death, December 21, 1864, in Nashville, Tennessee. The mother, Elizabeth Harlow, died September 27, 1879.

Four children have resulted from the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harlow. Jesse H. was born March 20, 1894; Addie E., November 11, 1895; Charlie W., August 12, 1900, died September 20, 1900; Nora H., August 12, 1900, died February 10, 1901.

The following are the step-children of George Harlow, children of Mrs. Harlow by her first husband, Christian Helwig: Arthur E. Helwig, born February 3, 1884, married to Mary Nickert, November 18, 1909, and now residing in North Shade; Edwin C. Helwig, born January 26, 1886; Sophia F. Helwig, born April 3, 1887.

This is a brief sketch of one of North Shade's most estimable families, and it is a pleasure to be able to include it in this work.

## STONEBROOK.

James H. Stonebrook is one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of North Shade Township. His fine farm with its commodious and convenient buildings, together with the other accessories that go to make up and constitute a pleasant and valuable home, is located on section 24 of the township named. That portion of Gratiot is well up toward the head in the list of the many desirable sections of the county as a place of residence and for agricultural purposes. Nature has done much for the locality, and the enterprise of the citizens has added much to the general appearance and value, as shown by the fine buildings, extensive orchards and the well-made and well-kept highways.

James H. Stonebrook was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 22, 1845. He is the son of William and Belinda Stonebrook, the former born in Union County, Penn., August 18, 1822, the latter born July 4, 1820, in Wayne County, Ohio. They removed to Gratiot County, Mich., with their family in 1865, settling on section 24 of North Shade. In that early day the acres of forest far outnumbered those of improved land in the county; consequently the family shared largely in the labors and privations, as well as in the pleasures of pioneer life.

September 22, 1881, James H. Stonebrook was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Spiece, of North Shade. She was born in North Shade February 16, 1867, daughter of John Spiece, who was born in Germany, November 21, 1810, and of Barbara Spiece, who was a native of Switzerland, born June 13, 1827. They were among the earliest settlers of North Shade, having located on section 12 in 1854.

Mr. and Mrs. Stonebrook have children as follows: Bert J., born April 25, 1884; Roy Earl, born December 24, 1889; Harley M., born May 9, 1893. Bert J. Stonebrook was married July 28, 1907, to Miss Jessie Mae Smith. They live in North Shade and have a daughter, Bernice, born July 28, 1908.

Harley M. Stonebrook was married December 25, 1912, to Miss Effie Springsteen, of Ithaca. They live in North Shade.

The biographical sketch of this worthy family is a welcome and valuable addition to the desirable features of this volume, and will be read with interest by their many friends.

## CUSICK.

James Cusick, residing on section 5, North Shade Township, was born in Canada, December 11, 1843, son of Lawrence Cusick and Anna (Fitz Charles) Cusick, the former born in Wexford County, Ireland, in 1817, the latter born in the same county in the year 1807. They were married in the year 1836. The next year they came to America, settling in the western part of Canada. Their five children, all born in Canada, are as follows: Mary Ann, born November 9, 1840; James, the subject of this sketch, born December 11, 1843; Joanna, born December 27, 1845; Thomas, born May 7, 1848; Elizabeth, born September 17, 1849. The family removed from Canada to Michigan, November 25, 1866, first locating in Montcalm County, where they resided several years, then, June 27, 1876, removing to North Shade Township, Gratiot County.

Anna Cusick, the mother, died at the home of her son James in North Shade Township, February 8, 1883, and was buried in Carson City Cemetery. Lawrence Cusick, the father, was taken sick while in attendance at the funeral of his wife, Anna, and after a few days' illness, died at the home of his daughter, Mary Ann McCrary in Carson City, February 22, 1883; fourteen days after the death of his wife.

James Cusick was married to Sarah F. Eavey in Orleans Township, Montcalm County, April 22, 1870. She was born in Doylestown, Ohio, June 6, 1852, daughter of Frank and Harriet (Cooper) Eavey. Three children have been born to James and Sarah F. Cusick: George E., born in Carson City, September 25, 1871; Calista A., born in Carson City, May 30, 1875; Mabel, born in North Shade, November 9, 1881. George E. Cusick was married November 29, 1904, to Jessie Gilleo, at Ithaca. She was born in New Haven Township, June 12, 1885. Three children have been born to them—James C., born August 7, 1905, in New Haven Township; Thomas M., born November 3, 1907, and Mabel M., born in North Shade, December 3, 1909. Calista A. Cusick was united in marriage to Scott O. Payne, at her father's home in North Shade, January 1, 1896. Six children have resulted, as follows: Hazel T., born May 18, 1897; Clayton, born December 14, 1898, died August 27, 1899; Merrell, born November 11, 1901; Greta, born December 18, 1905; Sarah and Hattie, twins, born November 24, 1908. Mabel Cusick was married to William G. Bell at the home of her parents in North Shade, March 29, 1899. They have two children—Neva, born August 22, 1901, and Floyd, born May 2, 1903.

Mary Ann Cusick, sister of James, was married to A. C. McCrary, July 3, 1864. They had five children—James C., born July 1, 1865; Emma, born March 11, 1869; Cora May, born October 19, 1875, died September 21, 1876; Floyd, born October 9, 1879, died April 12, 1893; Midge, born January 10, 1885. Mary Ann McCrary, the mother, died in Carson City, December 11, 1888.

Joanna Cusick, sister of James, was married to William R. Covell, July 4, 1868, in North Shade.

Thomas Cusick, brother of James, was married to Luella M. Cole, July 7, 1872, in Bloomer Center, Montcalm County. They became the parents of four children: Alice E., born July 24, 1874; Agnes B., born April 10, 1880, died January 27, 1882; Goldie M., April 2, 1884; James O., August 16, 1892.

Elizabeth Cusick, sister of James, was married to James Roop in North Shade, May, 21, 1868. Five children were born to them: Eddie, July 19, 1870, died January 13, 1875; Minnie, December 19, 1874, died January 10,

1875; Maude, October 6, 1877, died April 26, 1883; Harry, June 12, 1884; George, September 21, 1889.

Mrs. Sarah F. Cusick, wife of James Cusick, died at her home in North Shade, January 24, 1912.

James Cusick's 80-acre farm is described as the south half of the northeast quarter of section five, North Shade Township. His buildings are suitable and sufficient, consisting of a fine house, two good barns and other convenient structures. His house is reputed to be the best finished, inside, of any in the township. The farm is well fenced and has 327 rods of tile drains; a well cultivated, productive and up-to-date farm in all particulars.

Mr. Cusick takes a lively interest in all matters bearing on the welfare of his community, and, recognizing that fact, his townsmen have frequently called him to positions of trust and responsibility. He has been director in his school district for the past 27 years, and has served his township as drain commissioner; always giving general satisfaction in whatever position he is called upon to serve his fellow citizens.

## McCUAIG.

John McCuaig, a prominent citizen of North Shade Township, resides on section 17, occupying the farm that he located nearly a half century ago. He is a son of Donald, and Mary (Morrison) McCuaig and was born in Canada June 15, 1835. His parents both died in Canada, the mother in 1851, the father in 1882. John McCuaig remained on the farm with his parents till he arrived at the age of 21 years when he migrated to Wayne County, Mich., where he lived five years. Then, in November, 1861, he came to Gratiot County, taking up his residence in New Haven Township where he remained about a year and then located on 80 acres of wild land on section 17 of North Shade Township where he still resides. At this time he owns 120 acres, 115 of which are under cultivation. When he settled on his tract of wilderness there was only one way out—a mere trail, leading to the southward. After building his cabin he spent some time in chopping down the trees surrounding it, so as to prevent their being blown down upon the cabin. This fact serves to impress upon the mind the great changes that have been wrought mainly by the strong arm and untiring energy of Mr. McCuaig. Good farm buildings, fertile fields and flourishing orchards now occupy the space covered at the time mentioned with forest trees and the tangled and luxuriant undergrowth so characteristic, at that time, of the more level portions of Gratiot County.

John McCuaig was married in 1861 to Jane Clements, daughter of William and Mary Clements. She was born in Canada, December 10, 1841. Eight children were born to this union. They are as follows: Mary A., now married to Truman Evans. They reside on section 4, North Shade and have one child, Ruth Jane. John D. married Maria Mann, and resides on section 6 of North Shade. Their children are Brick, Molly and Midge, the latter of whom died at the age of one year. William H. married Maggie Campbell. They are residents of section 17, North Shade. Their children are John A., Mary and Clayton. Annie E. married Albert W. Grunow. They live in Detroit, and four sons have resulted from their union—Oscar, Albert, Arthur and Donald. Samuel S. is unmarried and resides at his father's home. Myron married Daisy Reynolds and lives in North Shade, on section 19. Their children are Frances, Joseph, Evelyn and Cleo. Mrs. Daisy McCuaig died September 28, 1912. Alexander married Millie Har-

rington. Detroit is their place of residence, and their children are Lewis, (died in infancy), Leslie C. and Tessie Annie. Joseph E. married Emma Brown. They reside on section 17, North Shade, and have a son, Elmer George.

Samuel S., who resides with his father, has a valuable 40 acres across the road west of the old homestead, formerly belonging to his uncle, Alexander McCuaig. This is all improved and has good buildings.

John McCuaig, the principal subject of this brief family history, has been prominent in the official history of the township as well as being one of its foremost pioneers. This statement is fully borne out by the fact that he has served his fellow citizens fourteen years as township treasurer, and eight years as supervisor. He has also served as a school officer till he had to positively refuse to serve longer.

In 1864 Mr. McCuaig, with his brother, Alexander, enlisted in Company A, 23rd Mich. Infantry, and saw active service at the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. Later he was transferred to the 28th Mich. Infantry, and received his final discharge in October, 1865, at Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mrs. Jane (Clements) McCuaig, the wife and mother, died September 6, 1911, at the age of 69 years. She and Mr. McCuaig were regular attendants at the Congregational Church at Carson City. Mr. McCuaig is a member of Julius T. Barrett Post No. 173, G. A. R., at Carson City.

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## ISHAM.

Charles A. Isham, residing on section 1, North Shade Township, was born in Ionia Township, Ionia County, Mich., July 18, 1850, son of William L. and Susan (Burch) Isham. The father, William L. Isham, was born in Vermont, April 30, 1815, son of David and Thankful Isham, who were natives of England. The mother, Susan Burch, was born in New York State, October 8, 1819, daughter of Alpheus and Elizabeth (Hodges) Burch.

William L. and Susan Isham, parents of our subject, were married August 11, 1836. Two children—a son and a daughter—born in the State of New York, died in infancy. Four sons were born who grew to manhood—Orin A., born July 17, 1842, died December 23, 1906; George W., born March 2, 1845, died December 26, 1875; Charles A., the subject of this sketch; Frank T., born July 18, 1859, died January 27, 1905. Orin A. served his country as a soldier in the Civil War, and all were respected and well-known citizens.

Charles A. Isham, our subject, was married in Eagle, Clinton County, Michigan, October 10, 1869, to Rebecca E. Patrick, daughter of John and Eliza (Coleman) Patrick. She was born in Northamptonshire, England, October 10, 1848. The father, John Patrick, was born in England, February 10, 1817. The mother, Eliza Coleman, was born in England, June 15, 1819. The following were born to John and Eliza Patrick: John, William and Robert. William and Robert were soldiers in the Civil War.

Charles A. Isham and Rebecca, his wife, are the parents of six children, as follows: Susan L., born September 10, 1871, died April 30, 1891. She was married to Peter Salisbury September 15, 1889, and they were the parents of one child, Ethlyn, born April 23, 1891. Georgia Isham, born September 19, 1875, was married January 1, 1895, to M. C. Buckingham. Their children are Marie, Ralph and Wayland. Archie Ray Isham, born May 27, 1879, married Florence Vickery, February 26, 1902. Their children are Pauline, Edith, Maynard Charles and Kendall Wayne; Kenneth died

in infancy. Henry D. Isham, born July 22, 1882, was married September 2, 1903, to Winnie Howell. They have two sons—Cecil A. and Harley Dale. William C. Isham, born May 11, 1885, lives at home with his parents. Ralph M. Isham, born June 25, 1888, was married to Josephine Richie, May 12, 1909.

William L. Isham and family came from New York State to Michigan in 1844, settling in Ionia County where they resided until December 25, 1854, when they removed to North Shade, locating on section one, where our subject still resides. Thus it will be seen that they were among the first to settle in the remote woods of Gratiot. Right well and manfully did they face the hardships of pioneer life; and they had their full share of them. The father, William L. Isham, passed away June 20, 1863. The mother lived until March 16, 1889, when she, too, passed on to join those who had gone before.

Charles A. Isham is one of North Shade's most trustworthy and popular citizens. He is past master of Middleton Lodge No. 429, F. & A. M., and an honored member of Middleton Lodge No. 420, I. O. O. F. Mrs. Isham belongs to the Daughters of Rebecca, and also to the Eastern Stars.

## MOENCH.

Henry R. Moench is one of the prominent and substantial citizens of North Shade Township. His fine farm is located on sections three and four, under a good state of cultivation and with first-class farm buildings. He is a son of Heinrich Moench, who was born in Blankenberg, Germany, February 2, 1817. In 1853 he came to Michigan, first settling in Waterloo Township, Jackson County. While residing there he married Miss Wilhelmina Walter, and the next fall they moved to North Shade Township, Gratiot County, where he took up 309 acres of government land. Here he worked clearing his land and engaging in all of the arduous labors incident to establishing a home in a new country. He succeeded well, and lived to a good old age to enjoy it. He died on the old homestead November 22, 1904, in his 88th year.

Wilhelmina Walter, who became the wife of Heinrich Moench and who was the mother of the principal subject of this sketch, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, November 22, 1820, and died in North Shade, May 11, 1886. To this union were born four children: Louis W. Moench was born in North Shade October 11, 1855. He resided at home until 1889, when he went to Albany, Oregon, where he remained until his death, November 30, 1904. Paulina L. was born in North Shade October 26, 1857. In 1892 she was married to William Dailey and now resides near Greenville, Mich. Henry R. Moench, the next in order, was born January 21, 1860. In 1892 he was married to Mary A. Gunther. Wilhelmina M., youngest child of Heinrich and Wilhelmina Moench, was born March 5, 1862. She was married in 1890 to Louis Schnabelrauch, and they now live near Carson City, Mich.

Matthew Gunther, father of Mrs. Henry R. Moench, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, 1819 and died in 1878. His wife, Anna M. (Fink) Gunther was born in Wurtemberg, in 1825, and died in 1876. Eight children were born to them, seven of whom are living, as follows: Fred and Andrew reside in Carson City, Mich.; Matthew lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Christina and Frederica live near Carson City; Kate lives near Brice, in North Shade Township; Mary A., was born in Wurtemberg, October 16, 1868. On the 21st of March, 1892, she was married to Henry

R. Moench. To them have been born two daughters—Florence M., born December 31, 1892, and Mary W., born December 25, 1896. They both live at home.

Henry R. Moench, with his family, resides on the old homestead. They are in the enjoyment of all the comforts and conveniences which have properly come to them from energetic and well-directed labor. He takes an active interest in all matters concerning the welfare of his township and of society generally. Politically he is one of the leaders in his township, and has held several positions of trust and responsibility—first as highway commissioner in 1887, re-elected in 1888. Was elected justice of the peace for two terms, and in 1900 was elected township treasurer, serving four years in that office. In 1906 he was chosen to represent his township as supervisor and served three years.

It is a pleasure to include this sketch among those of the best-known and most highly respected citizens of the county; and without question it will be read with satisfaction by all acquainted with this estimable family.

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## PASSINGER.

Henry W. Passinger, farmer on section 15, North Shade Township, was born near Carthage, Jefferson County, N. Y., July 1, 1852. His father, John Andrew Passinger, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., April 1, 1825, and was a son of John and Polly (Huggabone) Passinger. His parents were of Dutch ancestry, and lived and died in the state of their son's nativity. John A. Passinger was one of eight children—four sons and four daughters, only three of whom are living at the present time. They are Charles, at Shelby, Mich., Peter, at Anacortes, Washington, and James, at Carthage, N. Y. The mother, Lucy Ann Northe, daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Thomas) Northe, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., June 16, 1829, and lived with her grandparents until her marriage, in 1849, to John A. Passinger. After their marriage Mr. Passinger followed his trade, that of a carpenter and joiner, and was also engaged in the lumbering business. In 1865 he came to Michigan and bought 80 acres of wild land in Lebanon Township, Clinton County, and then returned to the State of New York.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John A. Passinger, three of whom—Henry W., Hannah and Anna are living. Franklin, Orson and Charles E., are deceased.

Henry W. Passinger, the subject of this sketch, came to Michigan in 1873. He was married November 22, 1876, to Rachel B. Patterson, daughter of James and Martha (Steele) Patterson. She was born at Brooklet, Huntington County, Canada East, August 5, 1852. Two children were born to them—Leslie Eugene and Ratie Carrie. Leslie E. was born September 3, 1877, in Clinton County, Mich., and was married November 8, 1899, to Florence E. Tabor. They have one son, Fred H., born March 3, 1902. They reside at Pompeii, where he is engaged in the livery business. Ratie C. was born September 21, 1879, in Clinton County, and was married to James Carr, June 28, 1899. She received a common school education and has been a teacher.

In 1879 Henry W. Passinger purchased 40 acres of wild land on section 15, North Shade Township, which was then practically a swamp. Later he bought 40 acres more and added it to his original purchase. The family moved to their new home April 6, 1880, where they have since resided. By hard labor and much self-denial they now have one of the finest farms in the township, well supplied with good and comfortable buildings.

Mr. Passinger and his family are citizens who enjoy the esteem of all with whom they come in contact, in a business or social way, and their satisfactory success in life well represents what may be achieved by well-directed effort and honest lives of energetic industry.

**George E. Walker** was born in Livingston County, N. Y., July 16, 1822. He came to Gratiot in 1850, settling on section 31, North Shade. He took a leading part in township matters and served as supervisor six years. At the first county election—that of November, 1855—he was elected sheriff and served until the election of his successor, November, 1856. At the first township election—that of April 3, 1854, ordered by the board of supervisors of Clinton County, and the first election of any kind ever held in Gratiot County, Mr. Walker was elected township treasurer, and was re-elected in April, 1855. He served as township clerk five years in succession beginning in 1856, and was given two more terms in '74 and '75. Thus for more than 20 years he was closely indentified with the township's business and official interests.

North Shade pioneers were numerous and early on the ground as has already been shown. It is a pleasure to name a few more of the many not yet alluded to. Some worthy ones will probably be omitted from the list, but no intentional slight can be charged. Lewis B. Loomis came with his family in 1853, locating on section 30. That this was an early day in Gratiot no one can deny; Truman Wilson has the credit of settling in North Shade in 1851; Peter Duflo was an early one, his death occurring December 17, 1902, at the age of 82; John Dobson, also living to the extreme age of 94 years, his death occurring July 7, 1903; Henry Harlow saw strenuous service as a pioneer; William Stonebrook came in 1865, locating on section 24, and by strenuous application transformed 160 acres of woods into a fine homestead, in the meantime assisting in raising a family of seven children. He died March 28, 1888, aged 65. His wife Belinda (First) Stonebrook, passed away May 4, 1896, aged 76. Thomas Garner lived to the age of nearly 90, passing away November 6, 1905. George Isham died December 20, 1875; a pioneer. David Gardner died January 30, 1905, at an advanced age. John Kipp; William Franklin came in 1861; Nathan J. Baker, a prominent resident, died October 2, 1905; Eugene Straight; David G. Locke; John O. Clark, settled on section 12 in '65, now a resident of Perrinton and 85 years of age; Henry Lane, the first supervisor and first register of deeds; Erastus Perry, supervisor seven years; John H. Salisbury, 13 years township clerk; George Blucher, 11 years township clerk; Marshall F. Runyan, came to North Shade in an early day and died October 23, 1866; Spencer Walker; Darius Roop; Charles Proctor; Horace Chaffee; James Shepard; Andrew P. Smith; Birdsey P. Eldred; Heinreich Moench; Henry R. Moench, (see sketch); Calvin E. Burton, clerk six years; Roy Cushman, supervisor several years, and Democratic candidate for register of deeds in 1902; Austin Shoupe, settled here in 1866, died May 17, 1913; Dennis Kelly; Lafayette Howell; Elmer Howell.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Bigelow, Asa B.,** Aug. 13, 1873, aged 66.

**Brinck, Jacob,** Sept. 28, 1879, at the home of his son-in-law. Roman Fyler, aged 83; a pioneer from 1855.

**Briggs, Stephen,** April 24, 1876, aged 80.

**Bennett, W. W.,** Dec. 18, 1880, aged 84. He was an early settler.

**Briggs, Ananias E.,** Aug. 6, 1887, aged 60.
**Blucher, John A.,** March 17, 1888, at the age of 74 years.
**Burton, Hannah,** Sept. 10, 1888, aged 56.
**Blair, Leroy,** May 11, 1888, aged 61. An 1860 pioneer.
**Blucher, Elizabeth,** February 7, 1902, aged 83.
**Burton, Henry D.,** Dec. 4, 1906, at the age of 81 years.
**Bell, Mrs.,** widow of Andrew Bell, Sept. 26, 1910, aged 64.
**Carr, Harvey W.,** Dec. 25, 1879, aged 33. Son of Wm. J. Carr who came to Gratiot in 1860, settling first in Washington, but soon removing to North Shade.
**Cusick, Anna,** wife of Lawrence Cusick, at the residence of her son, James Cusick, February 8, 1883, aged 76.
**Cusick, Lawrence,** February 22, 1883, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. C. McCrary, in Carson City, Mich., aged 66 years. His wife preceded him 14 days. (See sketch of Jas. Cusick.)
**Cole, Peter,** Sept. 20, 1888, aged 99 years.
**Chafey, Horace W.,** January 10, 1888, aged 60. Death resulted from a rifle-shot wound received on the previous day, presumably by accident.
**Churchill, Mrs. E. C.,** April 11, 1898. An esteemed old settler.
**Carr, John,** Dec. 14, 1901, aged 72.
**Crismore, Mrs. Wm.,** at her home near Middleton, January 8, 1911, aged 42. She left many sorrowing relatives and friends.
**Carr, Albert,** at his home in North Shade, Nov. 7, 1911, aged 35 years.
**Crismore, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of Henry Crismore, at the home of her son George, Sept. 10, 1913, aged 79 years. Her husband died in 1903.
**Eldred, Birdsey,** March 14, 1904, aged 65. An esteemed early settler.
**First, Michael,** Sept. 1, 1874, aged 81.
**Frazier, Mrs. John,** February 4, 1894, aged 66. A respected resident 23 years.
**Franklin, Mrs. Wm.,** May 19, 1908, aged 77. More than 50 years a resident of North Shade.
**Fockler, James,** Dec. 4, 1903, aged 68.
**Franklin, Wm.,** Nov. 24, 1912, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Wm. Harlow, of Fulton, aged 83 years. He was an early settler in North Shade, residing there until the death of his wife in May, 1908.
**Gallant, Wm.,** at the hospital at Maple Rapids, July 17, 1911, aged 57. He was for 30 years an esteemed resident of New Haven, but had lived in North Shade a few months.
**Garner, Geo.,** at his home in Carson City, Mich., February 7, 1912. A veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer of Gratiot.
**Hartman, Daniel,** March 30, 1883; an old resident aged about 40 years.
**Hardman, Jacob,** June 27, 1891, aged 63.
**Hardman, Francis M.,** Oct. 1, 1912, aged 59. A respected resident since 1886.
**Harlow, James,** Oct. 12, 1911, aged 83.
**Johnson, Robert,** June 20, 1888; a respected resident for 23 years.
**Johnson, Mrs. Anna Belle,** April 1, 1909, aged 80 years; widow of Robert Johnson. They came to North Shade in 1865, and had many of the trials incident to pioneer life.
**Johnson, Geo.,** February 6, 1904, aged 48. A popular citizen.
**Luther, Benj.,** July 30, 1881, aged 74.. Father of John B. Luther who was supervisor in 1870 and '71.
**Mumea, Jacob,** Oct. 29, 1873, aged 79.

**Moench, Heinreich,** Nov. 22, 1904, aged 87. He and his wife, Wilhelmina, who died May 11, 1886, at the age of 65, were parents of former supervisor, Henry R. Moench. (See sketch.)

**Mertz, Christian,** January 19, 1908, aged 83.

**Mertz, Mrs. Magdalena,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Salisbury, February 2, 1911, aged 81. She and her husband, Christian Mertz, settled in North Shade in 1860.

**McCuaig, Mrs. Jane,** wife of John McCuaig, Sept. 6, 1911, aged 69. (See sketch.)

**Patton, Henry,** May 19, 1885, aged 76.

**Probert, Mrs. Thomas,** March 16, 1889, at the age of nearly 70.

**Patrick, Robert,** Sept. 23, 1897, aged 54.

**Purcell, Henry A.,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Newton Garner, May 8, 1911, aged 60 years. An esteemed resident of North Shade about 56 years.

**Rice, Amos,** Dec. 16, 1879, aged 79.

**Roberts, Joseph,** Nov. 5, 1880, aged 81. Came to Gratiot in 1853, settling on section 29, North Shade.

**Rider, Chas. W.,** March 28, 1895, aged 81.

**Runyan, Mrs. Esther,** March 23, 1898, aged 83.

**Roberts, Josiah,** Sept. 12, 1908, aged 88. A valued pioneer.

**Roop, Fayette,** Oct. 13, 1910, aged 54.

**Reed, William A.,** April 28, 1913, aged 78 years. He located in New Haven in an early day, afterward removing to North Shade. An upright citizen.

**Shong, Peter,** January 26, 1872, aged 77.

**Straight, Mrs. Mariette,** Sept. 17, 1888, at the age of 56 years.

**Salisbury, Mrs. Susie L.,** wife of Peter Salisbury and daughter of Chas. A. Isham, April 30, 1891, aged 19.

**Straight, Daniel A.,** Aug. 19, 1892, aged 59. One of North Shade's leading citizens.

**Spiece, Mrs. Barbara,** Oct. 5, 1904, aged 77.

**Smith, Washington,** February 13, 1912, aged 70. A respected pioneer and a veteran soldier.

**Spiece, Mrs. Caroline (McFarland),** wife of Daniel Spiece, Nov. 5, 1912. An estimable lady who left many friends to mourn her sudden death.

**Shoupe, Austin,** in Milwaukee, May 17, 1913, aged 79 years. An old soldier, settling in Gratiot in 1866. Buried at Carson City.

**Tucker, Richard,** July 29, 1877, aged 50.

**Towner, Wm.,** Dec. 14, 1884, aged 80. A pioneer of 31 years' residence in the county.

**Towner, Mrs.,** widow of Wm. Towner, Dec. 6, 1892, aged 72. They settled on section 24 when there was but one house in the east half of the township—that of Roman Fyler.

**Tyler, Moses G.,** April 30, 1894, aged 72. Located in 1861.

**Tabor, Mrs. Ruth M.,** wife of Vinal Tabor, at her home in North Shade, Jan. 24, 1913., aged 39 years.

**Vanderhoof, Mrs. Annette,** Jan. 31, 1911, aged 65. A resident 30 years.

**Wort, Margaret,** March 15, 1878, aged 89.

**Walker, Mrs. Eliza,** about March 25, 1888. Wife of Geo. E. Walker, first sheriff of the county, elected Nov., 1855.

**Wright, Mrs. Wm.,** January 5, 1893, aged 47.

**Wort, Samuel,** January 3, 1907, aged 84. An old soldier and a resident of the county 35 years.

**Wilson, Mrs. Anna,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Foster, of New Haven, January 1, 1911. She had resided in North Shade 35 years.

### DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1883, April 14—J. W. Force, of North Shade, lost his house by fire, with nearly all the contents, including $36 in money. A small insurance on the house.

1883, Sept. 1—Joseph Bennett lost his farm barn by fire, together with the contents which included three horses. Loss, $1,500; insurance, $250.

1895, July 11—A sawmill owned by A. Pettit burned, with a loss of $5,000, and with no insurance.

1904, Feb. 9—The residence of Hugh Naldrett burned, with most of the contents; some insurance.

1904, Sept. 6—Dennis Kelly's barn was struck by lightning and destroyed by the resulting fire, together with the contents. The loss was covered by insurance.

1904, Oct. 4—The barn of Henry Passinger was struck by lightning and destroyed, together with the contents.

1908, Aug. 3—Lightning struck the barn of George Morris, causing its destruction by fire.

1908, Nov. 4—The residence of Fred Glover burned at about noon, and most of the contents, also, were lost.

1909, Aug. 1—Lightning caused the destruction of Will Mertz' barn—70 by 100 feet in size, and the contents also.

1909, Aug. 28—Alex. McNaughton lost his barn and its contents—seven head of cattle, two horses, grain, hay, etc. The work of lightning.

1911, April 24—The residence of Elijah Fockler, of North Shade, was burned, together with a portion of the contents.

1912, March 25—The house of Lemuel Hyde burned, with the loss, also, of nearly all the contents.

## NORTH STAR TOWNSHIP.

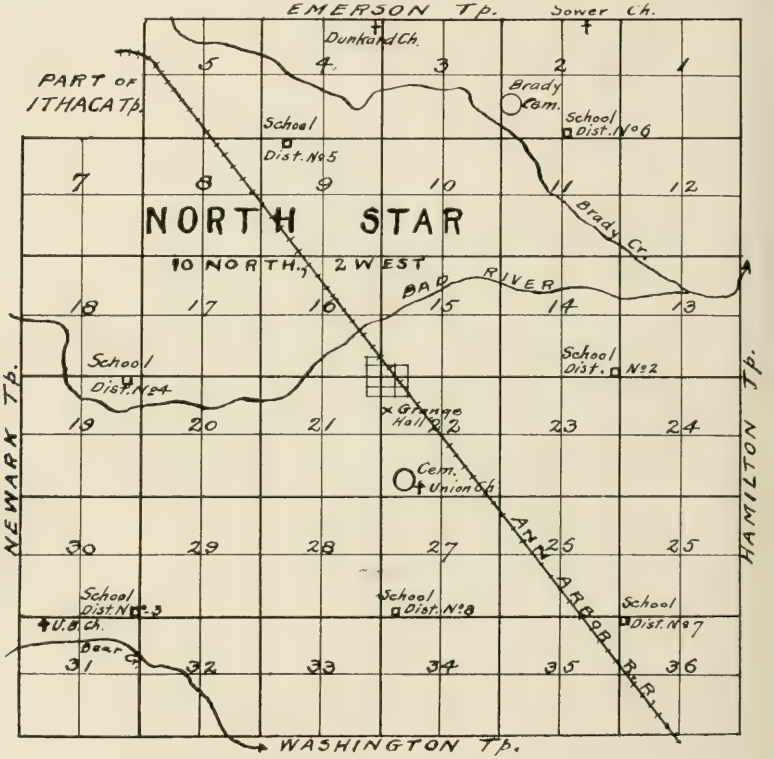
This is one of the central townships, cornering at Ithaca, the county seat. Its settlement dates from 1854, the year that most of the townships received their first settlers. The land is gently undulating, and this fact aided in its rapid settlement after the influx was once under way. The rolling surface made natural drainage comparatively easy and rapid, so that the pioneers were not confronted with the amount of standing water in the wet season, that was such a hindrance and obstacle in the settlement of the flat portions of the county.

Drainage is by way of Bad River and on to Saginaw Bay; also to the south through Bear Creek to Maple River, the waters thus dividing, a portion taking the shorter route eastward, the other portion taking the longer route by way of the Maple and the Grand. The water courses of the township in these later years are not much more than big ditches, excepting in spring and fall when they assume the nature and importance of good sized streams. Much interesting and instructive matter relative to the early settlement is found elsewhere, especially in quotations from the writings of Rev. H. T. Barnaby, who was one of the very earliest on the ground, and tells very entertainingly of his own personal experiences and observations.




**NORTH STAR PIONEERS:**—No. 1, Alex. McDaid; 2, Marvin Coleman; 3, John Mills; 4, Harley S. Evitts; 5, Spaulding Elliott; 6, George S. Carmony; 7, Ambrose W. Brown; 8, Hiram Brady; 9, Luther J. Dean; 10, F. Henry Howes; 11, Elbridge Franklin; 12, Hiram Bovee; 13, Edward Hopkinson; 14, Leroy L. Laughead; 15, Charles Bryant; 16, William W. Palmer; 17, Lorenzo Squire; 18, Franklin Squire; 19, Joseph Hass; 20, Thomas Vance; 21, Willett Reynolds; 22, Hamilton Bovee; 23, Horace T. Barnaby; 24, S. L. Litle; 25, Wm. H. Kleckner; 26, William Sharp; 27, W. E. Robertson; 28, —; —; 29, Sidney Thompson; 30, Peter Hoffman; 31, A. W. Belding; 32, Calvin C. Kryder; 33, Amos Spooner; 35, Calvin Crandell; 37, Martin Bardole; 38, D. Clark Whitmore; 39, Fred. Turner; 40, George Biddinger; 41, Timothy D. Ackles; 42, John Wesley Chaffin; 43, Fred. L. Coss.

No township has better market facilities than has North Star. The Ann Arbor railroad cuts through it from corner to corner. At the northwest corner is Ithaca, near the southeast corner is Ashley, with North Star Village in the center. Then only a mile and a half away from the southwest corner is Pompeii, on the T. S. & M. railroad. There are but few




who have as much as six miles to a railroad town. And the highways are being rapidly improved by scientific and up-to-date methods, by experienced and capable managers.

The township is described as town 10 north, range 2 west. Like Newark, Arcada and Emerson, it is minus one section, having been deprived of a section at the center of the county in 1881, for the formation of Ithaca Township.

## NORTH STAR ELECTIONS.

**April, 1855:** "The first annual township meeting of the Township of North Star organized this day by choosing A. Hayden, moderator, Luther C. Smith and Isaac W. Randall inspectors of election, and Horace T. Barnaby,

clerk." The election was called by special act of the legislature February 12, 1855, the election to be held at the residence of Peter Hoffman. The number of votes cast was 37, and they were given as follows:

Sup.—Benjamin Crawford, 37; Clk.—Horace T. Barnaby, 36; Treas.—Wm. W. Palmer, 32; H. C.—Geo. Criner 36, John W. Chaffin 26, Peter Hoffman 19, John W. Howd 18; J. P.—Wm. Hurd 30, John Franklin 33, Luther C. Smith 24, Thos. H. Rogers 35, Elias Sower 3, Geo. Criner 5; Sch. Insp.—Addison Hayden 35, Jacob H. Mellinger 35; Overseers of the Poor—David Mellinger 12, John Franklin 9, John Ostrander 2; Const.—Joseph B. Teed 21, Joel T. Smith 11, Joseph Bickford 15.

The meeting voted to raise $200 for contingent expenses, and voted wolf bounties as follows: "Wolves full grown $5., and $2.50 for every wolf's whelp, to be paid to the residents of the township only."

April 14, 1855, the supervisor and clerk met with the justices-elect to determine the terms of office for the justices, respectively. The result was four years for Luther C. Smith, three for John Franklin, two for Thos. H. Rogers and one for Wm. Hurd.

As showing the relation of the south half of the county to the County of Clinton, it is interesting to note that every official of the township took an official oath to "perform the duties of (so and so) of the township of North Star, in the County of Clinton, to the best of my ability", etc.; Gratiot County not yet having assumed an official and legal entity as a county. That formality was attended to nearly a year later, after the election of the first county officers in the fall of '55.

Jan. 24, 1856, the board appointed John Franklin township clerk in place of Barnaby, the latter presumably having resigned.

**April, 1856:** The election board met in the school house in district No. 1. Elias Sower was appointed extra clerk. There were 55 votes cast.

Sup.—Addison Hayden; Clk.—H. T. Barnaby; Treas.—Wm. W. Palmer; H. C.—John W. Chaffin; J. P.—Wm. Hurd; Sch. Insp.—Franklin Squire; vacancy, Elias Sower; Overseers of Poor—Luther C. Smith, John Franklin; Const.—Geo. Swift, Peter Hoffman, Joel T. Smith, Wm. H. Osborn.

There were seven road districts requiring overseers, and the following were elected: Peter Hoffman, Edward Cole, Lileus Austin, Henry M. Swift, John W. Howd, L. C. Smith and Hiram Brady.

The school inspectors reported that there had been six months of school taught in only one district, and that "we have purchased of Wm. Yarington, of Ionia, a library of 27 volumes, and have drawn an order on the township treasurer for $25 for the same."

**1857:** Met at the house of E. Conklin, and adjourned to the house of Wm. Guthrie. Luther J. Dean was appointed assistant clerk.

Sup.—Addison Hayden, Clk.—Luther J. Dean; Treas.—Wm. W. Palmer; H. C.—Henry Swift; J. P.—Thos. H. Rogers; vacancy, Sether Dean; Sch. Insp.—Luther J. Dean; O. of Poor—John Franklin, Sether Dean.

**April, 1858:** Sup.—Addison Hayden; Clk.—Wm. W. Palmer; Treas.—Wm. M. Barstow; H. C.—Wm. Dean; J. P.—Geo. A. Files; vacancy, J. W. Steadman; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Austin; O. of Poor—Elias Sower.

By this time there were 18 road districts calling for 18 "pathmasters", and the following were chosen: A. L. Ward, E. A. Chase, Thos. Vance, John W. Howd, Henry P. Bliss, Wm. Dean, Geo. Criner, Andrew Newell, Henry Swift, A. J. Porter, Wm. Barnes, Wm. H. Smith, S. A. Chaffin, Valentine Shively, Hiram Bovee, Samuel Wilkinson, Jr., Ad. Hayden, Amos Belding.

**April, 1859:** Sup.—Horace T. Barnaby; Clk.—Franklin Squire; Treas.—Wm. W. Palmer; H. C.—Peter Hoffman; J. P.—Michael Sower; 3 yrs, E. A. Chase; 2 yrs, Culwell Martin; Sch. Insp.—Emery Crosby.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—H. T. Barnaby; Clk.—Franklin Squire; Treas.—Jas. M. Luther; H. C.—Henry Swift; J. P.—J. W. Steadman; Sch. Insp.—Wm. A. Austin; vacancy, Wm. W. Palmer.

Dec. 1860, board appointed Elisha C. Cook supervisor vice Barnaby, elected county clerk.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Wm. M. Barstow; Clk.—Elisha C. Cook; Treas.—Jas. M. Luther; H. C.—Hiram Brady; J. P.—Culwell Martin; Sch. Insp.—Elbridge Franklin.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Wm. M. Barstow; Clk.—Jas. M. Luther; Treas.—Henry Swift 41, Wm. W. Palmer 41—Swift won; H. C.—Walter B. Howell; J. P.—E. A. Chase; Sch. Insp.—L. J. Dean.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Franklin Squire; Clk.—John W. McBride; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Eli Dalrymple; J. P.—Elias Sower; vacancy, Culwell Martin; Sch. Insp.—E. Franklin.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—H. T. Barnaby; Clk.—J. W. McBride; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Hiram Brady; vacancy, Adelmar R. Jerome; J. P.—John Franklin; Sch. Insp.—Lorenzo Squire.

At a special session of the supervisors held February 23, 1865, North Star was represented by Wm. M. Barstow.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Elias Sower; Clk.—Wm. M. Barstow; Treas.—Hiram Bovee; H. C.—A. W. Belding; vacancy, J. W. McBride; J. P.—Elijah Beard; Sch. Insp.—Columbus Levering; vacancy, E. C. Cook.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Elias Sower; Clk.—E. Franklin; Treas.—Wm. M. Barstow; H. C.—Sidney Phippeny; J. P.—E. A. Chase; vacancy, C. Martin; Sch. Insp.—H. T. Barnaby.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Wm. M. Barstow; Clk.—E. Franklin; Treas.—J. M. Luther; H. C.—Henry Swift; J. P.—E. Sower; Sch. Insp.—Benj. F. Myers.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Wm. M. Barstow; Clk.—E. Franklin; Treas.—Edwin A. Walter; H. C.—A. W. Belding; J. P.—John Franklin; Sch. Insp.—J. W. McBride.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—H. T. Barnaby; Clk.—John M. Trask; Treas.—J. W. McBride; H. C.—Hiram Brady; J. P.—John Hiffner; Sch. Insp.—J. M. Luther.

A special election was held Oct. 7, 1869, to vote aid of $10,000 to the proposed Lansing, St. Johns & Mackinaw Railroad; yes, 59; no, 41.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Wm. J. Marshall; Clk.—John M. Trask; Treas.—J. W. McBride; H. C.—Henry Swift; J. P.—John W. Steadman; Sch. Insp.—J. W. McBride; vacancy, Alanson J. Brown.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—H. T. Barnaby; Clk.—J. M. Trask; Treas.—Sid. Phippeny; H. C.—B. F. Belding; J. P.—Elias Sower; Sch. Insp.—Chas. S. Sprague; Dr. Com.—Henry Swift.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—H. T. Barnaby; Clk.—J. M. Trask; Treas.—Wilbur C. Bryant; H. C.—Wallace Hill; J. P.—Alvin P. Barnaby; Sch. Insp.—Adelbert E. Barstow; Dr. Com.—Henry Swift.

Dec., '72, Wm. M. Barstow was appointed supervisor vice Barnaby removed from township.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Lorenzo Squire; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—W. C. Bryant; H. C.—Henry Swift; vacancy, Alanson J. Brown; J. P.—John Hiffner; Sch. Insp.—A. D. Hoffman.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—Wm. J. Marshall; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Wm. F. Brown; Sch. Insp.—A. E. Barstow; Dr. Com.—Henry Swift.

The board appointed L. J. Dean census enumerator.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Sidney Thompson; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Henry Swift; J. P.—Elias Sower; vacancy, Geo. Smith; Supt. Sch.—Wm. M. Barstow; Sch. Insp.—W. C. Bryant; Dr. Com.—John R. Avery.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Sidney Thompson; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Hiram Brady; J. P.—Alvin P. Barnaby; Supt. Sch.—Wm. M. Barstow; Sch. Insp.—Thos. H. Harrod; Dr. Com.—A. E. Barstow.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Sidney Thompson; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—Chas. E. McBride; H. C.—Hiram Brady; J. P.—Wm. M. Barstow; Supt. Sch.—Elbridge Franklin ; Sch. Insp.—Jacob H. Mellinger.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—Geo. H. Srodes; Treas.—C. E. McBride; H. C.—H. Brady; J. P.—John Hiffner; Supt. Sch.—Andrew Swope; Sch. Insp.—J. H. Mellinger.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—Geo. H. Srodes; Treas.—Jerry D. Thompson; H. C.—Wm. Steadman; J. P—E. Sower; vacancy, Clarence M. Phillips; Supt. Sch.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Sch. Insp.—Marion L. Bovee.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—J. D. Thompson; H. C.—Wm. Steadman; J. P.—Andrew Steadman; Supt. Sch.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Sch. Insp.—Fremont H. Cook; Dr. Com.—Benj. F. Smith.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Jerry D. Thompson; Clk.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Treas.—Edwin A. Walter; H. C.—Edward N. DuBois; J. P.—Chas. E. Hawley; Supt. Sch.—F. H. Cook; Sch. Insp.—Albert W. Barnes.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Sidney Thompson; Clk.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Treas.—E. A. Walter; H. C.—H. Brady; J. P.—C. M. Phillips; Sch. Insp.—Homer W. Chaffin; vacancy, F. H. Cook.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Lorenzo C. Clark; H. C.—Frank G. Palmer; J. P.—Wm. W. Palmer; Dr. Com.—Geo. Hawkins.

May 1, 1883, Wm. Carmel was appointed drain commissioner in place of Geo. Hawkins, resigned.

May 22, '83, W. M. Barstow was appointed school inspector in place of Homer W. Chaffin, resigned.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—L. C. Clark; H. C.—Peter Hoffman; J. P.—Hiram Brady; Sch. Insp.—F. H. Cook; Dr. Com.—Samuel L. Litle; Review—A. W. Belding, L. J. Dean.

The board appointed Geo. W. Belding census enumerator.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—W. J. Marshall; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Edward L. Kimes; H. C.—Chas. N. Hoffman; J. P.—Edward Blakesley; Sch. Insp.—Frank G. Palmer.

Oct. 31, 1885, the board appointed Samuel M. Scott supervisor vice Marshall, removed from the township.

Jan. 29, 1886, the board voted to rent the town house to Kirk Litle for a wagon shop for $2 per month; the room to be cleared when wanted for township purposes. Evincing a spirit of thrift, as viewed from a distance of 27 years.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—L. C. Clark; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Ed. L. Kimes; H. C.—Samuel Millspaugh; J. P.—Garrett H. Ferrall; Sch. Insp.—Homer W. Chaffin; Dr. Com.—Lyman T. Nelson; Review—A. W. Belding, F. G. Palmer.

April 24, '86, the board appointed Rufus M. Palmer drain commissioner in place of Nelson, who failed to qualify. Then on May 24, B. M. Earl was appointed in place of Palmer who declined to serve. Earl failed to appreciate the honor and Geo. G. Robertson was given the job. There is nothing in the record to show that he didn't stick.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Ed. L. Kimes; Clk.—Geo. Smith; Treas.—Will E. Polhemus; H. C.—Jas. L. Mouser; J. P.—John Q. Adams; 3 yrs, D. J. Wilkinson; 2 yrs, Edward N. Du Bois; Sch. Insp.—Chas. S. Sprague; Dr. Com.—Laf. Sweatland; Review—F. H. Cook, F. G. Palmer.

June 1, '87, the board resolved to let E. L. Kimes and Wm. Carmel have the town house for a general store at $2 per month.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—E. L. Kimes; Clk.—Albert W. Bahlke; Treas.—Stephen D. Belding; H. C.—Foshen P. Hoffman; J. P.—Chas. E. Hawley; Sch. Insp.—Homer Chaffin; Dr. Com.—A. W. Belding.

It was voted to sell the town house and put the money on interest.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—E. L. Kimes; Clk.—Wesley F. Crandell; Treas.—L. C. Clark; H. C.—Jo. S. Bard; J. P.—Wm. W. Palmer; 2 yrs, Sam. M. Scott; Sch. Insp.—Ulysses S. Barnaby.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Calvin C. Kryder; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Chas. D. Lyon; H. C.—Jackson M. Williams; J. P.—John Foster; Sch. Insp.—Rufus M. Palmer; Dr. Com.—D. C. Stockwell; Review—Geo. Older, Clark Vedder.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Albert W. Barnes; Clk.—Fred E. Grimes; Treas.—J. H. Mellinger; H. C.—Jackson M. Williams; J. P.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; Review—C. E. McBride.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—A. W. Barnes; Clk.—Wm. H. Curtis; Treas.—J. H. Mellinger; H. C.—Jas. L. Mouser; J. P.—Hiram Brady; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Smith; Dr. Com.—Laf. Sweatland; Review—L. F. Nelson, C. E. McBride.

May 14, '92, board appointed A. D. Clark township clerk in place of Curtis, resigned.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Jacob H. Mellinger; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Robert Gladstone; J. P.—John Hiffner; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; Review—C. E. McBride.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—J. H. Mellinger; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—A. W. Belding; H. C.—Reuben V. Lott; J. P.—Fred L. Coss; vacancy, Henry Mason; Sch. Insp.—Nelson G. Fox; Dr. Com.—Robert S. Bartlett; Review—Wm. H. Kleckner.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—C. C. Kryder; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—J. M. Williams; H. C.—Nicholas Azelborn; J. P.—Wm. W. Palmer; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; Review—Geo. M. Du Bois.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—C. C. Kryder; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Ed. Swift; H. C.—Jesse Vedder; J. P.—Chas. E. Hawley; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; vacancy, Arthur J. Dean; Dr. Com.—D. C. Stockwell; Review—F. G. Palmer.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—C. C. Kryder; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—Ed. Swift; H. C.—Jesse Vedder; J. P.—D. J. Wilkinson; Sch. Insp.—Arthur J. Dean; Dr. Com.—D. C. Stockwell; Review—J. M. Williams.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Jackson M. Williams; Clk.—L. J. Dean; Treas.—F. G. Palmer; H. C.—Nicholas Azelborn; J. P.—Fred L. Coss; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; Review—Glen Du Bois.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—Edgerton C. Crandell; Treas.—F. G. Palmer; H. C.—N. Azelborn; J. P.—Geo. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Henry Hull.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—E. C. Crandell; Treas.—E. J. Churchhill; H. C.—N. Azelborn; J. P.—L. J. Dean; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—E. C. Crandell; Treas.—E. J. Churchill; H. C.—Bert White; J. P.—D. J. Wilkinson; Sch. Insp.—Henry Hull, Jr.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—L. C. Clark; Clk.—Herbert L. Brown; Treas.—Woodbury H. Bovee; H. C.—Jesse Parling; J. P.—Elbridge Franklin; vacancy, Louis N. Thibaudeau; Sch. Insp.—Arthur T. Dibble; Review—Geo. M. Du Bois, Wm. Andre.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—H. C. Brown; Treas.—W. H. Bovee; H. C.—Jas. Greenlee; J. P.—Cyrus Odell; Sch. Insp.—Chas. L. Mumford; Review—Wm. Andre, Ed. Green.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Edwin J. Churchill; Clk.—H. C. Brown; Treas.—E. C. Crandell; H. C.—Jas. Greenlee; J. P.—D. C. Whitmore; Sch. Insp.—Chas. M. Chaffin; Review—Jesse Parling.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—E. J. Churchill; Clk.—H. L. Brown; Treas.—E. C. Crandell; H. C.—Jas. Greenlee; J. P.—D. J. Wilkinson; vacancy, Alva O. Beam; Sch. Insp.—U. S. Barnaby; Review—J. M. Williams.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—U. S. Barnaby; Treas.—Jas. Greenlee; H. C.—Cornelius E. Smith; J. P.—W. H. McBride; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Johnson, E. C. Crandell, Review—Clark Vedder, Geo. McNabb.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—Earl C. Clapp; Treas.—Jas. Greenlee; H. C.—C. E. Smith; J. P.—Clark Vedder; Sch. Insp.—Jerome Eno, Grant Smith; Review—Geo. McNabb, U. S. Barnaby.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—Earl C. Clapp; Treas.—U. S. Barnaby; H. C.—C. E. Smith; Overseer—Ernest Webster; J. P.—D. C. Whitmore; Sch. Insp.—Grant Smith; Review—Jas. Greenlee.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—L. M. Hicks; Treas.—U. S. Barnaby; H. C.—D. C. Stockwell; Overseer—Ernest Webster; J. P.—D. J. Wilkinson; Sch. Insp.—E. J. Millspaugh; Review—Chas. D. Lyon.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—U. S. Barnaby; Treas.—Jas. Greenlee; H. C.—Ernest Webster; Overseer—Chas. Shaull; J. P.—Edwin J. Churchill; Review—Jesse Vedder.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—J. M. Williams; Clk.—U. S. Barnaby; Treas.—Jas. Greenlee; J. P.—Clark Vedder; Review—Chas. Lyon; H. C.—Ernest Webster; O. of H.—Edgar Millspaugh.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Frank G. Palmer; Clk.—U. S. Barnaby; Treas.—John R. Allan; J. P.—Geo. McNabb; Review—Henry Hull; H. C.—Ernest Webster; O. of H.—Ed. Millspaugh.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Bert Mellinger; Clk.—S. G. Locey; Treas.—John R. Allan; H. C.—Ernest D. Webster; O. of H.—Ed. Millspaugh; J. P.—W. H. Bovee; Review—F. G. Palmer.

Woman suffrage: Yes, 75; no, 120.

County road system: Yes, 47; no, 153.

Bert Mellinger resigned as supervisor in April, 1913, and the board appointed U. S. Barnaby to the vacancy.

**Supervisors.**

Benjamin Crawford, 1855.
Addison Hayden, 1856, '57, '58.
Horace T. Barnaby, 1859, '60, '64, '69, '71, '72.
Elisha C. Cook, ap. Dec., '60.
Wm. M. Barstow, 1861, '62, '67, '68.
Franklin Squire, ap. Aug., '62; '63.
Elias Sower, 1865, '66.
Wm. J. Marshall, 1870, '74, '78, '79, '80, '83, '84, '85.
Lorenzo Squire, 1873.
Sidney Thompson, 1875, '76, '77, '82.

Jerry D. Thompson, 1881.
Sam. M. Scott, ap. Oct. 31, '85.
Lorenzo C. Clark, 1886, '02.
Ed. L. Kimes, 1887, '88, '89.
Calvin C. Kryder, 1890, '95, '96, '97.
Albert W. Barnes, 1891, '92.
Jacob H. Mellinger, 1893, '94.
Jackson M. Williams, 1898, '99, '00, '01, '03, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11.
Edwin J. Churchill, 1904, '05.
Frank G. Palmer, 1912.
Bert Mellinger, 1913; resigned.
U. S. Barnaby, ap. April, 1913.

### Township Clerks.

Horace T. Barnaby, 1855, '56.
John Franklin, ap. Jan. 24, '56.
Luther J. Dean, 1857, '83, '85, '86, '90, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98.
Wm. W. Palmer, 1858.
Franklin Squire, 1859, '60.
Elisha C. Cook, 1861.
Jas. M. Luther, 1862.
John W. McBride, 1863, '64.
Wm. M. Barstow, 1865.
Elbridge Franklin, 1866, '67, '68.
John M. Trask, 1869, '70, '71, '72.
Geo. Smith, 1873, '74, '75, '76, '77, '80, '84, '87.
Geo. H. Srodes, 1878, '79.
Chas. M. Chaffin, 1881, '82.
Albert W. Bahlke, 1888.
Fred E. Grimes, 1891.
Wm. H. Curtis, 1892.
A. D. Clark, ap. May 14, '92.
Edgerton C. Crandell, 1899, '00, '01.
Herbert L. Brown, 1902, '03, '04, '05.
U. S. Barnaby, 1906, '10, '11, '12.
Earl C. Clapp, 1907, '08.
L. M. Hicks, 1909.
S. G. Locey, 1913.

### Treasurers.

Wm. W. Palmer, 1855, '56, '57, '59.
Wm. M. Barstow, 1858, '60.
Jas. M. Luther, 1860, '61, '67.
Henry Swift, 1862.
A. W. Belding, 1863, '64, '74, '75, '76, '93, '94.
Hiram Bovee, 1865.
Edwin A. Walter, 1868, '81, '82.
J. W. McBride, 1869, '70.
Sid Phippeny, 1871.
Wilbur C. Bryant, 1872, '73.
Chas. E. McBride, 1877, '78.
Jerry D. Thompson, 1879, '80.
Lorenzo C. Clark, 1883, '84, '89.
Edward L. Kimes, 1885, '86.
Will E. Polhemus, 1887.
Stephen D. Belding, 1888.
Chas. D. Lyon, 1890.
Jacob H. Mellinger, 1891, '92.
Jackson M. Williams, 1895.
Ed. Swift, 1896, '97.
Frank G. Palmer, 1898, '99.
Edwin J. Churchill, 1900, '01.
Woodbury H. Bovee, 1902, '03.
E. C. Crandell, 1904, '05.
Jas. Greenlee, 1906, '07, '10, '11.
U. S. Barnaby, 1908, '09.
John R. Allan, 1912, '13.

## NORTH STAR BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### TYRRELL.

Wilson A. Tyrrell was born in Elgin County, Ontario, October 12, 1843, son of Miles and Hannah Tyrrell. He came to Gratiot County in 1864, purchasing a farm in Arcada Township. In 1880 he bought a farm in North Star and Newark Townships, and in the following year moved on to it, improving and cultivating it until the year 1893. Having acquired timber and land interests in Emmett County, Mich., he removed to that county and has since been a resident there, visiting Gratiot County frequently, looking after his farming interests here.

Mr. Tyrrell was married November 23, 1876, to Mary Elvina Levering, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Levering, well-known residents of

North Star Township. Two children were born to this union—Zoe K. who died in infancy, and Grace L.

In company with friends in Petoskey, the latter took a three-months' trip to Europe and the Holy Land in the spring and summer of 1911. The company embarked at Liverpool on the steamship Lake Manitoba, for its return trip to America, landing in due time at Montreal, Canada. There they were met by Bion H. Naldrett, son of Will T. Naldrett, and then and there, on board the boat Lake Manitoba, Miss Grace L. Tyrrell was married to Mr. Naldrett; Elder Manning, of Petoskey, who was a member of the party, performing the ceremony.

In recent years Mr. Tyrrell and family have spent a portion of each year in milder climates—various places in Southern California, and more recently at Hot Springs, Arkansas. And wherever they are, they can have the satisfaction of knowing that they have the best wishes of many acquaintances in Gratiot County.

Mr. Tyrrell is an active member of the M. E. Church, while Mrs. Tyrrell's connection with the Presbyterian Church dates back many years.

## BARNABY.

Horace Thomas Barnaby was born in Angelica, Allegany County, N. Y., April 26, 1823. By the loss of both of his parents he was left an orphan at twelve years of age. In October, 1842, he came to Michigan and bought land in the Township of Wright, Hillsdale County, where, in July, 1844, he was married to Miss Lydia Ann Wilson. In 1850 he went by the overland route to California, and in the December following, on account of failing health, he went to Central America where he remained until the next March and then returned to Michigan, reaching home April 1, 1851.



REV. H. T. BARNABY.

In 1852 Mr. Barnaby was converted and united with the Methodist Protestant Church, soon thereafter entering the ministry.

In the spring of 1854 Mr. Barnaby sold his land in Hillsdale County, and moved into Gratiot County, at that time a wilderness, almost entirely. In company with Peter Hoffman he cut the first road into what was then known as "town 10—2"—afterward named North Star. He was one of the leading figures among the pioneers, becoming known and highly respected throughout the county. Besides filling most of the township offices, including supervisor six years, he was elected county clerk in 1860, holding the office one term. In 1868 and again in 1870 he was elected representative in the state legislature.

In 1875 Mr. Barnaby sold his property in Gratiot and moved to Kent County where he still resides.

It affords keen pleasure to be able to present this sketch, with the accompanying portrait, of one who so conspicuously and so honorably performed his part in the work of starting the county on its prosperous and successful career.

## ACKLES.

Mrs. Abigail Ackles, residing on the Ackles homestead, section 24, North Star Township, is one of the prominent survivors of the pioneer population of Gratiot County. She is the widow of the late Timothy D. Ackles, one of the best-known and best-remembered of the early settlers of the county. Mr. Ackles, was the son of Tertules and Charlotte (Dolittle) Ackles, natives of New York State. He was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., August 13, 1835. He was the youngest of twelve children, and, his father dying when Timothy D. was about two years old, he came with his mother to Michigan in the spring of 1854, stopping first in Clinton County, and coming to Gratiot County and settling in North Star Township in the fall of the same year. He was one of the small company of men who organized the Township of North Star. He remained on the farm for many years, engaged in the trying labors of clearing up and improving a wilderness tract and transforming it into one of the best farms in the county. Having accomplished this, and attaining such a degree of prosperity that he could afford to relinquish the strenuous farm work to other hands, he bought property in Ithaca, building a fine residence to which he removed Nov. 9, 1886. February 16, 1891, he returned to the farm. He passed away March 2, 1902.



TIMOTHY D. ACKLES.

Mr. Ackles was married to Miss Abigail Fox in Essex County, Ontario, August 20, 1865. She was born in that county September 7, 1845, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (McLean) Fox. Jacob Fox died July 19, 1869, at the age of 79 years. His wife, Elizabeth, died June 9, 1895, at the advanced age of 90 years.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ackles—Tertules J., died when eight years of age; George Timothy, died in infancy; Floyd J. died when nearly four years old; Charlotte, the only surviving child is married to Charles Moon. They are carrying on the farming operations on the Ackles homestead, and are meeting with well-deserved success in their labors. They are the parents of William Timothy, born November 15, 1905.



MRS. ABIGAIL ACKLES.

Mrs. Abigail Ackles, the mother, is especially active and well-preserved for a lady of her age, and is highly esteemed by many friends. She affiliates with the Baptist Church, having been brought up in that faith.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Ackles which accompany this sketch, will be highly prized by a host of their acquaintances, and without doubt will add much to the interest and attractiveness of this volume, as being faithful representations of two citizens who have done as much as many others to make Gratiot one of the best counties in the state.

## GOODWIN.

Horace Goodwin is a well-known farmer of North Star Township, his farm being located on section 5, one and a half miles from Ithaca. He is the owner of 80 acres of fine farming land under a good state of cultivation and with good buildings, where he has resided since 1902. Mr. Goodwin was born in Groton, Vermont, February 2, 1857, and is the son of William E. and Celinda (Welch) Goodwin. The father was born January 18, 1833, in Groton, and died in the same place January 5, 1896. The mother, who was the daughter of Daniel and Alice (Page) Welch, was born March 12, 1833, at Groton, and died at Rome Center, Lenawee County, Michigan, October 12, 1866. The paternal grandfather was Rufus Goodwin, his wife being Eunice (Darling) Goodwin. The former was born in Shapley, Maine, August 2, 1802, and died June 9, 1870.



HORACE GOODWIN, WIFE AND RESIDENCE.

Eunice Darling, the wife, was born in Groton, February 14, 1810, and died April 25, 1871. Rufus Goodwin's father, Benjamin Goodwin, removed with his family—wife and seven or eight children—from the State of Maine to Groton, Vermont, about the years 1816. Horace Goodwin's maternal grandfather—Daniel Welch—was a native of Groton, and his grandmother—Alice (Page) Welch—was a native of the State of Maine. So, according to this geneological record, Mr. Goodwin is shown to be entirely of New England blood and parentage.

William E., the father of Horace Goodwin, was by occupation a contractor and builder, and was also a millwright. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, the records showing that he joined the order at Littleton, New Hampshire, in 1865. His marriage to Miss Celinda Welch occurred at Groton, Vermont, November 9, 1852. There were four children born to this union as follows: Henry A. was born at Newton, Ohio, September 19, 1853, and died at Burlington, Kansas, October 6, 1872. Then comes Horace, of this sketch; Herbert R., born in Groton, Vermont, February 16, 1859, now a resident of North Star Township; Jimmie M., born in Groton, November 11, 1862, is also a resident of North Star.

Horace Goodwin was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Sower at her home in North Star, April 30, 1883. She is the daughter of the late Dr. Elias Sower, of North Star, and was born October 14, 1857. Mrs. Goodwin's mother was Elizabeth Klingaman, who was married to Dr. Sower in Seneca County, Ohio, June 8, 1854. Four children resulted from this union: David E. and Sarah E. were twins. The former died at the age of twenty years. Almira, who became the wife of Herbert R. Goodwin, died October 22, 1899. One died in infancy.

Horace Goodwin received a common school education. He removed with his parents from Groton, Vermont to Rome Center, Lenawee County, Michigan, and then came to St. Louis, this county, remaining there but a short time, however, and then returning to Lenawee County, where he remained seven years. Then he returned to Vermont and stayed about two years. In December, 1877, he came to Hamilton Township, this county, buying 40 acres on section 7. This he cleared, keeping "bachelor's hall" part of the time, and part of the time living with, and working for, Dr. Sower. After his marriage he remained with the doctor, working his farm till after the latter's death, when he removed to his Hamilton farm where he lived 11 years. Then, after a residence of three years in Ithaca, he removed to his present home on section 5, North Star. Mr. Goodwin is a member of Rising Star Lodge No. 151, I. O. O. F. of Ithaca, and is also a member of Ithaca Encampment, No. 106. Mrs. Goodwin is a member of Crescent Lodge No. 75, D. of R. of Ithaca. Both are popular and respected citizens in the community and wherever they are known. They have one son—by adoption—Walter H.

In this connection it seems appropriate to give at least a few lines to the memory of Dr. Elias Sower, whose name for several years was a household word in the homes of many citizens of Gratiot County particularly in the vicinity of his home. He was born in York County, Pennsylvania, April 5, 1810. He was the son of Henry Sower, of Frederick County, Maryland. The latter was the son of John Sower who came from Germany, settling in Maryland. The father of Dr. Sower was a soldier in the War of 1812.



SOWER MEMORIAL CHURCH.

Dr. Sower was first married May 1, 1832, to Margaret Bitner. She died August 1, 1851. The children by this union were Susan, Lydia, Mary Jane, John H., Catharine, Daniel, Lavina, Samuel and William. After the death of his wife, Dr. Sower was married a second time—June 8, 1854—Miss Elizabeth Klingaman becoming his wife, as stated earlier in this sketch. Dr. Sower came to Gratiot in 1854, settling on 320 acres in North

Star, and, of course, passing through the varied experiences usually falling to the lot of a pioneer. But in addition to being a farmer he was a minister of the M. E. Church and a physician, and in these capacities he ministered to the physical and spiritual wants of his fellow-pioneers for miles around, relieving their worldly necessities, curing their diseases, and, if their ailments proved too serious for his knowledge and skill, making their coffins, preaching their funeral sermons and aiding in consigning them to Mother Earth and covering them over. He died September 10, 1887. Few of Gratiot's pioneers are remembered more gratefully. His wife, Elizabeth Sower, died July 14, 1896. The church building shown was erected and named in honor of Dr. Sower; four miles east of Ithaca.

## PALMER.

William W. Palmer, (deceased), well known as one of the earliest pioneers of North Star Township, was born in Onondaga County, New York, May 27, 1823. His father, Gilbert Palmer, was born in Greene County, New York, and his mother, Ann (Pitts) Palmer, was a native of Columbia County, New York. In 1837 Gilbert Palmer removed to Michigan, settling in Dover Township, Lenawee County, a wilderness country at that time. Here William W., the subject of this sketch, was introduced to pioneer life at the age of 14. Work on the new farm and attendance at the district school occupied his time and attention for the next eight years.



WM. W. PALMER AND WIFE.

July 2, 1845, Mr. Palmer was joined in marriage to Lydia Savage, daughter of Chester and Aurelia (Guthrie) Savage, Irish and Scotch, respectively. During the next nine years they remained residents of Lenawee County. In the fall of 1854, having traded for 160 acres of land on sections 27 and 28, township 10 north, 2 west, later named North Star, Mr. Palmer loaded his wife and two children, together with a few household necessities, into a wagon, and with a yoke of oxen ahead and a cow behind, made the long and tedious journey to Gratiot. The route was by way of Maple Rapids, the only bridge across Maple River being located there.

Arriving at the residence of Levi Smith, in Fulton Township, he left his family there and proceeded alone to his forest farm. He found that there were but seven settlers with their families in the township ahead of him, and they had all located within the year. They were Rowland Smith, H. T. Barnaby, Peter Hoffman, John Franklin, Bela Evitts, John W. Chaffin and Alexander McDaid; each with a small clearing ranging from a garden spot to a few acres.

Mr. Palmer soon had a log house erected, and about November 20th moved in with his family. It was but a cabin and not in an advanced stage of completeness at that. In the hurry to get into their own domicil, they occupied it without a door being hung and without a window. Blankets did duty for door and window; and there was only enough puncheon floor to accommodate a bed and a stove. These defects were, of course, remedied as soon after getting settled as possible. And thus commenced the long campaign that was to result in a complete victory over the obstacles and discouragements that confronted them. But it was a tedious contest, and one calculated to test the staying qualities of those who had the courage to enter it.

During the fall and winter there was such a rush of settlers that the township had about 30 voters within its borders, in the spring of 1855. They met at the residence of Peter Hoffman that spring, organized and named the township, and elected officers. Mr. Palmer was chosen treasurer. At that time the southern half of the county was attached to Clinton County for judicial and certain other purposes, Gratiot County not being fully organized. Mr. Palmer, as treasurer, had to make his returns to the county seat of Clinton, at that time established at Dewitt, making the trip on foot. He held the office for five years, and was clerk one year. Later on he served as school inspector, and was justice of the peace for a period of twenty years.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, four of whom died in infancy or early childhood. Those deceased are the following: Rosalie A., born August 4, 1846, died December 30, 1848; Ada A., born July 30, 1848, died September 12, 1850; James I., born August 13, 1858, died August 15, 1866; Gilbert C., born May 9, 1864, died February 3, 1865. Following are the names and birth-dates of those living: Ida L., born December 30, 1848; Rufus M., born March 29, 1852; Frank G., born August 1, 1856; Roscoe C., born October 10, 1860; Vere D., born June 8, 1867.

Lydia (Savage) Palmer, the wife and mother, was born in Monroe County, New York, May 16, 1823. In 1834 she removed with her parents to Medina Township, Lenawee County, Michigan. On reaching mature years she engaged in teaching. She was a woman of great energy and industry, and in all the vicissitudes of life, as the wife of a pioneer settler in a new country and the mother of a large family, she proved herself worthy of a warm place in the hearts of her family and acquaintances, and fully entitled to rank with the noblest of Gratiot County's noble pioneer women. In addition to her manifold household duties she found time to spin the yarn and weave the cloth for nearly all the garments worn by her family; and it naturally follows that she also made the garments.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer were for many years valued members of the Baptist Church. The former passed away March 24, 1903. The latter remained till June 21, 1906, when her labors came to an end. They are buried in North Star cemetery.

## PALMER.

Frank G. Palmer was born in the Township of North Star, Gratiot County, Mich., August 1, 1856. Nearly all his life has been spent in the spot where he first saw the light, he having inherited the old homestead of 80 acres upon which his father built his first log cabin, in 1854. He attended the district school, acquiring a good common school education, which enabled him to teach in the district schools of Gratiot County for

several years during the winters, his summers being spent in work upon the farm, first for his father and afterward as its owner.

May 17, 1879, he married Luella Huson, a native of Genoa, Ohio. To them were born three children—Victor H., May 21, 1880; Velma, born December 24, 1881, and Fay C., born December 14, 1883. June 5, 1906, Victor H. was married to Maude Murray, a resident of Cadillac, Mich. They now reside in Toledo, Ohio, where he is connected with the offices of the Hocking Valley R. R. Co. They have a daughter, Helen Virginia, born June 23, 1911. Velma taught four years in the schools of Belding, Mich., and is now serving in her third year in the Ithaca schools. Fay C. was married August 23, 1911, to Jennie Crozier and resides at Sparta, Mich., where he is engaged in the creamery business.

Mrs. Luella Palmer died April 11, 1887.

September 25, 1889, Mr. Palmer was again married, his second wife being Eva Cheney, also a native of Genoa, Ohio. Two children have resulted from this marriage—Ethel, born December 1, 1891, and Vincent W., born February 23, 1896. Ethel, after taking a life course at the Central Normal at Mt. Pleasant, taught three years at Kalkaska, Mich. With her health considerably impaired, she is now at home for a year's rest.

Vincent is in the Ithaca High School, a member of the senior class.

In politics Mr. Palmer has always allied himself with the Democratic party; but, believing that the election of honest, competent officers is of more consequence than party success, he always votes independently. He has held various offices in his township—school inspector, treasurer, etc., and was elected supervisor in the spring of 1912, serving one year. He declined a renomination. In 1904 he was the candidate of his party for representative in the legislature but was defeated by the overwhelming republican majority of that year.

Believing that education and co-operation among farmers are essential to secure a more just distribution of the fruits of their toil, Mr. Palmer early joined the Grange movement, and has held prominent positions in that order for many years. In 1905 he was elected a member of the executive committee of the State Grange, and was re-elected in 1907. On the formation of the Grange Fire Insurance Company of Gratiot County in 1902, he was elected secretary-treasurer, a position he has since held continuously.

## PALMER.

Rufus M. Palmer, farmer on section 27, North Star, was born March 29, 1852, in the Township of Dover, Lenawee County, Mich., oldest son of William W. and Lydia (Savage) Palmer. He came to Gratiot County with his parents in November, 1854, and consequently has had experience in pretty much all phases of pioneer life. He tells of having attended the second term of school ever taught in District No. 1, North Star. The schoolhouse was located on the H. T. Barnaby farm, on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 28; in the days when there were no regular roads, all travel being over trails blazed promiscuously through the woods in such a way as to take advantage of the highest and dryest ground.

Rufus M. attended school winters until seventeen years of age, helping on the farm during the summers after the age of 12; in fact enjoying all the advantages usual to the oldest son of an early pioneer, such as roaming barefooted through the forests hunting the cows; exciting and exhilarating exercise, especially when the ground was covered with frost. He early became an expert with the ax, handspike and maul, while his

amusements came by way of attendance at the spelling schools held in surrounding districts, a trip of four or five miles on foot through the woods being no uncommon occurrence. In the summer time the logging bees helped to keep up an interest in life, especially when followed by a dance at night. A trip to St. Johns on horseback when he was twelve years old is one of the experiences that remain prominent in his memory; a trip made for the purpose of getting supplies for the family.

At eighteen years of age Mr. Palmer commenced spending his winters in the lumber camps, following this business for a period of ten years. A strenuous life it was, but with plenty of excitement, and, what was an important consideration, a snug and welcome sum of hard-earned money in the spring.

Our subject was married January 8, 1881, to Miss Charlotte M. Henry, daughter of J. F. and Mary (Mills) Henry. Her parents came from Vermont in 1862, settling on section 31, North Star, where they still reside. Charlotte M. was born February 15, 1862, at Athens, Vermont.

Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Palmer: Glyn C., born May 11, 1883, died by reason of an accident, June 17, 1885. Harold C. was born May 1, 1886; Ivan H., the youngest, was born July 29, 1888.

Harold C. Palmer was married August 26, 1908, to Edna M. Coats, of Edmore, Mich. They have two children—Kenneth B., born June 27, 1910, and May Louise, born February 25, 1913. They live at Edmore.

Ivan H. Palmer was married November 8, 1909, to Ruth, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Peabody of North Star. They reside near Shaftsburg, Mich., and have a daughter—Ruby—born March 30, 1911.

Charlotte M. Palmer, the wife and mother, died at her home in North Star Township, September 24, 1910. She was a faithful and energetic helpmeet; a staunch and reliable member of society.

Mr. Palmer claims the distinction of having been the pioneer in steam threshing in Gratiot County. In April, 1878, in company with A. B. Claflin, he purchased a steam threshing outfit, operating it principally in North Star Township. In many other activities along agricultural lines he has done his full share. From his childhood to the present time he has had a close acquaintanceship with all the varied phases of pioneer life in a new country, and is entitled to great credit for the way in which he has met and performed the duties and obligations of life.

Mr. Palmer was married (second) to Ida L. Foster, of Grand Rapids, Mich., January 24, 1913.

## WILLIAMS.

Jackson M. Williams is a well-known citizen of North Star Township, his farm and home being located on section 24. He was born in Jackson Township, Seneca County, Ohio, January 29, 1853. His father, Andrew M. Williams, was born in Susquehanna County, Penn., March 4, 1811, son of Daniel and Mary Williams. Daniel Williams, grandfather of our subject, served as a volunteer in the War of 1812. He was a son of William Williams who was born in Ireland. Coming to America he served for a time as a captain in the Revolutionary army. He was then elected to congress, and was an acquaintance and friend of Benjamin Franklin.

Andrew M. Williams, father of Jackson M. Williams, moved to Muskingum County, Ohio, with his parents in 1817, where he grew to manhood. He then moved to Richland County with his parents, and from there to Seneca County, settling an a farm of 100 acres. There he married Miss Sarah Swope. To this union three children were born—Mary, wife of

Samuel Lambright, now deceased; Susannah, wife of Abram Signs; Jacob, who married Eva Iler.

His wife dying, Andrew M. Williams married Miss Nancy Iler, born in Richland County, Ohio, September 6, 1826, daughter of John and Magdalene (Switzer) Iler. Mrs. Nancy (Iler) Williams was German, her mother, Magdalene (Switzer) Iler having been born in Germany.

Children born to Andrew M. and Nancy (Iler) Williams were—Magdelene, deceased; Jackson M.; Elizabeth, now Mrs. John Huffman; Nancy Lodema, now wife of Nicholas Azelborn.

Andrew M. Williams was one of a large family of children, and knew the privations and hardships of pioneer life, helping to clear many acres of land. He was a man of upright character and of excellent principles, always doing what he considered right and just. His wife was also one of a large family. She was a woman of noble character. The children of this excellent couple are sure that they had the best parents in the world. Mrs. Nancy Williams had three brothers in the Union army in the Civil War. Only one lived to return home at the close of the war. One was killed on the battle field, and one died in Andersonville prison. These were sad days in the history of the family; days never to be forgotten.

Jackson M. Williams came with his parents to Michigan in February, 1879. He was united in marriage, September 4, 1881, to Miss Sarah J. Bresee, born August 12, 1865, in Broome County, N. Y., daughter of Henry and Mary (Coss) Bresee. Henry Bresee was born in New York of Irish parents, and was married (first) to Miss Emily Coss, and to them these children were born: Rosa, deceased; Susan, deceased; Ella, wife of Horace Harrington, of New Lisbon, N. Y.; Allan, deceased. After the death of his wife he married (second) Mrs. Mary White, born June 22, 1835, in Penn., daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Myers) Coss. To this union two children were born—Sarah J. and Cassie O., the latter now the wife of Lewis Lehner. Mrs. Mary Bresee had three children by a former marriage—Francis O., deceased; George A., deceased; Ella E., wife of George Potter. Henry Bresee died in New York in 1889. Mrs. Bresee passed away November 17, 1906, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Cassie Lehner.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson M. Williams have two children—Esther V., born February 4, 1883, and Viola A., born October 4, 1891. Esther V. was married to William Ulrich, June 8, 1904.

Mr. Williams began life for himself with a common school education, and farming has been his principal occupation. He and his wife remained at home with his parents until after his father's death which occurred December 5, 1891. They then moved on a farm of their own, consisting of eighty acres of well-improved land, and where they have since resided. Mr. Williams' mother survived her husband until August 8, 1900, when she passed away.

Jackson M. Williams has served his township in various responsible positions. He was elected highway commissioner in 1890 and served two years. In 1895 he was elected township treasurer. In 1896 and '97, he was a member of the board of review. In 1898 he was elected supervisor and served eleven years in that capacity. As supervisor he gave exceptional satisfaction to his constituents, declining further service in that capacity for personal and business reasons.

Mr. Williams is proud to say that he has been a member of the order of Odd Fellows for 37 years, first joining in Kansas City, Ohio. He is a charter member of Heath Lodge, No. 222 of North Star.

## LEVERING.

Columbus Levering, deceased, a former resident of Gratiot County and for many years one of its foremost citizens, was born April 19, 1820, in Knox County, Ohio. He was married January 1, 1845, to Eliza Smith, who was born July 2, 1824.



COLUMBUS LEVERING.

Mr. Levering removed to Michigan with his family in February, 1863. Their first stopping place was Greenbush, Clinton County, where they remained until April of the same year, when they located in the Village of Ithaca. Here Mr. Levering built a grist mill and sawmill which he operated until the next March at which time he traded the mills to W. W. Comstock for a half section of land—the south half of section 30, North Star Township, where he lived until the death of Mrs. Levering in the year 1890.

The mills mentioned, built by Mr. Levering, were located on the block north of the one on which the M. E. Church stands.

Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Levering—Mrs. Mary E. Tyrrell, wife of Wilson A. Tyrrell, of Petoskey, Mich., and Mrs. Kittie Naldrett, wife of Charles S. Naldrett, of Ithaca.

Having business interests in Emmett County, Mich., with his son-in-law, Wilson Tyrrell, Mr. Levering, after the death of his wife, made his home there during the remaining years of his life. He spent part of his time, however, looking after his farming interests in Gratiot County. His death occurred in Petoskey, Mich., April 10, 1891. His remains were laid beside those of his wife, in North Star cemetery.

They both united with the Presbyterian Church early in life, remaining true and loyal till the close of their lives. It was by their efforts and one or two others that the first church in Gratiot County was built — the church building located five miles south of Ithaca, on section 31 of North Star Township. It was built in the summer of 1866, and is now used as a house of worship by the United Brethren.

Mr. and Mrs. Levering held an enviable place in the esteem of the old settlers of the county. Their portraits, herewith presented, will be highly prized by all who had the pleasure and advantage of their acquaintance.



MRS. C. LEVERING.

## SHUPE.

Jacob Shupe, residing on section 16, North Star Township, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, December 28, 1849, son of David and Susannah (Gingery) Shupe. David Shupe was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1822. He removed with his parents to Ohio, settling on a farm in

Crawford County. In May, 1846, he was married to Miss Susannah Gingery who was born in Pennsylvania, July 26, 1831. She removed with her parents to Crawford County, Ohio, and settled on a farm.

In the fall of 1867 David Shupe removed with his family to Clinton County, Michigan, and in the spring following they came to Gratiot County, locating in North Star Township, purchasing 40 acres of land on section 16 for which they paid $8 per acre. Here they built their log cabin and began pioneer life in the woods of Gratiot.

To David and Susannah Shupe fourteen children were born—nine sons and five daughters. Only six are now living. David, Amos, Manuel, William and Samuel died and were buried in Crawford County, Ohio. Jonathan and Samantha died in North Star and are buried in North Star cemetery. David Shupe, the father, died July 26, 1874 at the age of 52 years, two months and eight days. The mother, Susannah Shupe, was again married —December 4, 1875—to George K. Witham who was born in New York State February 15, 1832. He was three years a soldier in the Civil War. His death occurred in North Star, January 4, 1901. Mrs. Susannah Witham died in Ithaca, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Sprague, May 22, 1912.

The following records the names and dates of birth of Jacob Shupe's brothers and sisters: Mary Shupe was born in Crawford County, Ohio, July 25, 1851. She was married January 17, 1869 to Orin L. Perry, in Litchfield, Medina County, Ohio. Two children were born to them—Rufus, born May 7, 1875, and Maryette, born June 21, 1883. Rebecca Shupe was born in Crawford County, Ohio, June 9, 1858, and was married December 16, 1876, to John Sprague, who was born in Fulton County, Ohio, April 16, 1851. Four children resulted—Mattie M., born May 23, 1878, married January 30, 1899; Grace M., born August 24, 1879, married April 16, 1900; Jennie L., born March 6, 1882, married January 20, 1906, died March 19, 1910, in Detroit; Don. M., born October 4, 1887. Sarah A. Shupe was born in Crawford County, Ohio, January 10, 1860; was married February 11, 1875 to Ellis Fuller who was born in England November 23, 1845. To this union seven children were born—Edna L., born December 19, 1875, married to William L. Altenburg, June 9, 1895, present residence, Long Beach, California; Eddie L., born June 28, 1877, died October 21, 1887; Frederick M., born November 7, 1879, died October 30, 1880; Burdette D., born August 18, 1881, married July 22, 1903, to Phebe Garress, who was born in England; Arthur E., born August 1, 1883, married October 21, 1895, to Hattie Davidson; Garnett E., born April 3, 1888, died June 11, 1902; Troy W., born August 23, 1892, present residence, Long Beach, California. Mrs. Sarah A. Fuller died at Ithaca, October 17, 1912, aged 52 years. Joseph Shupe was born in Crawford County, Ohio, August 8, 1867; is a farmer in Clinton County, Mich. Frank Shupe was born in North Star, March 1, 1869, married September 25, 1898, to Altana Brown, who was born July 25, 1871. To this union three children were born—Edith Crystal, born July 2, 1899; Clifford Devere, born January 6, 1901; Virgil Leroy, born April 2, 1904. Bertha Shupe was born April 13, 1870, married July 3, 1889, to James W. Greer, died April 8, 1891, leaving a son, Ralph, born March 29, 1891. James W. Greer died November 2, 1912.

Jacob Shupe, our principal subject, was married February 17, 1874, in Ithaca, to Sophia Dora Turner, who was born December 20, 1854, in Germany, daughter of Frederick and Mary (Kent) Turner. She is one of four children: Mary Turner, born September 29, 1847, was married July 4, 1872, to Daniel J. Wilkinson who was born November 14, 1845. Mr. Wilkinson

was a soldier in the Civil War, member of the 17th Mich. Infantry, later a member of the Engineers and Mechanics. Now resides in the Village of North Star. Ann Turner was born October 27, 1850, and was married to H. B. Wells. They were the parents of two sons—W. M. Leo and Bertie, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Ann Wells died October 21, 1875. George Turner was born November 17, 1860, and was married May 21, 1882, to Mintie Peacemaker who was born April 28, 1866.

Jacob and Sophia Dora Shupe are the parents of six children—one son and five daughters—Samuel, Alta Dora, Martha Hattie, Mary E., Anna B. and Ethel Hazel. Samuel Shupe was born December 24, 1874. He is a farmer by occupation. He was married in Saginaw, Michigan February 22, 1906, to Martha Woodman of that city. Alta Dora Shupe was born May 20, 1877; married to Milton Carmany, May 6, 1897. He was born in Sumner County, Ohio, June 3, 1870. They have one child, Beulah B., born March 31, 1900. Martha Hattie Shupe was born July 31, 1879, married February 21, 1902, to William E. Peters who was born August 29, 1878. They have one child, Marvin Wayne, born March 9, 1908. Mary E. Shupe was born August 4, 1881, and was married November 26, 1908, to Frank E. Brown, born February 5, 1880. Anna B. Shupe was born October 2, 1883, and was married December 25, 1902, to Frederic C. Davis, of Boyne City, Mich. They have had one child, James Harold, born January 3, 1907, died January 10, 1907. Ethel Hazel Shupe was born August 26, 1892, and was married September 17, 1910, to Levi B. Hawley, who was born February 15, 1890. They live one mile west of North Star Village, and have one child—Evelyn Irene, born November 6, 1911.

Jacob Shupe and family are among the best of North Star's many good citizens, all of whom will be pleased with this very complete family record.

## MOUSER.

James L. Mouser, a well-known farmer residing on section 10, North Star, was born in Wood County, Ohio, August 31, 1856, son of John W. and Hannah (Landis) Mouser. John W. Mouser was born in Virginia, March 31, 1832, his parents being Daniel and Elizabeth (Hahen) Mouser, both natives of Virginia. Hannah (Landis) Mouser was born April 13, 1837. Her parents were Jacob and Sarah (Clemens) Landis, born in Germany. John W. Mouser died at his home in Newark Township, July 1, 1904.

James L. Mouser, the subject of this sketch, is the oldest of the six children of John W. and Hannah (Landis) Mouser. The names and birth-dates of the children are as follows: James L., August 31, 1856; Sarah A., July 11, 1859; Daniel J., October 7, 1861; Mary L., May 7, 1863; Lincoln J., May 11, 1866; George G., January 28, 1869.

James L. Mouser was married September 1, 1877, in Newark Township, to Miss Alona A. Cowdrey, born in Newark Township, June 19, 1859, daughter of William P. and Frances Cowdrey. The father, who was the son of Shepherd and Elizabeth (Stewart) Cowdrey, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, March 9, 1811. The mother, who was the daughter of Thomas W. and Catherine (Rhodes) Greer, was born January 2, 1831, in Columbiana County, Ohio. Thomas W. Greer, a grand old Scotchman, was born on the Atlantic Ocean when his parents came from Scotland, in 1794. To him and his wife—who was Catharine Rhodes—were born nine children—four sons and five daughters. The four sons were union soldiers in the Civil War. Joseph lost his right arm; Captain John was wounded in

the hip by a fragment of a shell; William contracted disease, which, together with homesickness, carried him off; George was starved to death in Andersonville prision.

Thomas W. Greer, born in 1794, died in 1868, aged 74. His wife, Catharine (Rhodes) Greer, born in 1804, died in 1876, aged 72. Both were active members of the Disciple Church.

William P. Cowdrey, the father of Mrs. James L. Mouser, was three times married. His first wife, to whom he was married May 12, 1845, was Mary Bruce, who was born February 16, 1824. She died in 1849. Two children were born to this union. Savilla C. (deceased) was born in Ohio, May 21, 1846. Inman N. was born March 8, 1848 in Ohio.

The second wife of William P. Cowdrey was Marilda Fortney, to whom he was married May 18, 1851. She died in 1853.

William P. Cowdrey's third wife was Mrs. Frances (Greer) Giles, whom he married August 31, 1854. She was the daughter of Thomas W. and Catharine (Rhodes) Greer, as heretofore recorded in this sketch, had pre-



JAMES L. MOUSER'S RESIDENCE—SIDE VIEW.

viously been married to James Giles, and two children had been born to them—Mary C., born March 12, 1850, and Samuel P., who died in infancy. Mary C. died in Ithaca, May 17, 1913, the widow of Hiram Bartshe. Both children were born in Ohio.

To William P. and Frances (Greer-Giles) Cowdrey were born nine children as follows: Margaret Ellen, born July 12, 1855, in Ohio, died October 11, 1872, in Michigan; Alma, born March 6, 1857, in Ohio; Alona, June 19, 1859, in Gratiot County, Mich.; Douglas, July 24, 1861, Gratiot County; William, November 6, 1863, Gratiot County; Edwin, December 16, 1865, Gratiot County; Joseph, October 14, 1867, Gratiot County; Nora, January 26, 1870, Gratiot County; Werdna, September 27, 1872, Gratiot County.

William P. Cowdrey moved his family to Gratiot County in 1857, locating May 14th on a farm of 80 acres in Newark Township, the place now occu-

pied by his son, Edwin Cowdrey. Thus it will be seen that they were among the early settlers of the county, and became familiar with all of the trials and pleasures of pioneer life. The father passed away March 16, 1883. The mother died January 7, 1900.

James L. Mouser and his wife, Alona (Cowdrey) Mouser, have one child—Gracia Frances. She was born April 4, 1880. She has been given a thorough education, graduating from the Ithaca High School, class of 1898. In 1899 she taught in the Mellinger district, North Star. She then took a course in kindergarten work at Alma College, graduating from the department in 1901, and the same year began teaching the kindergarten grade of the Ithaca schools, continuing in that capacity four years. She has since take a year's course in domestic science at Chicago, and later a course in kindergarten work.

After his marriage, Mr. Mouser settled on 40 acres of wild land on section 24, Newark. After clearing 30 acres he sold the place and bought 80 acres of wild land on section 10, North Star, which he has cleared and brought under a fine state of cultivation. A commodious barn was built in 1888, and in 1893 a fine dwelling was erected, and other buildings have been added as time has passed and as necessity or convenience have seemed to demand. It is no exaggeration to say that it is now one of the most desirable parcels of farm property in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Mouser take an intelligent and active interest in all matters calculated to promote the welfare of the community in which they live, and are justly classed among the most reliable and enterprising citizens of the township and county.

## AZELBORN.

Nicholas Azelborn, a well-known farmer of North Star Township, owning and residing upon a farm described as the east half of the southwest quarter of section 24, was born in Europe, at Lintgen, Canton Merch, Grand Duchey De Luxemburg, March 3, 1854. His father, Nicholas Azelborn, was born in same place, September 10, 1824, son of John and Mary Azelborn. John Azelborn was in the lumber business, and Nicholas followed in the business built up by his father. He, (Nicholas, Sr.) was married to Anna Frank, January 4, 1849. Two children were born to this union—Henry, of Aurora, Illinois, and Nicholas, the subject of this sketch. Nicholas, the father, died September 10, 1854. The mother was married again, seven years later, to Mathias Feller. Two children were born to them—Peter and John, who still reside in Luxemburg.

Nicholas, our subject, together with his brother Henry, arrived in America March 9, 1872, after a voyage of fifteen days from Liverpool to New York. They went to Seneca County, Ohio, and resided there seven years. Nicholas Azelborn was united in marriage to Miss Nancy L. Williams, September 6, 1877. She was born November 5, 1860, in Jackson Township, Seneca County, Ohio, daughter of Andrew M. and Nancy (Iler) Williams. Andrew M. Williams was one of a large family of children, and stood his full share in the struggles and privations incident to pioneer life. He was a man of upright life and principles, always guided in all his dealings by what he considered was right and just. Mrs. Williams was also of a large family, and was a woman of noble character and of great worth. She had three brothers in the military service of their country in the war of the rebellion, two of

whom gave up their lives in their country's cause. One died in Andersonville prison, and one was killed in battle.

Andrew M. Williams was the son of Daniel and Mary Williams. Daniel Williams served as a volunteer during the War of 1812. His father, William Williams, was born in Ireland. Coming to America he was made a member of the colonial congress, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In the Revolutionary War that followed he served as a captain, and was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin.

In 1817 Andrew M. Williams moved with his family to Muskingum County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He then moved to Richland County and from there to Seneca County where he settled upon a farm of 100 acres. There he married Miss Sarah Swope. Three children were born to them—Mary, wife of Samuel Lambright, now deceased; Susannah, wife of Abram Signs, of North Star, and Jacob, of the same township. His wife dying, he married Miss Nancy Iler, who was born in Richland County, Ohio, September 6, 1826, daughter of John and Magdalena (Switzer) Iler. She was of German ancestry. To this last union four children were born—Magdalena, deceased; Jackson M., Elizabeth, wife of John Huffman, of North Star Township, and Nancy L., wife of Nicholas Azelborn.

Nicholas Azelborn came to North Star in February, 1879. They have two children—Andrew J., born July 17, 1878, and Arlie M., born January 31, 1883. Andrew J. married Miss Eva L. Shaffer, of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, January 1, 1900. Two children have resulted—Arlie N., born April 27, 1901, and Bernice Lucile, born March 12, 1904. Arlie M. married Miss Burr Clark, of North Star, June 19, 1907, daughter of Alvin D. and Addie Clark. They have one son.

Nicholas Azelborn began life in this country as a farm laborer, and has been a farmer all his life. In 1908 he built for himself a fine residence in North Star Village, moving into it in January, 1909. He afterward sold it and moved back to the farm. He is a man held in high esteem by his townsmen. His integrity and energy, coupled with a genial disposition and hearty manner, have won him popularity, and as a consequence he has been called to various position of trust by his fellow-citizens. For five years he was highway commissioner, a position regarded by the farming community as second in importance only to that of supervisor. For 15 consecutive years he was director in his school district. He has been a member of Heath Lodge No. 222, I. O. O. F. for 23 years, and its financial secretary 15 years; a fact of which he may properly be proud.

## HULL.

This well-known farmer of southern North Star, was born near Walhonding, Coshocton County, Ohio, December 10, 1856. He is the son of Henry A. Hull and Rachel (Sickman) Hull, the former of whom was born in Westmorland County, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1833, and was the son of Joel Hull, a native of Connecticut, and Polly (Ringle) Hull, of Westmorland County, Pennsylvania.

Joel Hull, when a youth of 19, bought his time of his father for $150. He then went to Brooklyn, N. Y., and learned the ship carpenter's trade, working at the business five years and then went sailing for the next 16 years. While he was absent his parents died, and on his return he could find only one brother. Six brothers and two sisters had removed to different

parts of the country and he was unable to locate them. He went to Westmorland County, Pennsylvania, and there was united in marriage to Miss Polly Ringle. To this union eight children were born, viz.: Henry A., Louisa, Sanford, Mary E., David W., Margaret, Solomon, Elmira. The family migrated to Stark County, Ohio, thence to Coshocton County in the same state, where they remained till the death of the father, Joel Hull. The widowed mother then moved with her children to Seneca County, Ohio, staying there one year and then removed to Michigan, all the children, excepting one, accompanying her. Her daughter, Louisa, remained in Ohio.

It was in the spring of 1857 when they came to Michigan, driving overland with two yoke of oxen and two covered wagons. They came by way of Maple Rapids. From that burg clear through to their stopping place on the northwest corner of section 23 of North Star Township, they had to cut their road through the dense woods. The land on which they located had previously been purchased by the mother from the state. Here they remained, improving their farm and, of course, experiencing their share of the hardships incident to life in a new country. The memory of the hard times in Gratiot remained fresh in their minds during the succeeding years. David Hull, the subject of this sketch, tells with much earnestness and feeling of the aid afforded by the old coon-dog, Tyler, catching coon and mink, the furs of which were sold to help in buying provisions. The mother remained upon this farm until her death, which occurred January 11, 1879, making her home in the later years of her life with her son David. Her son, Sanford Hull, was a soldier in the Civil War, serving in the 16th Michigan Infantry. He enlisted in Jackson, August 20, 1861, and served through the war, being discharged July 8, 1865. He was in every battle in which the regiment was engaged, excepting the three months he was in Libby Prison. He was taken prisoner after being wounded in both of his limbs. After the close of the war he was a resident of North Star till 1882 and then removed to Newark, where he died in 1890.

Henry A. Hull, the father of our subject, was married to Miss Rachel Sickman, November 27, 1854, in Coshocton County, Ohio. Rachel Sickman was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, October 29, 1835. She was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (House) Sickman. Her brothers and sisters were Mary, Harry, Rebecca, Martha and Pressley. The family was of Irish and English descent.

To Henry A. and Rachel Hull these ten children were born: Thomas, born September 19, 1855, died February 15, 1856; David, born December 10, 1856; Mary Ellen born February 10, 1859, died April 13, 1861; William A., born February 10, 1861; Andrew born May 16, 1863; Franklin, born August 7, 1865; Harriet Idabel, born August 18, 1867; James, born November 20, 1869; Emma J. born June 15, 1872; Elizabeth A., born October 12, 1876. Moving to North Star in 1857 with his mother's family, Henry A. remained there one year and then moved to St. Johns, Michigan, where he worked for one year on the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad. He then returned to Coshocton County, Ohio, and in 1865 removed to Seneca County, Ohio, remaining there till the spring of 1873, at which time he removed to Henry Township, Wood County, Ohio. In the spring of 1881 he returned with his family to Gratiot County, purchasing 80 acres of land on section 14, North Star Township. There he remained, engaged in the usual activities of the farm until the time of his death. The wife and mother, Mrs. Rachel Hull, died January 7, 1892. November 27, 1899, Mr. Hull again entered the matrimonial state, marrying Mrs. Eunice Smith, of Ithaca, Michigan. Mr. Hull passed away July 3, 1907. Besides the widow, who is now

a resident of St. Johns, Mich., he is survived by three sisters and eight of his children.

David Hull, of this sketch, was married to Rebecca J. Bush in West Bedford, Ohio, February 15, 1891, and soon afterward bought 80 acres of land on sections 26 and 35, North Star, where he still resides. Rebecca J. Bush was born near Mohawk Village, Ohio, Aug. 31, 1853, daughter of John Bush. She was one of seven children. To David and Rebecca J. Hull a son was born June 18, 1894. His stay was short as he passed away July 22, 1894. Mrs. Rebecca J. Hull died June 14, 1899, of blood-poisoning, after an illness of a week. The remains were laid to rest in North Star Cemetery, Rev. W. A. Taylor of the M. E. Church at Ithaca, officiating at the funeral.

On the 9th day of November, 1899, Mr. Hull was again married, this time to Miss Mary Elizabeth Sieber, at Coshocton, Ohio, Rev. Toland performing the ceremony. She was born near Warsaw, Ohio, February 17, 1873. Her father, Frederick Sieber, was born at Bazil, Switzerland, August 11, 1840; her mother, Annie May (Fischer) Sieber, was born October 9, 1844, at Bazil, Switzerland. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hull has two brothers—John Carl Sieber, born near Warsaw, Ohio, October 4, 1878, is a conductor on the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne Railroad; Samuel Frederick Sieber was born near Warsaw, Ohio, February 15, 1887. He is a resident of North Star Township.

David and Mary Elizabeth Hull have four children as follows: Banie Elsie, born September 18, 1900; Stella Wilhelmina, born January 19, 1902; Leila Oneta, born May 29, 1904; Elouise Irene, born March 22, 1907.

Politically, Mr. Hull affiliates with the Democratic party, taking a lively interest in county and local affairs. He is an active member of Heath Lodge No. 222, I. O. O. F., North Star. Mrs. Hull belongs to the Trinity German Evangelical Church, and is a member of the Rebecca Lodge, I. O. O. F. of North Star.

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## BOVEE.

Woodbury H. Bovee, a well-known substantial farmer of North Star Township, residing on section 27, is a son of the late Hiram Bovee who was one of the earliest pioneers of the county and who was born October 27, 1831, in the town of Yates, Orleans County, N. Y. He removed with his parents to Lenawee County, Mich., where he grew to manhood. In 1854 he came to North Star Township, this county, and for some time worked for W. W. Palmer, another one of the first settlers of Gratiot. During the time he was thus engaged he selected a piece of land for a home, located on section 27, North Star. He afterward returned to Lenawee County. January 8, 1857, he was united in marriage to Miss Adaline A. Austin. She was born in the town of Bradford, Orange County, Vermont, September 30, 1833. While yet a little girl she removed with her parents to Lenawee County, Mich., where she grew to womanhood. Fitting herself for a teacher, she taught in the district schools in the vicinity of her home, and later conducted select schools in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Bovee came to North Star Township and settled on the land already secured—the southwest quarter of section 27—and there they resided the remainder of their lives. Mr. Bovee died January 18, 1902. He was a consistent and valued member of Ithaca Lodge F. & A. M., and both he and Mrs. Bovee were members of

Liberty Grange No. 391. Mrs. Bovee was a member of the M. E. Church from her childhood, having joined while in her "teens." She died November 27, 1869.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Bovee two children were born: Woodbury H. was born October 15, 1859; Clara A. was born January 25, 1864.

Woodbury H. Bovee was brought up on the farm and was educated in the district school which he attended in the winters, working on the farm with his father in the summer. This continued till he became of age, and afterward he worked the farm for a share of the proceeds. February 6, 1887, he was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Vedder, daughter of Clark and Sarah (Deline) Vedder. She was born in Lenawee County, Mich., February 6, 1868, and came with her parents to Gratiot County in March, 1876. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bovee: Agnes, born December 31, 1888, died in infancy; Florence A., born September 14, 1890; Lois L., January 22, 1893; Cecil W., January 29, 1896; Glen H., July 18, 1898; Hiram C., November 7, 1901; Royal O. November 19, 1905.

After the death of his father, W. H. Bovee bought the interest of the other heir in the homestead and has since owned and operated it himself. He and Mrs. Bovee are members of Liberty Grange No. 391, and Mr. Bovee is also a member of the A. O. O. G. Arbor at North Star.

Clara A. Bovee, sister of W. H., was married to Calvin A. Crandell in June, 1879. Children resulted as follows: W. Fletcher, born March 7, 1880, died October 14, 1886; Leon H., October 5, 1884, died April 19, 1885; Evaline F., October 7, 1886; Chauncey L., March 20, 1890; Inez Fern, April 21, 1893. Two children, born respectively September 17, 1895, and July 9, 1901, died in early infancy. Mrs. Clara A. Crandell died at her home in St. Johns, December 1, 1910. She had lived there about one and a half years, removing there from Durand. She owned a fine farm in Washington Township, on the county line between Gratiot and Clinton Counties, eight miles directly north of St. Johns.

Musing on the trials of the first settlers, "Woodie" H. Bovee says: "Hiram Bovee came to Gratiot while it was yet an almost unbroken wilderness. Roads were cut from one clearing to another, wending through the woods by the easiest route, over logs and roots and humps, till the settlers got more numerous, when an attempt was made to improve and straighten them. There was so much wet land many crossways had to be built; rude affairs, logs laid side by side, and often with no dirt thrown on. No mills were near for a long time, and if a grist must be ground, the settler often took it on his back to the far-away mill, being gone two days and sometimes more. They would chop down what timber they could during the winter, and then in the spring they must burn it off as best they could; but the timber being green, it was a tedious job. But they must have the ground for crops. And then the late or early frost often got in its deadly work, making the settlers' lot so much the harder. Thus it became 'Starving Gratiot', to be helped by outsiders with provisions and other necessities. Mr. Bovee did not receive any of those benefactions, but an occasional 'box' from father Bovee or father Austin was duly appreciated. Many an old settler often saw the time he hadn't money enough to pay the postage on a letter. How many of those who came here twenty or thirty years later really know anything of the hardships that the real pioneers endured! And still they call themselves pioneers. They doubtless had privations in a measure; but what passed for hardships and privations with them would have meant affluence, ease and luxury to the old-timers."

## WARD.

Absalom L. Ward was born in Gallia County, Ohio, March 24, 1832, son of Allen and Sarah (White) Ward, natives of North Carolina. February 9, 1854, he was married to Miss Clara Criner, born in Gallia County, Ohio, February 2, 1832, daughter of George and Sarah (McDonald) Criner, natives of Virginia.



ABSALOM L. WARD.

In the fall of 1854, Mr. Ward came to Michigan and to Gratiot County, settling on the northeast quarter of section 10 of North Star Township. There he cleared up and cultivated a fine farm. He built the first blacksmith shop in North Star, and did blacksmithing in the old log shop on the corner of section 10 for many years. At the age of 55 years he moved to Ithaca.

To Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ward were born eleven children, five of whom are still living, as follows: George A., of Everett, Wash.: Lina J. (Ward - Carter - Lovejoy - Phelps) Decker, of Startup, Wash.; Sarah A. (Ward) Thrall and Ada A. (Ward) McManman, of Snohomish, Wash.; Maude A. (Ward) Blaine, of Clare, Mich. Those deceased are Orpha E., John W., Clara D., Elta and Elda, (twin sisters) and Dennis L.

Mr. Ward went to the State of Washington on a visit, and was called to his reward from Snohomish, Washington, February 14, 1905. His wife, Mrs. Clara (Criner) Ward, spent the last years of her life with her youngest daughter, Mrs. Maude Blaine, at Clare, Mich., where she died August 14, 1909.

Mr. Ward was a soldier in the rebellion, a member of Company E, 2nd Mich. Cavalry, and served two years. He and Mrs. Ward were true Christians, members of the Free Methodist Church, and were prominent in church work.



MRS. A. L. WARD.

**George A. Ward,** oldest son of Absalom L. and Clara (Criner) Ward, was born on section 2, North Star Township, February 20, 1857. He lived with his parents, assisting on the farm on sections 10 and 11, North Star, until 21 years of age, when he began work for himself on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 2, North Star. October 12, 1880, he was married to Miss Ada M. Blaine, of North Star, born in Fulton County, Ohio, November 20, 1863, daughter of William W. and Anna M. (Reynolds) Blaine. William W. Blaine was son of William and Fannie (Hackett) Blaine, natives of New York, and was born in New York August 19, 1829. Anna M. (Reynolds) Blaine, his wife, was daughter of Richard and Sarah E. (Parker) Reynolds, natives of New Jersey. She was born in Lenawee County, Mich., May 12, 1838.

To William W. and Anna M. (Reynolds) Blaine were born six children —James H., of Norwalk, California; Frank L., of Clare, Mich.; Ada M. Ward, of Everett, Wash.; Cora E. Webster, of North Star, Mich.; William E., of Grayling, Mich.; Harvey E., of Cleveland, Ohio. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. William W. Blaine, died at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Cora Webster, of North Star, the former on October 20, 1908; the latter on November 29, 1902.

Two children have been sent to gladden the home of George A. and Ada M. Ward. Dora Maude was born in North Star December 5, 1881. She was married to Arch. P. Ratliff, of Everett, Wash., October 1, 1903. Mr. Ratliff is interested in the grocery business. Stephen A. Ward was born in North Star, October 11, 1885. He was united in marriage to Miss Lillian E. McDonald, of Everett, Wash., September 30, 1908. He is interested with his father in the Northwestern Broom and Wooden Ware Co., at Everett, Wash., owning their own factory and sidetracks.

For nine years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ward lived on their farm on section 2 of North Star and by energy and perseverance succeeded in clearing and fitting 70 acres for the plow. They also added 20 acres to their farm by purchase, making them a farm of 100 acres. Concluding to go to the State of Washington they rented their farm and on February 25, 1890, started west, landing at Snohomish, Wash., March 5, 1890. On the 28th of April following, they settled on a homestead 25 miles back on a pony trail, where they lived seven years, gaining title to the land, and then moved to the new City of Everett, where they have since resided.

Since settling in Everett, Mr. Ward has dealt in timber lands, and also became interested in the manufacture of lumber and brooms, having incorporated the Ward-Rock Lumber Co. in 1902, afterward buying up all of the stock. In 1905 he and his son Stephen bought the plant and business of the Northwestern Broom and Wooden Ware Co., which they have since operated. Mr. Ward has several other business and porperty interests that are bringing in very satisfactory returns. By hard work and good management he has accumulated a snug fortune estimated to be in the neighborhood of $50,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward have for many years been members of the Free Methodist Church.

## CHAFFIN.

Charles Marion Chaffin, a well-known pioneer, resident on section 30, North Star Township, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, Aug. 29, 1849. His father, John Wesley Chaffin, was born in West Virginia, April 5, 1822. His mother, Clara Ann (Evitts) Chaffin was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1826. J. W. Chaffin was brought to Ohio by his parents—John and Elizabeth (Miller) Chaffin—in 1823. In Ohio, 1847, he was married to Clara Ann Evitts, daughter of Bela and Clara (Fairchild) Evitts, and in 1854 he came from Wood County, Ohio, to the Township of North Star, in the "wilds of Gratiot." He was one of the first six to settle in the township; one of the first highway commissioners, and helped to survey and locate some of the principal roads in his township. He was present at the meeting when Uncle Peter Hoffman named the township. He hunted deer with H. T. Barnaby, now Bishop Barnaby, many a day.

Of necessity, the first house was of logs, and on account of the scarcity of help four days were spent in putting up the body. This house when completed, had a stick chimney built on the outside; a puncheon floor overhead,

and a lower floor of matched ash brought with an ox team from Matherton, 25 miles away. While clearing and improving his farm of 125 acres John W. Chaffin was extensively engaged in buying and selling stock, also buying hides, pelts and furs for Dewitt parties, agents for the great American Fur Co. His death occurred Nov. 10, 1874, at his old home on section 30. He was highly respected, honored and loved by all who knew him, for his kindly ways and sociable nature; a member and at the time of his death, class leader in the U. B. Church. His wife, Clara Ann Chaffin, was a kind neighbor and loving mother and care-taker of the family after the death of her husband. She died in January, 1905.

The children of John W. and Clara A. Chaffin: Chas. Marion; Warren A. and Harley W. died in infancy; Homer W., married to Carrie Allen; Clara L., wife of Harley Whitcomb; Theodore A. married Delia Hattadis and is now deceased; Edith M., wife of Chas. Allen; Perry F., married to Helen Belding.

C. M. Chaffin, the principal subject of this sketch, was five years old when brought by his parents to Gratiot. He received his education in the district school and at Ithaca, and was for a time a student at the Mich. Agricultural College, but was called home to take charge of the farm, on the death of his father. He taught school for 20 years, mostly in the winter season, working his farm of 30 acres in the summer. He taught 21 terms in 13 districts, traveling in this time 6,585 miles, mostly on foot. For the past 15 years, practical photography has occupied the most of his time. He has taken views of all kinds, indoors and out; pictures for newspapers, catalogues, etc. Of late he has been very successful; in fact has been honored by the author of this work in being engaged to furnish some of the views for the illustrations.

Mr. Chaffin has never been an office seeker, but has been honored by his friends to a considerable extent. He has been justice, township clerk, superintendent of schools, truant officer, school moderator, secretary of the Pioneer Society and of the Ohio Picnic Association, secretary of the Chaffin Reunion and of the Evitts Reunion, and for many years superintendent of the Sunday School at the old U. B. Church. Is a veritable pioneer, having attended the first Fourth of July celebration and the first fair ever held in the county, and he is a life member of the Agricultural Society.

C. M. Chaffin was married to Miss Sarah Barnes of North Star Township, June, 1876. She was daughter of John and Susannah (Watson) Barnes, natives of England. She was born Sept., 1845; a sister of former senator, George Barnes, of Howell, Mich. She was a woman of brilliant intellect, and a very successful teacher, having had a training in the Normal School at Ypsilanti. She taught 22 terms in the county and was at one time a teacher in the Ithaca High School. A loving wife and mother, a good woman, a member of the U. B. Church. She died in October, 1908. To Mr .and Mrs. Chaffin one child was born—Bessie A., now the wife of H. Henry Wright of North Star. Mrs. Wright has unusual musical ability, and is of a social nature with many friends.

Through the efforts of one Rev. W. L. Chaffin, of Easton, Mass., who traced the genealogy of the Chaffin family, it has been found that the first one of the name, of which we have any account was Robert Chaffin, who married Abigail Davis in England, in 1700; also illustrations showing the design of the coat of arms used by the ancient family. Descendants of Robert Chaffin emigrated to America and have become scattered throughout the States of West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts and New York, and in Washington, D. C.

## KRYDER.

Calvin C. Kryder (deceased) was born in Sharon, Medina County, Ohio, October 6, 1839. His parents, Jonas and Mary (Everhardt) Kryder, were born in Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. The Everhardts have an interesting geneological record which traces the family back to Frederick the Great. Mr. Kryder was engaged in farming in his native state until he was 24 years of age. In the year 1863 he went to Illinois, locating in Christian County, where he remained 15 years, engaged in farming. In the spring of 1878 he sold his farm in Illinois and removed to Michigan, purchasing and locating upon 40 acres of improved land on section 36, Newark Township. March 23, 1885, he traded this farm for 100 acres on section 33, North Star Township. In the year 1898 he bought 30 acres more adjoining his 100 acres on the south.



CALVIN C. KRYDER.

January 25, 1865, Mr. Kryder enlisted in the 41st Ill. Vol. Infantry, and was in the service six months. He was never in active service, however. Before the regiment could be duly equipped, mustered in and reach the front, the rebellion was in a state of collapse, and military necessities were virtually at an end. He received his honorable discharge July 27, 1865.

Mr. Kryder was married January 25, 1866, in Medina County, Ohio, to Charity, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Lance) Coolman. She was born in Medina County October 24, 1843. To this union five children were born, two of whom survive. All were born near Grove City, Christian County, Ill. Leslie A. died in infancy. Franklin F. died when eight years old. J. S. Shirley, the third in order, remained at home till he reached manhood, when, in 1898, he entered the harness shop of E. C. Crandell, at North Shade, and learned the harness maker's trade. Later he worked in Ypsilanti, Mich., and while there he had the great misfortune to lose his eyesight as the result of a fall. Complications intervened and in spite of hope and medical skill, death resulted. He passed away July 6, 1902, at the age of 31 years. Orie D. F., the fourth in order, was married to Jesse Vedder, October 24, 1893. They were North Star farmers till the spring of 1912, when they sold their farm and removed to Mt. Pleasant, Mich., to secure better educational facilities for their children. The family sketch of Jesse Vedder appears in this volume. Cordie M. U., the youngest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Kryder, was married to John H. Harmon, November 16, 1905. Mr. Harmon is the son of Noah and Mary (Kein) Harmon, and was born in Williams County, Ohio. He is a tailor by trade, and up to July, 1910, conducted a flourishing establishment in Elsie, Mich. At that time he sold his business, and in company with H. T. Blank, purchased the Elsie Roller Mills, which they conducted until 1912, when Mr. Harmon bought out his partner, and is now sole proprietor. He is a member of Elsie Lodge F. & A. M., and of Ovid Chapter R. A. M. Mr. and Mrs. Harmon are members of the O. E. S.

Mr. Kryder died June 26, 1903, at "Willow Farm" where he passed the last 18 years of his life. His body rests in North Star cemetery. The memory of his fine character, his genial disposition and his worth as a

citizen will long remain fresh in the minds of his townsmen. He served the Township of North Star as supervisor four years—1890, '95, '96 and '97. Prudence, economy, temperance and industry were marked traits of his character, and all the acts of his life were directed by good judgment and with due consideration for the permanent good of the community to which he belonged, and of which he was so many years a useful and honored member.

In February, 1904, Mrs. Kryder and daughter, Cordie Harmon, moved to Ithaca where they lived until the fall of 1905, when they moved to Elsie. They are both members of the Baptist Church.

## VEDDER.

Jesse Vedder, now of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., but for many years a prosperous farmer of North Star Township, was born May 17, 1869, in Amboy Township, Hillsdale County, Mich., within a half mile of the Ohio State line. He is the son of Clark and Sarah (Deline) Vedder, natives of the State of New York. They now reside in the Village of North Star. (See sketch.)

Jesse Vedder came to Gratiot County with his parents at the age of seven years, remaining with them on the old homestead on section 28 till he arrived at the age of 24 years, when, having taken upon himself the responsibilities of married life, he started out on a business career for himself by renting a farm of 40 acres, which, however, he worked only one year and then bought an 80-acre farm on section 27, North Star. Here he remained six years and then sold out and bought an 80-acre farm on section 34. In 1904 he bought the C. C. Kryder homestead of 130 acres on section 33. This is one of the choicest pieces of farm property in the township, the former home of one of North Star's most prominent citizens. "Willow Farm", as it is called, is a worthy monument to the memory of its former owner, C. C. Kryder.

On the 24th day of October, 1893, Mr. Vedder was united in marriage to Miss Orie D. F. Kryder, daughter of Calvin C. and Charity (Coolman) Kryder, whose biographical sketches are given more fully elsewhere. She was the fourth of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Kryder, the list in its proper order being as follows: Leslie A. Frankie F., both deceased, are buried at Grove City, Ill.; J. S. Shirley, deceased, is buried in North Star cemetery; Orie D. F.; Cordie M. U., wife of John Harmon, residing at Elsie, Mich. The father, Calvin C. Kryder, died June 26, 1903, and is buried in North Star cemetery. The mother, in the enjoyment of reasonably good health, resides at Elsie with her daughter Cordie.

Mrs. Orie Vedder was born December 18, 1872, in Mt. Auburn Township, near Grove City, Christian County, Ill. She came to Gratiot County with her parents when five years old, the family locating on section 36, Newark, where they lived seven years and then removing to North Star Township, settling on the farm on section 33, later known as "Willow Farm." Mr. and Mrs Vedder have children as follows: Zella Rhea; Lora Lucile; C. C. Noble, died at the age of 11 months and 18 days, and is buried in North Star cemetery; Verna Kryder; Cordie Irene. All were born in North Star Township.

In the spring of 1912, Mr. Vedder, having sold his lauded possessions in North Star, removed with his family to Mt. Pleasant, Mich., for the purpose of giving their children the benefit of the excellent schools of that

city. He has built for himself a fine residence and has gone into business as proprietor of a flourishing feed barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Vedder are members of the Grange and the Gleaners, and Mr. Vedder is a member of the F. & A. M., being a charter member of North Star Lodge. Mrs. Vedder is a member of the Baptist Church. They are highly esteemed citizens, wherever they live.

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## VEDDER.

The subject of this sketch—Clark Vedder—is now a resident of North Star Village, to which place he moved in the spring of 1912, from his old farm homestead on section 28, North Star Township.

Mr. Vedder was born in Dover Township, Lenawee County, Mich., April 2, 1844, son of Harmon and Anna (Bordine) Vedder, natives of New York, both of whom died in Dover Township, the father in 1885, aged 79, the mother in 1889, at the age of 80 years. The paternal grandfather was Aaron Vedder, a native of New York State. Clark Vedder is one of 13 children born to Harmon and Anna Vedder. They are as follows: Cordelia, widow of David Cross, of Pontiac, Mich.; Aaron, deceased; Sophronia, married to John Bryant; Clark; Ransom, deceased; Eliza A., wife of Charles Rehms; Mary, wife of John Doig, of Pontiac; Electa, Mrs. Wellington Deline, of Lenawee; Jennie, wife of Burr Deline; Charles, of Adrian; three who died in infancy.

Clark Vedder's boyhood days were passed on the farm in Dover Township without incident worthy of especial mention. August 11, 1862, when 18 years of age, he enlisted in Company I, 18th Mich. Vol. Infantry, serving until the close of the war. He took part in engagements at Athens and Decatur, Alabama, but his regiment was on detached service a considerable portion of the time. After the close of the war and his return to his home in Lenawee County, he was married January 20, 1867, to Miss Sarah Deline, daughter of Abraham and Millie (Balch) Deline. She was born in Dover Township, January 11, 1848. After his marriage he continued in his agricultural vocation in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties till the year 1876, when he removed to Gratiot County settling on land described as the east half of the southeast quarter of section 28, North Star Township; a well-located farm two miles south of North Star Village. This land, which was mostly in a wild state when he commenced upon it, he transformed into a fine farm home by energy and persistent hard work. It is now one of the best in the township, with good buildings, including a fine brick house, and with orchards and other accessories required to make a first-class home. He sold this farm in the spring of 1912 and removed to North Star Village where he purchased a fine new residence then but recently erected by N. Azelborn. This he is improving in many ways and making it one of the very best residences in the village.

There were six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Vedder, as follows: Nettie, Jesse, Carrie B., Dora, Millie, Harmon. Nettie is married to W. H. Bovee. They have had children as follows: Agnes, died in infancy; Florence A.; Lois L.; Cecil W.; Glen H.; Hiram C.; Royal O.

Jesse Vedder is married to Orie Kryder. Their children are—Zella Rhea; Lora Lucile; Verna Kryder; C. C. Noble, deceased; Cordie Irene.

Carrie B. married Robert R. Crandell. Their children are Rolla B.; Russell C.; Theodore C.

Dora is the wife of George Jessup. The following have been born to them: Ivor Carleton; Lynn Delos; Forrest Devere.

Millie is married to Warren Dillsworth. They are the parents of one son—Donald Eugene.

Harmon Vedder resides at home with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Vedder are properly classed among the most highly esteemed citizens of the county, and this personal and family sketch will be read with pleasure and satisfaction by their many friends.

## WOLFE.

Isaac Clinton Wolfe, whose residence is on section 23, of North Star Township, was born May 30, 1855, in Seneca County, Ohio, and is the son of James and Mary (Shunkwyler) Wolfe, the former born in Pickaway County, Ohio, October 5, 1804, the latter born in Scioto County, Ohio, July 26, 1808. Children were born to this union as follows: John Wesley Wolfe, born May 1, 1833, in Seneca County, Ohio, died February 2, 1905; James Jefferson Wolfe, born February 9, 1839, died February 11, 1872; Martin Van Buren Wolfe, born March 26, 1841; Nancy Ann Norris, born October 29, 1829, died April 10, 1898; Rhoda Beacham, born August 27, 1831, now deceased; Sarah Jane Park, born April 28, 1835; Mary Cregar Neikirk, born April 15, 1837, now deceased; Phebe Pratt, born December 8, 1842; Hannah Brown, born April 26, 1845; Elizabeth Wolfe, born December 10, 1847, died July 27, 1849; Effie Amanda Cook, born December 14, 1850; Isaac Clinton Wolfe, our principal subject. All were born in Seneca County, Ohio.

Isaac Clinton Wolfe was united in marriage to Laura Virginia Lower, in Tiffin, Ohio, September 26, 1876. She was born March 26, 1859, in Frederick County, Maryland, daughter of Solomon and Sophia Lower, the former born December 5, 1820, in Frederick County, Maryland, the latter born November 11, 1824, in Frederick County. Mrs. Wolfe had brothers and sisters as follows: Sarah Ellen Lower, born September 16, 1847; George W. Lower, born November 9, 1849; David S. Lower, born January 31, 1855; Antoinette Lower, born March 22, 1861; Jacob E. Lower, born September 17, 1863. All were born in Frederick County, Maryland. Mrs. Laura Virginia Wolfe, wife of I C. Wolfe, died in Fulton Township, this county, March 11, 1896.

I. C. Wolfe came to Gratiot County April 1, 1881, with his mother, and settled on a four on section 9 of Fulton Township, the farm known as the Adam Reichard farm. There they lived, engaged in clearing up and improving the farm until October 20, 1901, when they moved to North Star Township, buying a farm and locating on section 23. There he has resided until the present time, engaged in farming, in which calling he has met with reasonable success, and where he enjoys the respect and confidence of the entire community.

Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Wolfe as follows: Emma May, born March 27, 1878, in Seneca County, Ohio; Alva C., born October 19, 1879, in Seneca County, Ohio, died April 9, 1899; Bertha A., born August 1, 1881, in Gratiot County; Clara E., born March 13, 1883, in Gratiot County; Roy F., born in Gratiot County, June 3, 1885; Ethel, born October 16, 1886, in Gratiot County; Eugene C., born in Gratiot County, March 11, 1889; Fred B., born in Gratiot County December 21, 1891; Everett L., born October 4, 1893, in Gratiot County.

Emma May Wolfe, oldest of the children of I. C. Wolfe and wife, married Arthur G. Earl. They reside in Lansing and have two children—

Alvie Royce, born September 24, 1898, in Gratiot County, and Vera, born May 11, 1901, in Gratiot County.

Bertha A. Wolfe married Charles Kleckner, and two children have been born to them—Howard W., May 8, 1905, and Pauline Rebecca, November 11, 1907. They live in North Star.

Roy F. Wolfe is married to Rosie Lehner, and four children have come to the union—Gerald Lehner, born in Lansing, September 5, 1905; Kenneth Leroy, born August 26, 1907, in Lansing; Una Irene, born in Gratiot County, June 6, 1910; Ruth L., born December 31, 1912.

Ethel Wolfe is married to Carl G. Siefert. They have one child—Gayton C., born August 9, 1908, in St. Johns, Mich.

Eugene C. Wolfe married Sadie Ream, and three children have been born to them—Freda, born December 8, 1907, in Gratiot; Velma, born in Clinton County, July 5, 1909; Lelah, born October, 1912.

Fred B. Wolfe married Jessie M. Zoss, March 11, 1911. They have a daughter, Vada.

This biographical sketch adds materially to the interest of this volume, particularly to those well acquainted with the subjects of the sketch.

## BARNABY.

Ulysses S. Barnaby owns and occupies the old homestead upon which his father, Alvin P. Barnaby settled in 1869, on section 28, North Star. A good farm, well cultivated and fitted out with good farm buildings. He is a man who stands well up in the front ranks of North Star's best citizens, freely recognized as a man of integrity and true worth. If proof of this were necessary it is shown in the fact that his townsmen have frequently drafted him into their service for duty in various capacities. He filled the office of school inspector fifteen years; clerk of the township four years and treasurer two years. He also served as school director in his district for sixteen years. He is now serving as supervisor of the township.

Uylsses S. Barnaby was first introduced to the light of day in Cass County, Mich., September 15, 1865. His father was Alvin P. Barnaby, born near Sandusky, Ohio, October 17, 1821, son of Alvin P. Barnaby, Sr. He settled in Cass County in 1825. U. S. Barnaby's mother was Esther (Beechler) Barnaby, born October 15, 1834, in Pennsylvania. The parents were married October 3, 1853, and were favored with children as follows: Mary B., born August 4, 1855; Frances E., November 23, 1858; Flora A., March 9, 1860; Ezra A., June 6, 1862; Ulysses S.; Perry I., January 28, 1867; James H., November 3, 1869; Bertha M., November 5, 1873, died January, 1891; Daniel V., October 18, 1877.

Mary B. Barnaby married Jacob Lewis; now live in North Star Township.

Frances E. married Norman O. Mills; now live in Ashley, Mich.

Flora A. married E. W. Franklin; now live at Forsythe, Wyoming.

Perry I. married Mary Daggett; now live at Eureka, Mich.

Daniel V. married Zula Brewer; now live at Eureka, Mich.

Alvin P. Barnaby, the father, died March 13, 1881, in North Star Township. Mrs. Esther Barnaby, the mother, died September 20, 1910, at the home of her son U. S. Barnaby. They were worthy and highly respected people. Alvin P. Barnaby worked at carpenter work as well as at farming. He served as justice of the peace many years. His brother, Hon.

Horace T. Barnaby, one of the earliest pioneers of the township, served in various capacities—supervisor, county clerk and representative in the state legislature. Alvin P. Barnaby was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company M, 1st Mich. Vol. Cavalry.

Ulysses S. Barnaby was married in Ithaca, November 29, 1891, to Emma J. Spooner, daughter of Amos B. and Eliza (Bailey) Spooner, of North Star Township, the former born in Ohio, August 3, 1833, died in North Star, January 30, 1900; the latter born June 10, 1831, at Lowville, N. Y., died in North Star, September 4, 1878. Their children, brothers and sisters of Mrs. Emma J. Barnaby, were as follows: Ida R., born October 5, 1856, at Toledo, Iowa, married Frank Dodge and lives at Lawrence, Mich. George A., born May 19, 1858, at Oberlin, Ohio, married Hettie Johnson, and lives in North Star Township. Effie L., born December 13, 1859, at Toledo, Iowa, married Ab. Craig, and lives in Idaho. Ella M., born December 13, 1861, in Toledo, Iowa, married Charles Davis, and lives in Washington Township. Jennie E., born March 27, 1864, at Toledo, Iowa, married Lewis Davis, and lives at Pleasant Valley, Mich. Alice M., born April 29, 1866, at Oberlin, Ohio, married Henry Berge, and lives in Elyria, Ohio. Walter A., born June 8, 1870, married Isabel McKee and now lives at Ithaca. Frederick A., born June 7, 1872, at North Star, married Emma J. Youngman and now lives at Litchfield, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnaby have children as follows: Victor A., born November 4, 1892; Agnes M., born March 6, 1895; Clarence P., born October 7, 1899. Agnes M. graduated from the Ithaca High School with the class of 1912, and is now in the State Normal at Mt. Pleasant. The other two children are at the parental home.

After acquiring a good common school education, Mr. Barnaby taught several years in the schools of the county. He is active in the Grange and in the I. O. O. F. Mrs. Barnaby belongs to the Rebecca Lodge and to the Grange.

Old residents who knew the Barnaby and Spooner families so well and valued them so highly, will deem this record, though brief, a worthy tribute to the memory of those excellent citizens.

## MANCHESTER.

Prosper Manchester is a well-known farmer of southeastern North Star, where he owns and occupies 80 acres of land described as follows: The south half of the northeast quarter of section 36, town 10 north, range 2 west. He is the second son of Nathan and Harriet (Stewart) Manchester, the former a native of Vermont, in which state he was born May 11, 1799. The mother was born in the Township of Russell, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., February 2, 1818. They were married February 22, 1840, and resided in Pitcairn, St. Lawrence County, N. Y. They were the parents of two children—Charles, born April 24, 1842, and now a resident of Ashley, this county, and Prosper, the subject of this sketch, who was born November 25, 1846. Charles Manchester was a soldier in the Civil War, serving his country faithfully as a member of a New York cavalry regiment.

Prosper Manchester had only the advantages of a common school education, such as might be classed as an average for farmers' sons at the time of his schoolboy days. On November 25, 1871, at Paw Paw, Mich., he was married to Debbie Meachum, second daughter of Lafayette and Deborah (Johnson) Meachum. The father was born in the State of New York,

March 28, 1827, and died February 27, 1893. The mother was born October 13, 1821, in Ireland. She died March 12, 1893, only 13 days after the death of her husband. They were the parents of four children, three of whom—Mary Elizabeth, Annie and Gaylord, died in early childhood, all of them being stricken down while in their sixth year. The second daughter—Debbie—grew to womanhood and became the wife of Prosper Manchester, as stated.

This worthy couple—Prosper Manchester and wife—have had six children born to them, five of whom are living. Hila was born March 25, 1873, and died September 15, 1877. The living are as follows: Lafayette Manchester, born April 15, 1875, married Lottie Luella Ringle and now resides in Wheeler Township. Harlow Manchester, born June 6, 1877, is married to Lydia Canouts and resides in Hamilton Township. They have two children—Trent, born October 9, 1905, and Shirley, born October 20, 1907. Coral Manchester was born May 18, 1877, and still lives at the parental home. Cassie Manchester was born November 27, 1883, and is now the wife of Walter Lynch. They are farmers of North Star. Francis Manchester, the youngest, was born March 14, 1887, and was married December 23, 1909, to Miss Lulu Belle Woolston. They have a son—Ivan B.—born March 16, 1913.

Prosper Manchester "took to the woods" of Gratiot County two days after his marriage. But by this expression it must not be understood that he came alone. Oh, no! His good wife took to the woods with him, and together they have wrestled with the hardships and shared the pleasures and rewards of a farmer's life in a new country, and are now fully and rightfully enjoying the fruits of the labors and privations of the earlier days. Sixty of the eighty acres have been brought under a good state of cultivation, all of the usual crops being raised in such abundance as to satisfy all reasonable expectations. Buildings have been erected from time to time as required, and are now amply sufficient for the comfort and convenience of the family and all their belongings. With a good farm in a good quarter of the best county in the state, surrounded by good neighbors, and within easy distance of a good market—Ashley is but one and a half miles away—Prosper Manchester and his family are in a position to take life about as easy as they choose, consistent with the maintenance of good health.

In conclusion it seems appropriate to mention that Mr. Manchester is a valued member of Ashley Lodge I. O. O. F.; also that he is in hearty accord with the principles of the Democratic party, and that he has no apologies to offer for his political beliefs and preferences.

## SQUIRE.

Aaron L. Squire was born in North Star Township, Gratiot County Mich., June 14, 1863. He is a son of the late Lorenzo Squire who settled in North Star Township in 1860. Lorenzo Squire was born in Portage County, Ohio, January 22, 1821. His father was Aaron Squire, a native of Connecticut, who moved to Geauga County, Ohio, in 1823. Lorenzo Squire received a good common school education and also had the benefit of a course at the Twinsburg, Ohio, Seminary. In the year 1850 he took the overland trip to California, remaining until the fall of 1853, when he returned home by way of Cape Horn. Not yet satisfied with his experiences in the land of gold,

he returned to California in 1854, remaining till 1859, when he returned to Ohio, and in the year following came to Gratiot County, locating in North Star Township.

February 13, 1862, he was united in marriage in Twinsburg, Ohio, to Caroline C. Blair, of Aurora, Portage County, Ohio, daughter of Bohan Blair, who was a distant relative of Austin Blair, Michigan's eminent war governor. She was born April 21, 1828.

Lorenzo Squire and wife commenced housekeeping in a log house on the northwest quarter of section 20, North Star. There they lived till the fall of 1863, when they built a house on the southwest quarter of section 21, and moved on to their own 160 acres of land. They afterward bought more land till their farm was increased to 400 acres. They became the parents of two children—Aaron L. and Julia E. The latter was born February 2, 1871. To give the children better educational opportunities the family moved to Ithaca in the spring of 1880, where they resided three years. In the spring of 1883 they moved back to the farm where the parents passed the remainder of their lives. The mother died July 6, 1892, after which the daughter, Julia, kept house for her father till her death, which occurred January 27, 1898. On the 2nd day of February, 1895, she was married to Daniel M. Sutherland.

After the death of his daughter, the father, Lorenzo Squire, lived with his son, Aaron L., until his death October 13, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Squire were numbered among North Star's most prominent, respected and progressive citizens. They did their full share in developing the resources of the township, giving it rank among the very best in the county. Mr. Squire served his township as supervisor in the year 1873.

Aaron L. Squire was united in marriage February 22, 1885, to Miss Henrietta Hafer, daughter of John H. and Rachel (Shaw) Hafer of Ithaca. She was born in Richland County, Ohio, August 15, 1868. In the fall of 1885 Mr. Squire built a house for himself on section 20, North Star, and there he and his wife resided several years.

John H. Hafer, father of Mrs. Aaron L. Squire, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1838, son of John Hafer of the same state. He was married to Rachel Shaw at Mansfield, Ohio, May 13, 1858. She was born in Richland County, Ohio, April 21, 1839, daughter of Jacob Shaw of Ohio. They engaged in agricultural pursuits in Richland County the most of the time till 1870, when they bought and removed to a farm in Hillsdale County, Michigan. In the winter of 1882-3 they sold their farm and bought one in Emerson Township, Gratiot County, to which they removed. In the fall of 1883 they sold this farm and removed to Ithaca, and that village has ever since been their home.

There were ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hafer, as follows: Charles E., born in Richland County, Ohio, March 9, 1860; James A., Richland County, September 22, 1861, died March 3, 1905; Joseph E., April 2, 1864, Richland County; Andrew J., August 26, 1866, Richland County; Henrietta, Aug. 15, 1868, Richland County; Nathaniel T., February 24, 1871, Hillsdale County, Michigan; John, October 7, 1872, Hillsdale County; Grace M., December 2, 1875, Hillsdale County; Alvin, July 3, 1880, Hillsdale County, died October 21, 1880; Alice, July 3, 1880, Hillsdale County.

Aaron L. Squire remained on the old homestead until the year 1909, when on account of greatly impaired health he disposed of the farm and, with his wife went to California. They make occasional visits to their many friends in Gratiot. Mr. Squire's health is much improved by life in the west, a fact very gratifying to the friends of himself and Mrs. Squire, in Gratiot County, who are numbered by the score.

## THIBAUDEAU.

Louis Napoleon Thibaudeau was born near Toronto, Canada, February 6, 1856. His father, John B. Thibaudeau, was born in Toronto, May 30, 1823. His mother, Jane Venning, was born in Cornwall, England, July 19, 1833.



LOUIS N. THIBAUDEAU.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest in a family of eleven children—six girls and five boys. Margaret Jane was born June 19, 1858, and died August 30, 1863; Mrs. Mary Ann McNicholl, born February 9, 1860, is living near Ashley, this county; Mrs. Anna J. Rutledge, born August 4, 1862, is living at Fort William, Ontario; John B., Jr., born July 25, 1864, is a dealer in live stock at Markdale, Ont.; Elizabeth Ellen Tucker, born March 6, 1866, died April, 1902; Pythagoras Herbert, born September 19, 1868, is now a school inspector at Lacombe, Alberta, Canada; Peter V., born January 19, 1871, is a farmer near Markdale, Ont.; Victoria Eugenia, born April 16, 1873, died September 4, 1873; Richard Stephen, born Christmas, 1876, is now in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Fort William, Ont.; Margery Wilson, twin sister of Richard Stephen resides near Markdale, Ont., where her husband is a prominent farmer.

Mr. Thibaudeau was married January 1, 1884, to Martha Mathewson, at Flesherton, Ont. To this union were born a daughter—Mrs. John McLean, of Lenore, Manitoba, Canada, Christmas, 1885, and a son—Louis N., Jr., August 10, 1887. In July, 1893, Mr. Thibaudeau was married to Viola Webber who has one son, Orbbie, now in business in Cheboygan County, Mich. To this marriage was born a daughter, Verona M., in July, 1894. She is a student in the Ithaca High School.

Mrs. Thibaudeau's father—Wm. Mikesell—was born November 11, 1831, in Pennsylvania, and in 1854 settled with his family in Washington Township, Gratiot County. He and his highly esteemed wife endured the trials and hardships incident to a new country, and succeeded in providing for a large family, and laying up a competency for their declining years. He departed this life February 19, 1910. Mrs. Mikesell, the mother, is living at Pompeii, this county. Her maiden name was Ann L. Argersinger and she was born in New York State, July 12, 1840.

In the Mikesell family there were thirteen children: Emily C., born August 14, 1853, in Ohio, now deceased; George, born April 18, 1855; Ellen; Emory Boggs, now dead, was born October 26, 1857; Delilah, born November 13, 1861; Viola, (Mrs. T.), January 6, 1865; Erastus, May 8, 1866; Victoria, May 6, 1869; Louisa, November 1, 1870; Clarinda, July 3, 1872; Neal, October 11, 1873; Lewis, January 8, 1876; Jerome, Nov. 11, 1877.

In early life the subject of this sketch settled on Manitoulin Island and worked on a farm and in government employ. Later, he taught school at Bruce Mines, and on the above named island. On coming to Michigan he resumed pedagogy. He has taught in all about 45 terms of school. Finally, in 1893, he located on a small farm near Ithaca, in North Star Township, where he now resides. He has held the office of justice of the peace, and

he took the census of North Star Township in 1910, with satisfaction to the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Mr. Thibaudeau's grandfather, Peter Thibaudeau, was a British soldier in the War of 1812, and was taken prisoner at Michilimachinac (now Mackinaw) and previously had wintered at St. Joseph's Island in Lake Huron. Before this, he was a trader in the employ of the Hudson Bay Co., with the Indians who lived in a village on the present site of Chicago. His great grandmother, Margaret Middaugh, lived on a farm which was a part of the Thames battlefield. She was an eye-witness of the fight, and saw Tecumseh before and after his death. After the battle the Kentucky riflemen thrust a sharpened pole lengthwise through his body, and, setting the pole up, cut the skin in strips from his back, parading up and down and boasting what fine razor strops the strips of skin would make when they got back to "Old Kentuck."

Mr. T.'s uncle, Stephen Thibaudeau, served in the Mexican and in the Civil Wars, and was one who entered the City of Mexico with Scott's army. Another uncle, Peter Thibaudeau, was a soldier in the Civil War, and died from the privations incident thereto.

Mrs. Thibaudeau and daughter Verona are consistent members of the M. E. Church at Ithaca. Mr. T. is a member of Ithaca F. & A. M. No. 123. He is a supporter of the principles of the Republican party; yet he reserves the right to vote for a worthy man in preference to adhering to party lines. He believes we have the best government that ever existed. He is an optimist rather than a pessimist; believes in conservation of soil fertility, of our timber and game supply, of our minerals and ores. He believes in government control of our water privileges and in the rights of the masses. A believer in freedom but not in license. He is opposed to the liquor traffic, and is temperate in all his habits.

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## ZOSS.

Henry Zoss is one of North Star's prosperous and wide-awake farmers, residing on section 26, where he has 120 acres of fertile land, and where he has lived for the past 28 years. He was born in Germany, December 20, 1854. His parents were John Zoss, born August 3, 1822, and Mary (Turner) Zoss, born December 20, 1822. Both were born in Germany. Their children, four in number, were born in the following order: Henry, Herman, Mary and William.

In 1855 John Zoss came to America with his family, settling in Quebec, Canada, where he lived until the year 1862, when he removed to Gratiot County settling on section 21, of North Star Township. The farm is now owned and occupied by William Zoss, the youngest son. The father, John Zoss, died there January, 1893. The mother, Mary Zoss, survived till November 5, 1904, when she, too, passed away at the old homestead.

Henry Zoss was united in marriage February 22, 1885, to Mary Alice Hanes, daughter of John L. and Mary (Elco) Hanes, the former born in Pennsylvania, February 3, 1828, the latter born in Ohio, December, 1840. Mr. Hanes is still living in North Star at the advanced age of 85 years. Mrs. Hanes died in North Star, July, 1888.

Mrs. Mary Alice Zoss, wife of Henry Zoss, was born at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, April 3, 1863. The names and birth-dates of their children are as follows: Albert, born May 14, 1887; Gertrude Belle, born April 7, 1890; Jessie May, born July 4, 1893; Carl Virgil, born December 5, 1895; Leroy M., born January 28, 1899; Edith Allene, born April 9, 1901; Gladys Irene,

born November 5, 1903; Melva Lucile, born December 5, 1906; Zetta Leone, born March 20, 1911. All were born in North Star Township.

Albert Zoss married Mildred White. They live in Newark Township and have two children—Virgil Lloyd and Wayne.

Jessie May Zoss married Fred Wolfe, March, 1911. They live in North Star Township, and have one daughter—Vada.

Carl Virgil Zoss is now in Detroit, where he has employment. The other children live at home with their parents.

This sketch, giving as it does the main facts in the life of one who has spent nearly his whole life in the township, a period of over half a century, will be regarded and read with satisfaction by the patrons of this volume. It is the sketch of a family which has made the township better for having lived within its borders, and for having been associated with its citizens.

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## HAAS.

The Haas family, of North Star Township, is able to trace one line of its ancestry back to the year 1669; nearly two and a half centuries; no less than eight generations. This covers about four times the length of time that the average citizen of Gratiot is able, by way of memory, to dig out of the dim and misty past.

Charles S. Haas, residing on section 28, North Star, is the son of Levi and Lucina (Borton) Haas, and was born in Fulton County, Ohio, July 17, 1871. Levi Haas, the father, was born in Northumberland County, Penn., November 18, 1839. He is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Arney) Haas. He was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted July 17, 1861, in Company B, Sixth P. R. U. Cavalry, First Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. The command was afterward transferred to the Fifth Army Corps. He was wounded at Fredericksburg and again in the Wilderness, and was honorably discharged in 1864.

In 1866 Levi Haas removed from Pennsylvania to Fulton County, Ohio. He was married November 14, 1867, to Lucina Borton, of Fulton County.

Christian Haas, father of Levi, and grandfather of Charles S. Haas, was born November 11, 1808, in Northumberland County, Penn. He was married to Elizabeth Arney.

The Haas branch is traced back no farther. Taking up the record of the Borton branch it is found that John Borton and Ann, his wife, emigrated from England in 1679, settling at Hillsdown, on the Northampton River, New Jersey, now known as Rancocas Creek. John Borton died there in 1687. His will is dated May 28, 1687. His son, John, Jr., was born at Aynho, Northumberland County, England, September 27, 1669. John, Jr.'s son, Obadiah, was born in 1708, in Burlington County, N. J. Samuel, son of Obadiah and Susannah (Butcher) Borton, was born April 27, 1743, in Burlington County, N. J. Samuel Borton, Jr., son of Samuel and Rhoda (Packer) Borton, was born April 7, 1872, in Burlington County, N. J. Ezra Borton, son of Samuel Borton, Jr., and Mercy (Owen) Borton, was born March 3, 1811, in Stark County, Ohio. He lived with his parents until he was married, March 4, 1832, to Jane Heacock. To this union three daughters were born—Emeline, Angeline and Jane. His wife, Jane, died February, 1837, and Ezra Borton married (second) Ann Brown, of Stark County, Ohio. In 1838 they moved to Portage County, Ohio, where they lived for about 16 years, when—in 1854—they moved to Fulton County.

Ohio. Four daughters and one son were born to them—Joseph, Almira, Alvira, Sabina and Lucina. The latter is the mother of Charles S. Hass, the principal subject of this sketch. Ann, the wife, died August 25, 1860, and Ezra Borton married (third) Sarah Barker Heacock, of Mahoning County, Ohio. To this union was born one daughter, Alice Borton. In 1873 Ezra Borton moved to West Unity, Ohio. Sarah Borton, the wife, died December 30, 1905. Ezra Borton lived till December 31, 1906, when he passed away at the extreme age of 95 years, nine months and 28 days.

Lucina (Borton) Haas, wife of Levi Haas and mother of our subject, was born in Portage County, Ohio, February 25, 1845. They were married in that county, as heretofore stated, November 14, 1867, and remained in Ohio till 1876, when they moved from Fulton County, that state, to Gratiot County, Mich., coming by team and arriving here October 11, after being five days on the road. They settled on a 40-acre tract on section 18, Hamilton Township, a farm which at that time was solid woods. They moved in with Charles Ackles, remaining with them until they had built themselves a log house, and then went to work to clear up the farm. Here they lived until 1893, when they sold out and moved to Clinton County, buying 60 acres in Essex Township, section 2.

The record of births, marriages and deaths in the family of Levi and Lucina Haas is detailed as folows: Martha A. was born August 27, 1868; Cora O., March 11, 1870; Charles S., July 17, 1871; Owen E., September 28, 1873; Allen C., March 18, 1875; Benjamin B., November 17, 1876; Sabina M., August 22, 1878; Minnie E., March 24, 1880; Evie J., August 26, 1881; Landes L., March 17, 1883; Luella E., July 26, 1885; Daisy A., September 8, 1887.

Martha A. Haas was married to William H. Derby, of Newark. Their children are Clarence E. and Bessie L. Clarence E. married Pearl Cornwell, and they have a son, Vincent.

Allen C. Haas married Jennie Bowers.

Benjamin B. married Frances Howes, of Ithaca. Their children are—Vada L., Velma E., Vernie, Annie May.

Sabina M. married Florin Mathews, of North Star. Their children are Evie M., Cressie M., Marie and Helen.

Minnie E. married Charles E. Kinney, of Newark. They have two children—Levi B. and Gerald R.

Evie J. married Lester F. Grubaugh, of North Star. They have Clyde A., Charles O. and Lloyd.

Landes L. married Millie B. Allen, of Shepherd, Mich. Children are—Vadis O., Perry A. and Lorena.

Luella E. married Frank Foster.

Owen E. died February 18, 1875, aged one year, five months and 10 days. Daisy A. died September 12, 1888, aged one year and four days.

Charles S. and Allen C. Haas are single and are in partnership, owning 240 acres of first-class farming land on sections 28 and 29, North Star, where they reside and where they conduct their farming operations along the most modern and approved lines. Their sister, Cora O., is single and serves as an excellent housekeeper for the two brothers.

Levi Haas, the father, lost his sight 12 years ago, and consequently had to give up the active life of a farmer. He sold his Clinton County farm, and he and his wife and all the children are now residents of Gratiot County. May they live long, is the wish of their many friends.

## HAWLEY.

Ira C. Hawley, now in the harness business at Pompeii, was born in the Township of Ash, Monroe County, Mich., March 29, 1867. His father, Charles E., Hawley was born in the above-mentioned township, December 25, 1840. His mother, whose maiden name was Ella I. Littlefield, was a native of the same township, and was born December 23, 1845. Other children of Charles E. and Ella I. Hawley were—Nettie M., born July 30, 1869, in Ash Township; Helen, born in the same place, November 14, 1872; Grace E., born in the same place, May 5, 1874; Ellise, also born in Ash, June 14, 1877, died in infancy; Addie, born in North Star October 16, 1878; Francis, born in North Star September 14, 1884; Levi B., born in North Star, February 15, 1888.

Nettie May Hawley married Antoine La Pratt. They live in Flint, Mich.

Helen Hawley died April 4, 1893.

Grace E. Hawley married Clarence Stevenson. She died March 27, 1903.

Addie married Allen Case. They live at Frankfort, Mich.

Francis is unmarried and, with his mother, resides at North Star Village.

Levi married Ethel Shupe and resides in North Star Township.

Charles E. Hawley came to Gratiot County June 16, 1877, and settled on section 19, North Star, remaining there practically all the time until his removal to North Star Village in 1897, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying there December 14, 1906.

Ira C. Hawley was married to Anna J. Hopkinson, of North Star, August 3, 1890. There children were born to them—Ezra T., December 7, 1891; Orlo F., November 24, 1893, died April 18, 1894; Ernest, January 22, 1895. Ezra is in the United States Navy, stationed at Newport, Rhode Island. He has successfully passed his examination and has been advanced to the grade of a midshipman.

Mr. Hawley was married (second) to Esther Hull, May 29, 1902. She is a daughter of Sanford and Cathreene (Ringle) Hull, and was born in North Star Township, May 20, 1883. Sanford Hull was a soldier in the Civil War. He was born in 1838 and died in Newark Township in 1889. Mrs. Hull was born in 1846 and died in Newark in 1888. Both were natives of Ohio.

By his second marriage Mr. Hawley and wife have become parents to four children with birth-dates as follows: Clarence T., March 15, 1904; Helen, November 29, 1905; Charles, January 22, 1909; Foster Burr, October 25, 1912.

At the age of 23 Mr. Hawley went on a farm for himself. In 1900 he went into mercantile trade at North Star with the late Alvin D. Clark. The firm sold their business to Homer Snider, and Mr. Hawley went into the harness business with E. C. Crandell, at North Star. After about two years he sold out and again engaged in farming, on section 22, North Star, for a short time, and then started in mercantile trade alone in North Star. After two years he sold to Azelborn Bros. and returned to the farm where he remained three years, when he removed to Pompeii and embarked in business as a harness maker and dealer in horse furnishings. He also turns his hand to auto repairing, at which business he has become expert.

Mrs. Hawley's brothers and sisters are named as follows: Clista, Perry H., Nora, Victoria, Henry, Mary, John, George, Cathreene.

Mr. Hawley is an active member of the I. O. O. F. and the Encampment. Mrs. Hawley is a member of the Rebeccas.

## PENDELL.

Leonard F. Pendell, a farmer residing on section 13, North Star, is the son of Moses L. and Mary H. (Trask) Pendell. He was born in Mason, Mich., November 9, 1866. He has been a resident of Gratiot since the fall of 1880, coming here with his parents at that time.

Moses L. Pendell, father of Leonard F., was born January 23, 1834, in the State of New York. He was one of a large family of brothers and sisters. Coming to Michigan in 1854, he settled in the Township of Springport, Jackson County. There he became acquainted with, and married, Miss Mary H. Trask, daughter of Barzella and Rhoda (Sprague) Trask. She was born at Potter, Yates County, N. Y., November 30, 1841, and came to Michigan with her parents about the year 1849. The marriage took place August 19, 1860.

Mr. and Mrs. Pendell became the parents of six children: Alice E., born November 23, 1862. About that time the family moved to Mason, Mich. Leonard F. was born at the date previously mentioned; Charles, born August 15, 1869, died in infancy; Delbert was born July 4, 1871; William A., March 23, 1875; Franklin C., May 23, 1880.

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Pendell "moved with his hungry group,"—as expressed by Leonard in giving the pointers for this sketch—"to Emerson Township, this county, settling on what we thought was the worst place he could find, three and three-fourths miles east of Ithaca, on what is now known as the T. S. Barnes farm. The old log house that we lived in makes Mr. Barnes a good hog-pen. In the spring of 1881 people wishing to go down the town line would carry a pole to aid them in jumping from log to stump in order to get through. As a matter of fact us boys went in swimming where the road ought to have been. It was something for a poor man to tackle who had a large family depending on him, none of whom was of much use only to eat all the pork and beans he could manage to get for them. Feed for the cattle being scarce, father sometimes cut down large elm trees so that they could browse from the tops; and they made a large noise when chewing the cud derived from that kind of fodder, now I can tell you."

In 1884, Mr. Pendell traded with T. S. Barnes for an eighty on section 35, of the same township. There they lived until the father's death, June 20, 1894. The mother, with her oldest and youngest sons—Leonard and Frank—lived on the farm until her death, January 11, 1907. After her death the boys sold the place and bought a farm on section 13, North Star, where they still reside.

On the 28th of December, 1863, Moses L. Pendell enlisted as a private in Company H, 6th Mich. Heavy Artillery, serving to the close of the war, being discharged August 28, 1865. He returned to his home in Mason and was there engaged in farming until his removal to Gratiot County in 1880, as above narrated. The officer commanding the company in which he enlisted, was William S. Trask, his brother-in-law, who first enlisted at Charlotte, Mich., as second lieutenant in the 6th Mich. Infantry August 19, 1861. He was promoted to first lieutenant September 1, 1862, and on July 21, 1864, was commissioned captain; honorably discharged August 20, 1865.

Leonard F. Pendell, our principal subject, was married in 1897 to Miss Carrie Jennings, of Emerson. Nine children have come to gladden their home in the following order: Azella R., November 6, 1898; Alice L., April 1, 1900; William E., April 11, 1902; Freeman A., November 4, 1904; Marvin F., January 1, 1907, died December 16, 1908; Anna M., September 20, 1908;

Lena Agnes, September 8, 1910, died February 20, 1911; Oscar K., November 16, 1912, died September 3, 1913.

Mr. Pendell's sister, Alice, married Henry Cunningham, of Newark Township. Delbert Pendell was married in 1895 to Charlotte Bennett. William Pendell was married to Edith Jennings in 1905.

This sketch would be incomplete without at least a brief statement testifying to the cordial esteem in which Leonard F. Pendell and family are held in the community in which they reside. Mr. Pendell, of a quiet and unassuming nature, is a man of strict integrity, and well merits the favorable regard of all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

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## HOWELL—PEABODY.

Walter B. Howell was born in Ontario County, N. Y., December 25, 1822. He came to this state when 13 years of age with his mother, brothers and sisters, his father having been killed when Walter was seven years old, by a falling tree. His mother was killed by a stroke of lightning July 4, 1861. He was of Welch and Scotch descent.

Mr. Howell, one of the principal subjects of this sketch, settled on a forty-acre farm in Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Mich., and afterward traded it for eighty acres in North Star Township, this county. He was married August 7, 1845, to Elvira Johnson. To them was born a daughter, Elvira A., in Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, July 8, 1852. He came to North Star January 11, 1859, settling on his forest farm on section 20, which he proceeded to clear up and improve, and, as may well be supposed, endured many of the hardships and privations incident to a pioneer life in Gratiot County at that time. He died August 28, 1885. His wife survived him but a few years, her death resulting from the effects of a fall which broke one of her hips. She survived the accident only about eight weeks, passing away March 20, 1891. They were worthy and respected pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Howell adopted a little girl when she was two weeks old, named Eunice Ann (Bassett) Howell. She was born August 6, 1848, and died April 5, 1880.

The daughter, Elvira A. Howell, was married June 18, 1871, to Gerry E. Peabody. He was born in Lorain County, Ohio, May 20, 1849, son of Daniel A. and Esther A. Peabody. When three years of age he removed with his parents to Medina County, Ohio. His father was killed by a falling tree, February 22, 1860. He came to Gratiot County in December, 1868. Mr. and Mrs. Peabody resided with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Howell, caring for them while they lived, and at their death inheriting the old homestead.

Gerry E. and Elvira A. Peabody are the parents of three children—Frank W., born June 3, 1873; Myrtie M., born December 19, 1878; Fred D., born October 9, 1887.

Frank W. Peabody was married to Sylvia M. Belding, August 28, 1892. They reside in North Star Township.

Myrtie M. Peabody was married to Frank Nelson, January 6, 1904, and died one year later.

Fred D. Peabody was married October 11, 1905, and now resides in Mecosta County, Mich.

Gerry E. Peabody and his wife, Elvira A. Peabody have always been highly regarded in the community in which they live. They are members of the United Brethren Church.

## VANCE.

Lewis Lansing Vance, residing on section 8 of North Star Township, was born in Gratiot County, Mich., January 7, 1856. His father, Thomas Vance, was born in Ohio, December 12, 1830, and came to Gratiot County in the year 1855. Thus it will be seen that he was among the earliest of Gratiot's pioneers, and he did his full share in the arduous work of transforming the wilderness into one of the best agricultural sections of the state. A man held in high esteem by his pioneer comrades. He died at his home in North Star Township, November 2, 1911, aged 80 years, 10 months and 20 days. His wife, who was Miss Elmira Beard, daughter of the late Rev. Elijah Beard, is still living. She was born in Ohio, August 7, 1834. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Vance—Lorinda (Vance) Humphrey who was born July 22, 1853, and Lewis L., our principal subject. The daughter, who was married to John Humphrey, passed away March 7, 1905.

Lewis L. Vance was married October 7, 1881, to Rosella Jane Fuller, who was born June 20, 1863. She is the daughter of the late John Fuller and Susan Fuller, of North Star. Both of her parents were born in Horley, Surrey County, England. The names and birth-dates of their large family of children are as follows: Etta, born July 31, 1865; Mary, April 19, 1867; Venice, December 27, 1868; Jesse, October 1, 1870; John, February 23, 1873; Albert, September 26, 1874; Eunice, January 14, 1876; William, July 24, 1877; Raymond, September 4, 1879.

Lewis L. and Rosella J. Vance are the parents of four children: Dessie Vance was born June 12, 1883; Asa Vance was born May 18, 1885; Elzie Vance was born June 17, 1893; Iness Vance was born November 19, 1898. Asa Vance was married December 25, 1907, to Miss Erma Hull. They reside one mile east and one-half mile south of Ithaca, and have one son, Vercil, born October 8, 1908. Dessie Vance was married October 2, 1910, to Charles William Bowers. They have a daughter, Neva Arlene, born February 22, 1911.

This sketch is all the more interesting for being that of one of the earliest born of Gratiot's native citizens.

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**Edward A. Chase** was identified with North Star and her interests for over 30 years, coming to the township in 1857. He was born in Greene County, N. Y., July 4, 1826, son of George Chase. He came to Michigan in 1852, and to Gratiot County in 1857, settling on section 9, North Star. He was married October 25, 1850, to Susan, daughter of Richard Baldwin, born in England, August 16, 1826. Their children were George B., Hattie, Richard, Cora and Ella. Mr. Chase and his family had most of the experiences incident to the early settlers, and not necessary to detail here. Mr. Chase served his fellow citizens in various official capacities. He was justice of the peace twelve years, was appointed county superintendent of the poor in 1862 and was re-appointed several times. He died November 1, 1888. His wife, Susan Chase, died at the home of her son, Richard, in Ithaca, August 14, 1895.

**Daniel Crawford** died September 24, 1874, aged 63 years. He came to Gratiot early in 1855 with his brothers, Ephraim and Benjamin, all of whom were well-known pioneers. Benjamin Crawford was elected the first supervisor of the township, April, 1855. In 1861 he had changed his residence and was elected supervisor of Newark. He had read law somewhat, and as lawyers were scarce in those days he was employed in justice courts as a "pettifogger".

**Edward N. Du Bois** settled in Fulton Township, this county, in 1857, removing in 1867 to North Star Township, section 18, where he remained during the rest of his life, excepting six years in Ithaca where he held the position of deputy-sheriff and where he was village marshal three years. While a resident of Fulton he held the office of justice of the peace four years. He was an honest and conscientious official. He died May 23, 1891, aged 71 years. His wife died November 16, 1892. (See sketch of Geo. M. Du Bois.)

**John Franklin** came to Gratiot in 1854, locating on section 33, North Star, where he lived until his death, August 28, 1873, at the age of 62. He helped to organize his township and at the first election he was chosen justice of the peace, holding the office many years. He was an upright, progressive citizen. His wife, who was Lucy A. Carter, died March 21, 1889, aged 71. Their son, Elbridge Franklin, at 73 years of age, and for many years a leading citizen and a veteran of the Civil War, still resides on the old homestead in North Star.

**Peter Hoffman** was present at the birth of North Star Township, having settled there in 1854. At the first election he was chosen highway commissioner. He was born in France, February 16, 1816, of German ancestry. He came to America in 1830, was married to Elizabeth Kay December 22, 1840, in Ohio. He died January 30, 1902, at his home in North Star. His wife died April 7, 1909, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John M. Trask.

**Lorenzo Squire** was born in Portage County, Ohio, January 22, 1821, son of Aaron Squire who died in North Star, February 4, 1881, at the age of 88 years, and of Elizabeth Squire who died May 2, 1875, aged 79. Lorenzo Squire settled in North Star in 1860, and was a well-known and respected citizen until his death, October 13, 1905. He was supervisor in 1873. His wife died July 6, 1892.

**Franklin Squire** was born in Geauga County, Ohio, February 15, 1827, son of Aaron Squire. He settled in North Star in 1854, and was closely identified with the township's interests many years, and was supervisor in '62 and '63, and clerk in '59 and '60. The late years of his life were spent in Montcalm County.

**Lafayette Sweatland** was born in Franklin County, Vermont, July 25, 1829, son of Philetus and Hannah (Barton) Sweatland. They removed to Ohio in 1831. In 1854 our subject came to this county and located on section 12, North Star, where he spent the remainder of his life. He served in Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry. He was married April 28, 1853, in Seneca County, Ohio, to Lydia, a daughter of Dr. Elias Sower, who is mentioned prominently in the sketch of Horace Goodwin. Mr. Sweatland was a very genial and kindly citizen, an energetic and progressive pioneer. He died October 7, 1894.

**Sidney Thompson** was born in New York State, January 17, 1813, son of Jeremiah D. and Elizabeth (Hoag) Thompson. Coming to Gratiot in an early day he settled on section 8, North Star, and there he remained until his death, July 5, 1904, at the age of over 91 years. Mr. Thompson was a man of influence in his township, standing high in the esteem of his townsmen. Among other positions of trust conferred upon him was that of supervisor four years—1875, '76, '77 and '82. He was three times married—first to Sarah Abbott who died January 22, 1839; second, to Catharine Barager who died April 4, 1977; third, to Mrs. Eleanor (English) Hill who died February 25, 1910.

**Elisha C. Cook,** fifth sheriff of Gratiot County, was born March 13, 1818, in Steuben County, N. Y., son of Nathan and Chloe (Cobb) Cook. He settled in the woods of Gratiot—section 31, North Star—in 1858. He served

as supervisor and clerk of his township and in 1868 and again in 1870 he was elected sheriff of the county, always serving to the satisfaction of his constituents. He was married July 19, 1855, to Margaret Lott, of Clinton County. Their children were—Fremont H., Harriet L., Carrie V., Milan and Ida E.

**Elijah Beard,** farmer and preacher, in Gratiot County for 40 years, was born in Erie County, N. Y., January 12, 1807. He was married August 16, 1829, to Emeline Sunderland, and six children resulted. He removed with his family to this county in 1855, settling in North Star. He rendered conspicuous service as a minister of the gospel (Christian Church) in the early days when preachers were not plentiful or unduly erudite. He was held in the highest esteem for many good qualities—extreme simplicity, unvaried good nature and fervid oratory when fully aroused and awake to his subject. He died September 15, 1894, aged 87. Mrs. Beard died December 12, 1898, aged 88.

**William J. Marshall** was born in Livingston County, N. Y., March 30, 1833, son of William and Elizabeth (Chase) Marshall. They removed to Ingham County, Mich., in 1841, and in 1856 William J. came to Gratiot, and located on section 9, North Star. He served as a soldier nearly three years in Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry. As a citizen of North Star he took rank among the most energetic, trustworthy and progressive, and served eight years as supervisor. He was married November 26, 1856, to Sarah, daughter of Abijah L. and Phebe (Driggs) Clark, who proved a true and intelligent helpmeet through the trying experiences of the early days. Mr. Marshall passed away at Ithaca, March 9, 1905, at the age of 72 years.

Some of the other leading residents of North Star, first and last, of whom but brief mention can be made are—Luther J. Dean; Henry Swift; John W. and Charles E. McBride; Henry M. Swift; Amos B. Spooner; Hiram Brady; Amos W. Belding; Sether Dean; Lewis Hood; Lorenzo C. and Alvin D. Clark; David J. Wilkinson; Thos H. Harrod; Edward L. Kimes; Albert W. Barnes; John M. Trask (county clerk in 1880); Jacob H. Millinger; Edwin J. Churchill; Burt Millinger; John W. Chaffin; Jerry D. Thompson; Jackson M. Williams, supervisor many years, and Democratic candidate for county drain commissioner in 1910. George Smith came in 1869, and was prominent as a farmer and brick manufacturer. Held many positions of trust with fidelity. He and Mrs. Smith celebrated their golden anniversary August 18, 1910. He died August 13, 1911, aged 75 years. Charles D. Bryant and his son, Wilber C., were conspicuous citizens who settled in North Star in 1854. Both are now deceased. W. F. Clapp; Fred L. Coss; H. H. Snider; Chris. Lehner; W. E. Robertson; S. L. Litle; Will Corothers; D. M. Wolfe; F. M. Stahl; Geo. McDaid, his father Alex. McDaid and brother, John T. McDaid; Robert R. Crandell; Geo. Hawkins, and a score or two more of the solid men of Gratiot.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Azelborn, Mrs. Anna,** at the home of her son, Nicholas, March 3, 1904, aged 78.

**Bryant, Wilbur C.,** February 9, 1888, aged 38. An energetic citizen, with positive convictions, especially on theological and kindred questions. Township treasurer in 1872 and '73.

**Bush, Mrs. Jacob,** January 21, 1880, aged 60.

**Barnaby, Alvin P.,** March 13, 1881, aged 59. A substantial and influential citizen who came in 1869.

**Barstow, Mrs.,** wife of Hiram Barstow, February 21, 1881, aged 65.

**Barstow, Hiram,** May 5, 1891, aged 77. A valued pioneer.

**Barrager, Silas,** Oct. 12, 1885. An early settler.

**Barnes, John,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Barnes, Sept. 6, 1903, aged 82. An 1854 pioneer.

**Beardolt, Mrs. Martin,** May 29, 1892, aged 66. For 35 years a resident.

**Belding, Stephen Decatur,** July 11, 1892, aged 67. Served as a soldier in the Civil War.

**Brown, Ambrose W.,** Aug. 29, 1895. An old settler, and reputable citizen.

**Bartlett, Mrs. Nancy,** May 14, 1889, aged 63.

**Barnes, Albert W.,** Oct. 29, 1895, aged 39. A popular citizen, supervisor in 1891 and '92.

**Bell, Mrs. Cynthia,** wife of David Bell, July 28, 1898, aged 76. An 1854 pioneer. David Bell died in Ithaca, March 26, 1911.

**Bovee, Mrs. Adaline A.,** Nov. 27, 1899, aged 66.

**Bovee, Hiram,** January 18, 1912, aged 70. Settled in North Star in 1857; township treasurer in 1865.

**Bovee, Harrison,** January 18, 1902, aged 70.

**Brady, Mrs. Hiram,** February 10, 1902, aged 69. A pioneer of 1855.

**Blain, Mrs. A. M.,** at the home of her son-inlaw, Ernest Webster, Nov. 30, 1903, aged 64.

**Brown, Mrs. Mary J.,** widow of Ambrose W. Brown, March 2, 1906, aged 58.

**Barnes, Mrs. Sophronia E.,** Sept., 1908, aged 56. The esteemed wife of Samuel Barnes.

**Barnaby, Mrs. Esther,** widow of Alvin P. Barnaby, Sept. 20, 1910, aged 76; at the home of her son, U. S. Barnaby.

**Chaffin, John W.,** Nov. 20, 1874, aged 52. He settled here in 1854, and was a prominent and influential pioneer.

**Chaffin, Mrs. Clara A.,** widow of John W. Chaffin, January 26, 1905, aged 79.

**Crandell, Mrs.,** wife of Philip Crandell, Dec. 2, 1880, aged 76.

**Crandell, Philip,** at the home of his son, L. B. Crandell, May 29, 1884, aged 80 years.

**Cook, Miss Ida,** daughter of former Sheriff E. C. Cook, March 12, 1883, aged 23. A popular county teacher.

**Cowdrey, Wm. P.,** March 16, 1883, aged 72. An esteemed pioneer, coming in 1857.

**Chase, Geo. B.,** February 11, 1885, aged 33; son of Edward A. Chase, prominent in the early history of North Star.

**Carter, W. T.,** Dec. 28, 1886, aged 51. A respected resident from 1855.

**Coleman, Noah,** Dec. 1, 1892, at the age of 73. A resident 30 years.

**Crandell, Ira,** February 15, 1897, aged 57. A pioneer of 1857.

**Coss, Peter,** March 15, 1898, aged 89. An upright citizen, 32 years a resident.

**Cain, Michael,** Oct. 10, 1898, aged 57. An esteemed pioneer.

**Chaffin, Mrs. Sarah B.,** Oct. 25, 1898, aged 54; esteemed wife of Charles M. Chaffin.

**Coleman, Marvin,** May 27, 1906, aged 87.

**Cook, Fremont H.,** Aug., 1909, aged 53 years. A well-known resident of North Star, son of former Sheriff, E. C. Cook. He died in Oklahoma, where he had resided about eight years. An energetic and wide-awake citizen.

**Cowdrey, Wm.,** February 1, 1911, aged 48. He was born in Newark Township, son of Wm. P. Cowdrey, who settled in Newark in 1857.

**Cook, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of Isaac Cook, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Sackrider, Nov. 17, 1911, aged 85; 32 years a resident here.

**Clark, Alvin D.,** Sept. 1, 1912, at his home in North Star Village. A popular citizen who left a host of friends. He was postmaster several years and held other important positions.

**Clark, Lorenzo C.,** Nov. 10, 1912, at the age of 73 years. An old resident, standing well among his fellow-citizens, holding various positions of responsibility such as township treasurer three terms and supervisor two terms. He and his wife were the parents of ten children.

**Deline, Mrs. Irving,** devoted wife of Irving Deline, April 22, 1884, aged 35.

**Deline, Mrs. Abram,** June 21, 1887, aged 72; at the home of her son-in-law, Clark Vedder.

**Deline, Abram,** March 4, 1889, aged 78.

**Dibble, Mrs. Minnie,** wife of A. T. Dibble and daughter of M. W. Coon, Aug. 12, 1900, aged 24. A host of friends mourned her early death.

**Dean, Luther J.,** April 7, 1913, aged 83 years. He came to Gratiot in 1855, settling in North Star Township, remaining a prominent and respected resident till the time of his death. He served as justice of the peace and township clerk, holding the latter office 11 years.

**Evitts, Mrs. Clara,** Aug. 30, 1881, aged 83. A resident here 25 years.

**Easterly, Chas. M.,** February 26, 1895, aged 59 years.

**Easterly, Mrs. Hannah,** Sept. 8, 1909, at the age of 66 years; widow of Chas. M. Easterly.

**Emsley, Emanual,** Dec. 28, 1909, aged 70.

**Fuller, John, Sr.,** Dec. 6, 1905, aged 70. A respected pioneer, his residence here dating from 1860.

**Faatz, Mrs. Mary M.,** May 21, 1905.

**Frazier, Mrs. Rebecca (Martin),** widow of the late Samuel Frazier, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Simon S. Munson, Oct. 11, 1912, aged 79 years. Her husband passed away Feb. 23, 1912.

**Fairbanks, Orin M.,** at his home in Ithaca, October 3, 1913, aged 84 years. He settled in North Star Township about 1880, and was an exemplary and popular citizen. He left a wife and ten children. He had resided in Ithaca about two years.

**Guthrie, Wm.,** Aug. 30, 1867, aged 64.

**Greenlee, Mrs. James,** Dec. 6, 1884, aged 53.

**Greenlee, James,** Dec. 1, 1899, aged 67. Esteemed pioneers, settling here in 1859.

**Helms, Daniel,** March 26, 1891, aged 80 years. He settled in Fulton in 1853, one of the earliest settlers, and was a citizen of sterling worth.

**Hunt, Abner,** June 15, 1870, aged 77.

**Hurd, Philo,** March 10, 1875, aged 58. A resident 20 years; elected justice of the peace at the first and second elections.

**Heath, Huldah,** January 10, 1874, aged 74.

**Heath, George,** Dec. 15, 1874, aged 78.

**Huntley, Frederick,** January 7, 1882, aged 76.

**Heath, Wm. H.,** February 7, 1890, aged 70. Settled here in 1865 and was a man of high standing in the community.

**Hood, Lewis,** February 22, 1903, aged 62. He settled in Ithaca in 1876, later removing to Lafayette, and in 1897 removing to North Star. A man of high character.

**Humphrey, John,** January 4, 1894, aged 84. A pioneer of worth, leaving several sons and daughters, well-known residents.

**Heath, Mrs. Emily,** Dec. 12, 1898, aged 72; widow of the late W. H. Heath.

**Huffman, Abraham,** Dec. 7, 1903, at the age of 76 years.

**Hawley, Chas. E.,** Dec. 14, 1906, aged nearly 65. An upright citizen, coming here in 1877. Was several times justice of the peace.

**Hull, Henry,** July 3, 1907, aged 73. An energetic pioneer of the days of '67.

**Harter, Mrs. Elizabeth,** at the home of her son, Samuel, January 16, 1912, aged 94. She came here in 1862. Her husband, Adam Harter, died in 1899.

**Heath, Edward B.,** April 22, 1912, at the age of 60 years. A good citizen, son of W. H. Heath who settled here in 1865.

**Hawkins, Alvin,** Aug. 21, 1912, aged 37 years; son of George and Ellen Hawkins. He left a wife, daughter and many friends.

**Jessup, Abram M.,** in Matherton, Mich., July 21, 1913, aged 77 years. A well-known resident of North Star many years.

**Kryder, Calvin C.,** June 26, 1903, aged 63. A first-class citizens, supervisor several years. (See sketch.)

**Knickerbocker, Wallace W.,** Sept. 21, 1895, aged 59, at the home of his son, Larry, at that time a resident of Maple Rapids.

**Levering, Mrs. Eliza,** wife of Columbus Levering, Nov. 23, 1890, aged 66.

**Levering, Columbus,** April 10, 1901, aged 81. Pioneers of 1863. (See sketch.)

**Litle, Wm. L.,** April 6, 1906, aged 68.

**Lyon, Asher L.,** Dec. 25, 1909, aged 87.

**Lyon, Frank,** at the home of his brother, Charles, North Star Village, Dec. 17, 1911, aged 31 years.

**Myers, John W.,** January 18, 1872, at the age 66 years; father of B. F. Myers, late of Ithaca.

**McBride, Mrs. Polly,** wife of John McBride, Dec. 6, 1879, aged 80. Among the best of the early settlers.

**Mellinger, Carrie M.,** July 20, 1877, aged 13.

**Mellinger, Wilbur J.,** July 22, 1877, aged 4.

**Mellinger, Mary M.,** July 29, 1877, aged 8.
Children of Joseph and Helen Mellinger.

**Myers, Mrs. Fanny,** Dec. 11, 1880, aged 41; wife of B. F. Myers and daughter of Peter and Mary Coss.

**Morey, Mrs.,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. E. McBride, January 20, 1885, aged 81.

**Millspaugh, Samuel,** June 28, 1903, aged 71. A pioneer and leading citizen in his community.

**McDaid, Alex,** May 15, 1902, aged 71. An esteemed citizen who settled on section 28 in 1854; his home till his death.

**McDaid, Joseph T.,** son of Alex. McDaid, July 13, 1892, aged about 40. A citizen deservedly popular.

**Mills, Clark,** February 3, 1893, at the age of 86 years.

**Mellinger, David,** March 30, 1896, aged nearly 90. One of the earliest and best-known pioneers.

**McDaid, Mrs. Eleanor,** April, 1907, at the home of her son, Warren, aged 76; widow of Alex. McDaid.

**McBride, Chas. E.,** at his home Dec. 30, 1912, aged 81 years. He settled in North Star in 1857. He served in the Civil War, member of Co. D, 26th Mich. Infantry. He was a popular citizen, and served in various local capacities, among others treasurer of the township two terms.

**Newell, Andrew,** April 7, 1877, aged 66. An 1854 pioneer.

**Newell, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of Andrew Newell, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Jo. Wright, Ithaca, Aug. 29, 1899, aged 86.

**Nelson, Lyman F.,** at Lansing, May 28, 1912, aged about 77. Settled here in 1870.

**Norris, Benton,** Nov. 6, 1892, aged 50.

**Perkins, Christopher,** Dec. 19, 1878, at the age of 75.

**Peacemaker, Conrad,** Dec. 26, 1882, aged 64.

**Polhemus, Wm., Sr.,** Sept. 11, 1890, aged 76.

**Palmer, Wm. W.,** March 4, 1903, aged nearly 80. Helped to organize the township. (See sketch.)

**Peacemaker, Mrs. Susan,** widow of Conrad Peacemaker, Dec. 5, 1907, aged 81; at the home of her son, W. M. Peacemaker.

**Palmer, Mrs. Lydia M.,** June 21, 1906, aged 83; widow of Wm. W. Palmer.

**Palmer, Mrs. Charlotte M.,** wife of Rufus M. Palmer, Sept. 20, 1910, aged 49. A bright, active and good woman. (See sketch.)

**Pierce, Benson J.,** Nov. 14, 1911, aged 45. Son of the late Wells Pierce of Lafayette and brother of Frank and Eli K. Pierce.

**Peters, Benj.,** January 10, 1912, aged 64. Settled here in 1877.

**Pierce, Edwin N.,** Aug. 28, 1912, aged 80. Settled in Fulton in 1857; removed to North Star Village in 1902. He enjoyed the esteem of many friends.

**Pettit, Mrs. J. A.,** at her home in North Star Dec. 31, 1912, aged 62 years. An active, energetic woman, in business at North Star Village several years. Her first husband was Frank Gardner, who was killed by the explosion that destroyed his stave mill in North Star and killed five others, June 25, 1890.

**Riley, Michael,** Aug. 4, 1877, aged 84.

**Rathbone, Mrs. Edward,** Nov. 20, 1909, aged 38.

**Spooner, Mrs. Eliza,** Sept. 5, 1879, aged 48; wife of Amos B. Spooner.

**Spooner, Amos B.,** January 30, 1901, aged 67. Valued residents since 1868.

**Swift, Henry M.,** March 4, 1881, aged 51. A Civil War veteran.

**Sprague, Beriah,** Dec. 10, 1882, aged 80. Father of Orin J. Sprague, a former supervisor of Washington.

**Shaw, Chas. H.,** near Ithaca, June 13, 1887, aged 40. Son of the late J. C. Shaw of Ithaca.

**Swift, Henry,** July 10, 1888, aged 83. One of the pioneers of 1855, settling on section 22. Was entrusted with many official positions.

**Stahl, Mrs. Matilda,** wife of Eli Stahl, Nov. 18, 1889, aged 49. She had a large circle of friends.

**Smith, Mrs. Sarah,** at the home of her son, Geo. Smith, April 10, 1890, aged 76.

**Spuire, Alonzo,** April 12, 1893, aged 70.

**Shaull, John B.,** February 24, 1892, aged 35.

**Shaull, M. B.,** February 22, 1896, aged 64.

**Shaull, Mahala J.,** wife of M. B. Shaull, March 27, 1896, aged 60.

**Swartzmiller, Geo.,** at his home in Grand Marais, Upper Peninsula, April 29, 1908. An old resident of North Star and Ithaca.

**Strouse, David F.,** Nov. 4, 1908, aged 44.

**Signs, Abram,** Aug. 16, 1910, aged 68.

**Street, Mrs. Thomas,** at her home in Waldron, Mich., July 9, 1911. Many years a resident of North Star, daughter of Peter Hoffman, a first settler.

**Squire, Franklin,** Aug. 30, 1912, aged 85 years. He died in Bloomer Township, Montcalm County, where he had lived about 10 years. He was one of the best-known of the early pioneers of North Star, settling there in 1854. Was supervisor in 1862 and '63.

**Tyrrell, Miss Martha,** at the home of her brother, Wilson Tyrrell, at Petoskey, Dec. 12, 1905, aged 64.

**Turner, Mrs. Sophia;** she settled in North Star in 1861; died at the home of her son, James Turner, aged 105.

**Turner, Frederick,** February, 1908, aged 80. One of the hardy pioneers who came in the early '60s.

**Turner, Chas. G.,** March 31, 1912, aged 58.

**Vance, Richard,** March 9, 1873, aged 91; father of James and Thomas Vance. He spent some years with them in North Star, but died in Ohio.

**Vance, Richard, Jr.,** February 5, 1879, aged 28; son of James Vance.

**Vance, Thomas,** at his home in North Star, Nov. 2, 1911, aged 81 years. (See sketch of Lewis L. Vance.)

**Wright, John,** February 13, 1878. A pioneer.

**Welch, Daniel,** January 14, 1888, aged 60 years. Wife and 12 children were present at his funeral.

**Webster, Mrs. Charlotte,** while in attendance at the Adventist camp meeting at Alma, Aug. 16, 1888, aged 58.

**Welch, George,** July 1, 1903, aged 33; son of Moses Welch.

**Welch, Moses,** June 5, 1900, aged 76. An early settler with many friends.

**Witham, George K.,** January 4, 1901, aged 69. An esteemed resident 27 years.

**Witham, Mrs. Susannah,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Sprague, Ithaca, May 22, 1912, aged nearly 81. Widow of Geo. K. Witham. Her first husband was David Shupe who died in North Star July 26, 1874. All first-class residents of North Star.

**Williams, John A.,** March 29, 1904, aged 72.

**Wolf, Mrs. Emma E.,** wife of D. M. Wolf, July 15, 1905, aged 45.

**Welch, Mrs. Lydia,** widow of Moses Welch, January 27, 1910, aged nearly 80 years.

**Zoss, John T.,** January 26, 1893, aged 72.

**Zoss, Mrs.,** widow of John T. Zoss, at the home of her son, William, Nov. 10, 1904, aged 83.

**Zarbaugh, Mrs. Mary A.,** at her home in Ithaca, April 15, 1909, aged 69; wife of John B. Zarbaugh. Settled in North Star in 1888, removing to Ithaca in 1900.

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## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1877, Aug. 13—Jacob H. Mellinger's barn was struck by lightning and burned with much of the contents. Insured.

1878, March 19—Peter Hoffman's farm house burned on the night of March 19th. Loss about $3,000; insurance. $1,000.

1884, Sept. 10—Geo. Hawkins lost a barn by fire, with its contents, including a horse.

1884, Dec. 25—Chas. Sprague lost his residence by fire, together with the household goods. No insurance.

1885, March 20—The residence of George Spooner, North Star, owned by Byron A. Hicks, was burned in the evening, with its contents. Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Spooner—Bessie, aged five, and Virgil, aged three, were burned to death in their beds.

1887, March 18—A bad fire at North Star Village destroyed the drug store of J. D. Gilleo, store of M. A. Coss, store of J. H. Seaver conducted by Ezra Eggleston, and the blacksmith shop of John McNichol. The buildings occupied by J. H. Seaver and J. D. Gilleo were owned by E. L. Kimes. Loss, heavy; insurance, light.

1888, Dec. 7—Jacob Kesling's house was burned, with a considerable portion of its contents. Loss, $1,500; insurance, $1,000.

1893, Feb. 5—The house of Joseph Mellinger was burned, with about half the household goods. Insured.

1895, Jan. 15—A. T. McReynolds' barn was burned, caused by the explosion of a lantern.

1895, May 18—The residence of Wm. H. McRae was burned while the family was away, so the household goods were all lost, with no insurance.

1899, April 18—Alonzo Biddinger, six miles east of Ithaca, lost his house by fire, and also his household goods. Loss, $700, with no insurance.

1899, May 13—The farm house of Perry Chaffin was destroyed by fire, together with the contents, with no insurance.

1900, July 11—Hon. Henry L. Wood's large barn was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire, with hay, grain, new binder and three head of young cattle. Loss, $1,400; insured. It was told of Leslie Stockwell, a neighbor, aged 19, that he heard the alarm, jumped out of bed, grabbed his trousers and put them on as he ran—about a third of a mile—and at once proceeded to save three horses from the burning building, by blindfolding them, backing them out of the building and taking them one by one to a place of safety—and then collapsed. The account ends with the agreeable statement that, "Mr. Wood remembered him with a substantial reward."

1904, July 26—At a barn fire on Luke Sawyer's farm one and a half miles east of Ithaca, which destroyed the barn and contents, three horses were cremated.

1904, July 30—The house of Edgar Henry was burned, together with the household goods.

1908, April 21—Fire destroyed the residence of Ernest Webster, and nearly all the contents went the same way. Insured to some extent. The school teacher, Miss Bovee, who boarded there, lost her clothing and $40 in money. Fortunately this item can be closed with the pleasant statement that her loss was made good by appreciative patrons and other friends who "chipped in" enough for the purpose.

1908, Aug. 4—A barn on J. B. Zarbaugh's farm, occupied by Chris. Kickaph, was struck by lightning and destroyed with its contents—15 tons hay, a horse, a cow, farming tools, etc. There was some insurance on the barn.

1908, Sept. 22—Whitney Vance's house, a mile east of Ithaca was burned with nearly all its contents.

1909, Jan. 27—The farm house of Henry Zoss was destroyed by fire at 7 p. m., with most of the household goods. Partially insured.

1911, Feb. 18—Geo. McNabb's house with nearly all its contents was burned in the night of Feb. 18th. Loss, $2,000; insurance, $500.

1911, Aug. 10—Lightning struck the barn of Geo. Evitts, Thursday night, Aug. 10th, resulting in the total destruction of the barn and its contents, consisting of a cow, 30 tons of hay, several hundred bushels of grain, farming tools, etc. Partially insured.

1912, Nov. 24—Fire destroyed the barn of Thomas Laney, with hay from 15 acres and beans from 13 acres. Loss about $1,000; insurance, $550.

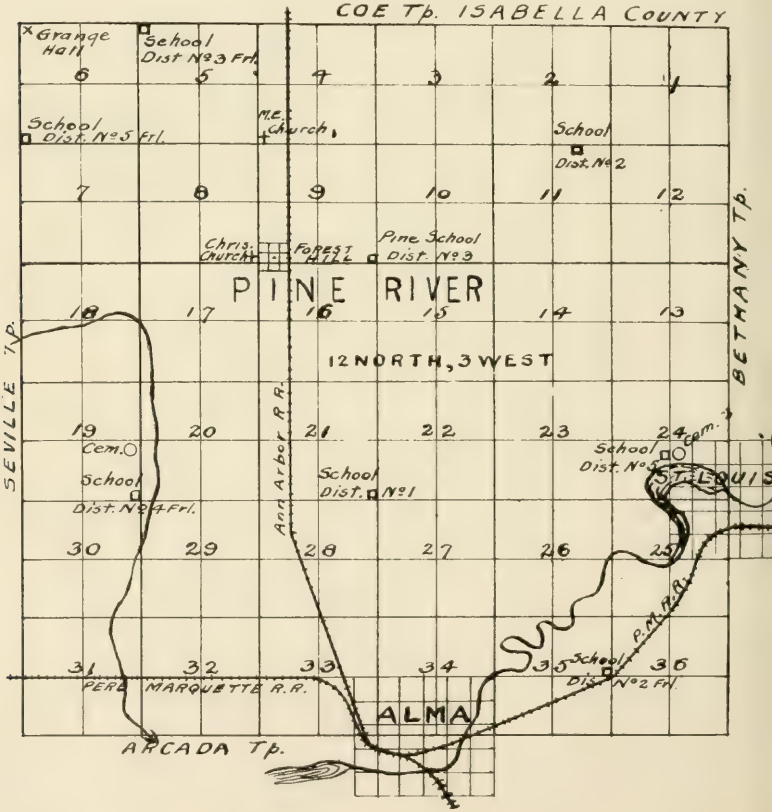
1913, Jan. 6—A fire at North Star Village at 1:30 a. m. destroyed the barber shop of Mr. Walker, recently purchased of Archie Cain, and Fred Coss' grocery store adjoining. The barber shop and fixtures were well insured; the grocery store had a small insurance.

1913, Sept. 30—Ben Burton's farm barn, near North Star, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground together with much valuable contents. Insured for about half the loss.

1913, Sept. 30—Lightning struck the barn of George Wilhelm of North Star Township, and it was destroyed by the fire resulting; also much hay and grain. Insured for about half.

## PINE RIVER TOWNSHIP.

In the early times Pine River Township was probably the most important township in the county in several respects. Its settlement was more rapid than that of any other township, consequently, with its large population, comparatively, it naturally would assume a position of importance among the townships. The reason for its more rapid settlement is not obscure. It had the advantage of being traversed by Pine River, with its power possibilities, a feature not to be overlooked in estimating the merits of a site for a settlement. The important and promising settlement on the township's southern border, first called Elyton, afterward Alma, increased rapidly in population and importance. On the eastern border was the Village of Pine River, afterward called St. Louis, increasing rapidly in population and importance. These were the causes responsible for the comparatively advanced position taken by the township at that period. In



later years as the population became more generally diffused the importance and influence of the townships became better equalized.

Topographically, the township is somewhat uneven or rolling in its surface features. The soil is an average; not so heavy as in some sections nor yet so light as in others. Generally speaking it is a good agricultural township, with some portions exceptionally excellent. As to its markets, with St. Louis on the east, Alma on the south and Forest Hill near the center, no farmer has more than about a five-mile haul to a railroad town. And, thanks to the efficient management of those having the matter in charge for the past dozen years, the roads are ranked among the best in the county.

Much early history of the township is necessarily detailed in other departments of this work, consequently it seems superfluous to repeat it here. It will also be found that in the election, sketch, fire, casualty and death sections of this department, there is much that tends to round out and complete the local history of each township. At the pioneer meeting held at Ithaca September, 1907, Hon. Silas Moody read an interesting paper on early times in Pine River, and it is here given, mainly in Mr. Moody's own language. He gives some figures and dates that I have not had time to verify by comparing them with my own findings from the official records; so, if there are any discrepancies, the reader may take it for granted that Mr. Moody is wrong to that extent. The matter will thus be easily got along with. He says:

"As I came to Pine River April 29, 1861, from Medina County, Ohio, the previous history of the township I have gathered from those hardy pioneers who were here before me. Among these I take pleasure in mentioning Amos V. Packer, Alfred Holmes, John Thomas, Thos. Gallagher, Joseph Brady, Ezra Plowman and Jas. B. Allen. These settlers were in northern Pine River near the Isabella County line. West and south were Marcus Ring, Aaron Holmes, Frederick Wright, Lorenzo Kyes, Valmore Hoyt, Jas. Wood, Amos Johnson, Cornelius Holiday, Elijah B. Rice and Aaron Sloan. On the southeast were Wm. O. Johnson, Lyman Cohoon, D. R. Sullivan, Simeon and John N. Adams, Geo. L. Spicer, Orson Briggs, Frederick M. Badger, Ira Smith and his sons, Henry, Luther and Gordis Smith, Nelson Colburn, Hiram Burgess, Sidney S. Hastings, Lewis M. Clark, Richard G. Hillyer, Nathan Vliet, Dr. J. R. Cheesman, Elisha H. Brooks, Solomon and Sylvanus Sias, and others whose names are worthy of mention.

"The first township meeting of Pine River was held April 2, 1855. The number of votes cast was 54. The first supervisor was Geo. L. Spicer; clerk, Henry Smith; treasurer Elijah Porter; justices, Elijah B. Rice, Hiram Burgess, Elijah Porter and Sylvanus Groom; highway commissioners, Aaron Sloan, Jas. Kress, Joseph Clapp. The early elections were held at private houses for several years.

"The first circuit court in the county was held in Pine River Township, at Alma, in the school house where the Wright House now stands.

"In the early days there was often a struggle on election days to determine where the next election should be held. Shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon the supervisor would put the question and then the east side would shout 'St. Louis' and the westerners would shout for 'Alma', while some in the north and west would favor Forest Hill. This strife often became exciting, and often the crowd had to be divided and noses counted.

"The Forest Hill postoffice was first established on the farm of Elisha Brooks, on the west side of section 1 of Pine River, four miles north and one west of St. Louis. Later it was removed to the house of Amasa Packard

who was postmaster, near the plat of the present Village of Forest Hill, where it has since remained. Then we had one mail a week, carried on horseback. St. Louis had a postoffice which received its mail from St. Johns and Maple Rapids, sometimes carried on horseback and sometimes on foot by Billy Gruett. At first the mail was continued on to the Elisha Brooks farm by Mitchell Packer and others, and on to Salt River near the present site of Shepherd. There was another route from Ionia north to Indian Mills, two miles down the Chippewa from the present site of Mt. Pleasant, the mail being carried by Samuel Brady who lived on the west side of section 6, Pine River. He used Indian ponies as far as he could, and went on foot the rest of the way.

"In an early day there was an association formed called the St. Louis Academy Association. Elisha Brooks was the first president and was the promoter of the project. The object was to build an academy and start a school. The frame of the building was put up, and while being enclosed, a cyclone blew it down and broke many of the timbers. But by hard work it was again erected and so far completed that a school was begun with Rev. Randall Faurot and his wife, Letitia, as the teachers. It was under the auspices of the Disciple Church. But interest lagged and the school was discontinued. The building is that now occupied by Yerington's College.

"About the year 1861 came a noted preacher from Indiana, named L. L. Carpenter. He, with Elisha Brooks and Elias Sias, held meetings in the school houses in Pine River and at Salt River Village. The result was a revival, and several small churches were formed. There also was sent from the east—Connecticut—a missionary named Alva Upson. He organized Sunday schools in Gratiot and Isabella Counties, and the result eternity will disclose. He wore out his buggy, his horse and finally himself in the Master's service.

"The first cemetery in Pine River was on the farm of Fred. Wright. The first grave in St. Louis cemetery was made in 1863, when a Mr. Phillips was buried there. After Henry L. Holcomb came to St. Louis, in 1860, the grist mill and saw mill were improved, and all things took on new life. The demands for better roads became urgent. Crossways of logs and rails were made over the swampy places and the roads were otherwise greatly improved. A road was laid from St. Louis in a northwesterly direction, called the 'angling road.' S. S. Hastings laid it out, assisted by Edson Packard and others. It is said that they located it by sending one man ahead with a tin horn. He would select the dryest place and then blow the horn, and the surveyor would then squint through his instrument and run the line toward the sound of the horn. The road is still in use.

"The schools of Pine River were in active operation in 1861, in good log houses. The one at the Wright settlement where I taught the first winter—1861—had pins driven into the logs, on which boards were laid for desks. I had the privilege of boarding around with the scholars, and collecting a part of my wages by the rate bill. Theodore Nelson taught the school at Alma that winter. During this winter our suppers were often taken by the fire-light ,as they had no other light. Some of the schools were large. My first winter I had six Woods, six Churches, six Newcombs and six Thorntons. The following winter I had sixty-five scholars in the St. Louis school, there being no other school within three miles. The school house stood on the Bethany side of St. Louis, on the side now occupied by the beautiful Union School building. I boarded with the family of Sidney S. Hastings during this winter, and taught geography school nights from a set of Pelton's outline maps, by singing the lessons."

## PINE RIVER ELECTIONS.

Pine River's first election was held April 2, 1855, the number of votes being 54, and distributed as follows:

**April, 1855:** Sup.—Geo. L. Spicer 34, Jacob Schoonover 19; Clk.—Henry Smith 54; Treas.—Elijah Porter 53; H. C.—Aaron Sloan 42, Jas. Kress 54, Joseph Clapp 35, Isaac Clymer 14, Elisha H. Brooks 8, Peter Pruden 4; J. P.—Elijah B. Rice 53, Hiram Burgess 49, Elijah Porter 46, Sylvanus Groom 38, E. L. Button 12, Alex. B. Runyan 2, Geo. E. Gifford 4, Peter Pruden 1; Sch. Insp.—Abraham Woodin 54, Orange Hopkins 31, Thos. J. Schoonover 21; Directors of Poor—Alex. B. Runyan 54, Joseph Clapp 54; Const.—Joseph Rowland 54, Jas. Gruett 53, Fred. Badger 51; Garwood E. Kress 41, Watson B. Reed 8.

The inspectors of election were Sylvanus Groom, Jas. Kress, Geo. E. Gifford, Orange Hopkins.

The justices drew terms as follows: Sylvanus Groom four years, Elijah B. Rice three years, Hiram Burgess two years, Elijah Porter one year.

A meeting of the board was held Sept. 4, '55, to call a special township meeting to elect three justices for one, two and three years to fill vacancies caused by a neglect of Porter, Rice and Burgess to qualify. The election was probably held Sept. 25, but the record is not entirely clear on that point.

At a meeting of the board held Oct. 6, '55, Hiram Burgess was appointed supervisor to fill the vacancy caused by Geo. L. Spicer removing from the township. John N. Adams was appointed constable vice Fred Badger, removed from the township.

**1856:** There were 82 votes cast at the second election held in the township.

Sup.—Sylvanus Groom 42, Horace B. Perry 36; Clk.—Henry Smith 82; Treas.—Elisha H. Brooks 44, John N. Adams 37; H. C.—Harlow Cramer 43, Jas. B. Allen 37, Aaron Holmes 2; J. P.—Jas. B. Allen 39, Amos V. Packer 20, A. B. Runyan 16; vacancy, Samuel Parker 46; Jas. B. Allen 33; Sch. Insp.—Orange Hopkins 77; Directors of Poor—Aaron Sloan 82, Jacob G. Wilden 45, Elijah Porter 35; Const.—Malcom Sherwood 60, John Thomas 43, Thos. Gallagher 35, Wm. L. Marcy 34, Garwood E. Kress 30, John McConnell 44, Moses Sanborn 44, Cornelius Holiday 1, Lucien Sias 1.

**1857:** At the third election in Pine River there were 75 votes polled.

Sup.—Sidney S. Hastings 37, Horace B. Perry 36; Clk.—Edson Packard 72; Treas.—John N. Adams 39, E. L. Button 33; H. C.—Lewis M. Clark 33, Amos V. Packer 26; vacancy, Aaron H. Holmes 40, Harmon Bush 32; J. P.—Elijah Porter 40, Elisha H. Brooks 38, Jas. Wood 37, Amasa Packard 37, John Bailey 37, Hiram Burgess 33; Sch. Insp.—Henry Smith 44, Fred M. Badger 31; Const.—Levi L. Bishop 73; Wheaton Goodwin 39, John W. Doane 38, Malcolm Sherwood 37, Elias Sias 37, Welcome J. Partelo 35, John Thomas 32; Directors of Poor—Joseph Brady 37, Jas. Gruett 37, H. Burgess 36, Richard G. Hillyer 32.

**1858:** At the session of the board of supervisors in January, Bethany had been set up as an independent organization. It had previously been counted as a part of Pine River Township. So this election was exclusively a Pine River affair.

Sup.—Amasa Packard; Clk.—Edson Packard; Treas.—Otis Bartlett; H. C.—Amos V. Packer; J. P.—Geo. W. McHenry; Sch. Insp.—Orange Hopkins; Directors of Poor—Jas. Kress, Wm. Crane.

**1859:** Sup.—Cornelius Holiday; Clk.—Fred M. Badger; Treas.—John N. Adams; H. C.—Elijah B. Rice; vacancy, Aaron H. Holmes; J. P.—Amasa Packard; Sch. Insp.—S. S. Hastings; vacancy, Mathew McHenry.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—C. Holiday; Clk.—Fred M. Badger; Treas.—John N. Adams; H. C.—A. H. Holmes; J. P.—Jas. Wood; vacancy, S. S. Hastings; Sch. Insp.—Abraham Woodin.

By this time 19 road districts had been laid out in the township, and the following overseers were elected: Abram O. Billings, Joseph Doane, Julius Mey, Silas Moody, Marcus Ring, Joseph Brady, Hubbard Biggs, Aaron Sloan, Wm. M. Reeves, Henry Smith, C. Holiday, Fred Wright, Jas. Wood, Jas. Kress, Orson Briggs, J. R. Cheesman, T. H. Foland, John Vanderbeek. These were all prominent citizens for many years. As these lines are being written, more than 50 years have elapsed since these men were performing the duties mentioned. Of these representative men, well distributed over the township, there is but one now living, it is believed—Hon. Silas Moody, still a resident of the same township.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Cornelius Holiday; Clk.—Fred M. Badger; Treas.—John N. Adams. That's as far as it is possible to go with the election of 1861. The records are sadly deficient for that year and also for 1862.

In June, 1861, Silas Moody was appointed clerk vice Badger, "gone to war."

**April, 1862:** Sup.—C. Holiday; Clk.—Silas Moody; Treas.—John N. Adams; J. P.—S. S. Hastings; Const.—Jonathan Russ, Aaron Sloan, Moses Sanborn.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—C. Holiday; Clk.—Geo. W. McHenry; Treas.—John N. Adams; H. C.—Valmore Hoyt; J. P.—Amasa Packard; Sch. Insp.—Nehemiah L. Hurlbut, Garwood E. Kress.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Luther Smith; Clk.—Geo. W. McHenry; Treas.—John N. Adams; H. C.—Jerome B. Smith; J. P.—G. W. McHenry; Sch. Insp.—Garwood E. Kress, David Galligher.

Dec., 1864, board appointed John R. Cheesman supervisor vice Luther Smith, elected to the state legislature.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Jas. Gargett; Clk.—Penuel Richardson; Treas.—John W. Doane; H. C.—Joseph Brady; J. P.—John S. Hildreth; Sch. Insp.—C. Holiday.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—L. Smith; Clk.—J. R. Moffett; Treas.—Chas. M. Fleming; H. C.—Orange Hopkins; vacancy, Alfred Holmes; J. P.—Elisha H. Brooks.

**April,1867:** Sup.—L. Smith; Clk.—G. W. McHenry; Treas.—C. M. Fleming; H. C.—Henry W. Sandall; J. P.—Joshua N. Robinson; Sch. Insp.—Fred. Fox; vacancy, John D. Hays.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—L. Smith; Clk.—Jas. R. Baldwin; Treas.—C. M. Fleming; H. C.—Silas Moody; J. P.—G. W. McHenry; Sch. Insp.—Herbert N. Robinson.

May 8, 1868, Luther Smith resigned as supervisor, owing to the fact that there was considerable dissatisfaction over various and sundry matters connected with his election and his administration of the office. A special election was held May 19, '68, to fill the vacancy, resulting as follows: Luther Smith had 165 votes; Valmore Hoyt had 140 votes. So Luther Smith was re-elected; a result which he looked upon as a vindication.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Jas. K. Wright; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—C. M. Fleming; H. C.—Amos V. Packer, Alfred S. Atwood; J. P.—Wm. Yerington; Sch. Insp.—John D. Hays.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—John Vanderbeek; Clk.—John A. Wilcox; Treas.—David Leach; H. C.—Jas. Wood; J. P.—Jas. Paddock; Sch. Insp.—S. Moody; vacancy, Sidney J. Richardson.

The vote on the question of raising money to build a court house resulted—yes, 5; no, 310.

**April 1871:** Sup.—John Vanderbeek; Clk.—Edson Packard; Treas.—David Leach; H. C.—Orson Briggs; J. P.—H. W. Sandall; Sch. Insp.—Levi B. Quick; Dr. Com.—Chas. M. Fleming.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—John Vanderbeek; Clk.—Carlton Abbott; Treas.—Valmore Hoyt; H. C.—Wm. M. Reeves; J. P.—Geo. W. McHenry; Sch. Insp.—S. Moody; vacancy, Edson Packard; Dr. Com.—J. W. Doane.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Edson Packard; Clk.—Carlton Abbott; Treas.—Val. Hoyt; H. C.—Daniel R. Sullivan; vacancy, W. H. Rennels; J. P.—Chipman J. Tobey; Sch. Insp.—Levi B. Quick.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—L. Smith; Clk.—Wm. A. McOmber; Treas.—Aaron Wessels; H. C.—Joseph B. Vliet; J. P.—Jas. Paddock; Sch. Insp.—John K. Stark; Dr. Com.—E. H. Brooks.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Henry P. Clark; Clk.—Willard D. Tucker; Treas.—Val. Hoyt; H. C.—D. R. Sullivan; J. P.—Henry W. Sandall; Supt. Sch.—Jesse H .Fleming; Sch. Insp.—S. Moody; Dr. Com.—John W. Doane.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Dan. R. Sullivan; Clk.—Aciel F. Wright; Treas.—Val. Hoyt; H. C.—John Vanderbeek; J. P.—Marcus L. Anderson; Supt. Sch.—Levi B. Quick; Sch. Insp.—S. Moody.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Daniel O. Cuff; Clk.—C. L. Delavan; Treas.—Val. Hoyt; H. C.—John R. Cheesman; J. P.—Chipman J. Tobey; Supt. Sch.—H. N. Robinson; Sch. Insp.—Jesse H. Fleming; Dr. Com.—S. Moody.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—Chas. H. Crandall; Treas.—Fred. Fox; H. C.—Val. Hoyt; J. P.—Jas. Paddock; Supt. Sch.—H. N. Robinson; Sch. Insp.—Sylvester B. Heverlo; Dr. Com.—Jas. A. Hunt.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—L T Wright; Treas.—G. W. McHenry; H. C.—Theron A. Johnson; J. P.—Henry W. Sandall; Supt. Sch.—H. N. Robinson; Sch. Insp.—C. J. Tobey.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—L T Wright; Treas.—G. W. McHenry; H. C.—S. Moody; Supt. Sch.—Geo. W. Dawes; Sch. Insp.—Cage Wood; Dr. Com.—H. N. Robinson.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—D. A. Cuff; Clk.—L T Wright; Treas.—Sylvester B. Heverlo; H. C.—D. R. Sullivan; J. P.—Chipman J. Tobey; Supt. Sch.—Geo. W. Dawes; Sch. Insp.—Cyrus E. Larkin.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—John J. McCarthy; Treas.—S. B. Heverlo; H. C.—Eli Woodmansee; J. P.—Reuben D. Perrine; Sch. Insp.—John L. Kingdon; vacancy, Geo. W. Dawes; Dr. Com.—Silas Placeway.

Dec., 1882, Chas. L. Delavan was appointed treasurer vice S. B. Heverlo, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Chas. R. Holliday; Clk.—J. J. McCarthy; Treas.—D. R. Sullivan; H. C.—Eli Woodmansee; J. P.—Jas. Paddock; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Dawes.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Chas. R. Holliday; Clk.—J. J. McCarthy; Treas.—John W. Doane; H. C.—Theron A. Johnson; J. P.—Hiram U. Woodin; vacancy, Henry F. Beery; Sch. Insp.—John L. Kingdon; Dr. Com.—John Lanshaw.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Henry L. Wood; Clk.—J. J. McCarthy; Treas.—J. W. Doane; H. C.—John Kline; J. P.—Francis Palmer; vacancy, H. W. Sandall; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Dawes.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—H. L. Wood; Clk.—Zealous Sperry; Treas.—Chas. L. Delavan; H. C.—Frank M. Frear; J. P.—Jehu E. Parkinson; Sch. Insp.—Myron E. Hull; Dr. Com.—Emmett L. Kyes.

Dec., 1886, Henry W. Sandall was appointed supervisor in place of Henry L. Wood, elected to the state legislature.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Herbert N. Robinson; Clk.—Zealous Sperry; Treas.—Chas. L. Delavan; H. C.—Frank M. Frear; J. P.—John P. Madden; Sch. Insp.—Otto F. Mey; Review—C. R. Holliday, F. M. Frear.

The legislature having detached sections 33 and 34 from Pine River and attached them to Arcada, Treasurer Delavan went with those sections, leaving a vacancy in that office. The township board of Pine River filled the vacancy by the appointment of Andrew S. McIntyre.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—Albert H. Lowry; Treas.—A. S. McIntyre; H. C.—Gordis Smith; J. P.—Hiram U. Woodin; vacancy, H. W. Sandall; Sch. Insp.—Frank B. Huffman; Dr. Com.—John H. Lanshaw; Review—A. N. Martin, Silas Randolph.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—A. H. Lowry; Treas.—Geo. W. Long; H. C.—Augustus S. Adams; J. P.—H. W. Sandall; vacancy, Elias C. Phillips; Sch. Insp.—Emmett L. Kyes; Review—J. P. Madden, Geo. F. Huffman.

Later the board appointed Chas. F. Wright school inspector vice Kyes, resigned.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—D. O. Cuff; Clk.—A. H. Lowry; Treas.—Geo. W. Long; H. C.—A. S. Adams; J. P.—Theron A. Johnson; Sch. Insp.—A. S. McIntyre; Dr. Com.—John H. Lanshaw; Review—Edward Creech, Stewart Harrison.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Gordis Smith; Clk.—Myron E. Hull; Treas.—Edward Creech; H. C.—Isaac H. Church; J. P.—Geo. J. Acker; vacancy, Geo. Carbino; Sch. Insp.—Herbert N. Hays; vacancy, Edward W. Lake; Review—Edward Sherwood.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Gordis Smith; Clk.—Geo. Watts; Treas.—Herbert N. Hays; H. C.—John V. Behler; J. P.—Geo. Carbino; Sch. Insp.—I. H. Church; Dr. Com.—E. W. Lake; Review—Jas. W. Brady, Alex. Johnston.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Geo. Watts; Treas.—Herbert N. Hays; H. C.—Isaac H. Church; J. P.—E. W. Lake; Sch. Insp.—Otto F. Mey; Dr. Com.—E. W. Lake; Review—Thos. Raycraft.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Elmer A. Bauer; Treas.—Ed. Sherwood; H. C.—John V. Behler; J. P.—Alex. Johnston; vacancy, I. H. Church; Sch. Insp.—C. F. Johnson; Dr. Com.—John Schick; Review—Stewart Harrison.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Elmer A. Bauer; Treas.—Ed. Sherwood; H. C.—Stewart Harrison; J. P.—Geo. J. Aker; Sch. Insp.—Ralph E. Raycraft; Dr. Com.—John E. Schick; Review—Geo. Watts.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—E. A. Bauer; Treas.—John H. Lanshaw; H. C.—Geo. Watts; J. P.—Fred Chapin; Sch. Insp.—C. F. Johnson; Dr. Com.—John E. Schick; Review—S. T. Sprague.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—E. A. Bauer; Treas.—John H. Lanshaw; H. C.—Geo. Watts; J. P.—E. W. Lake; vacancy, I. H. Church; Sch. Insp.—M. E. Hull; Dr. Com.—John E. Schick; Review—Ed. Sherwood.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Clement S. Shue; Treas.—Elmer N. Post; H. C.—Geo. Watts; J. P.—Alex. Johnston; Sch. Insp.—C. F. Johnson; Review—S. T. Sprague.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—C. S. Shue; Treas.—Elmer N. Post; H. C.—Geo. Watts; J. P.—I. H. Church; Sch. Insp.—J. V. Behler; vacancy, Geo. W. Abbott; Review—H. E. Kirby.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—C. S. Shue; Treas.—John D. Sullivan; H. C.—Wm. Vanderbeek; J. P.—Nathaniel White; vacancy, John S. Beery; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Abbott; Review—Edward E. Fleming.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Milton L. Perrigo; Treas.—John D. Sullivan; H. C.—Corlis Atwater; J. P.—E. W. Lake; vacancy, Geo. J. Acker; Sch. Insp.—Lewis Behler; Review—H. E. Kirby.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—M. L. Perrigo; Treas.—Wm. Vanderbeek; H. C.—Freeman Johnson; J. P.—John S. Beery; Sch. Insp.—Roy Sprague; vacancy, Percy Acker; Review—John V. Behler, John W. Doane.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—M. L. Perrigo; Treas.—Wm. Vanderbeek; H. C.—Corlis Atwater; J. P.—Herschel J. White; Sch. Insp.—J. V. Behler; Review—Leonard W. Humphrey.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—M. L. Perrigo; Treas.—Wm. Sullivan; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—Geo. J. Acker; vacancy, Fred Olmstead; Sch. Insp.—L. W. Humphrey; Review—J. V. Behler.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—M. L. Perrigo; Treas.—Wm. Sullivan; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—H. J. White; Sch. Insp.—John Pitt, Jay Gulick; Review—L. W. Humphrey.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—M. L. Perrigo; Treas.—J. V. Behler; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—John S. Beery; vacancy, Anson McWithey; Sch. Insp.—Jay Gulick; Review—J. W. Doane, John H. Lanshaw.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Leavitt E. Camfield; Treas.—J. V. Behler; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—Anson McWithey; Sch. Insp.—John Pitt; Review—E. W. Lake.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—L. E. Camfield; Treas.—C. F. Johnson; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—H. J. White; Review—E. W. Lake.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Alonzo Phillips; Treas.—C. F. Johnson; H. C.—I. H. Church; Overseer—David C. Brady; J. P.—John H. Lanshaw; vacancy, Elmer N. Post; Review—Thos. Raycraft.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—G. Smith; Clk.—Alonzo Phillips; Treas.—Elmer A. Bauer; H. C.—I. H. Church; Overseer—Clarence A. Russ; J. P.—H. J. White; Review—Jay Gulick.

March 21, 1911, the board appointed Leo H. Wood clerk vice A. Phillips, resigned.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Elmer N. Post; Clk.—Leo H. Wood; Treas.—Geo. A. Fruchey; J. P.—Silas Moody; Review—Ed. Creech; one yr, A. W. Rock; H. C.—Herschel J. White; O. of H.—Clarence Russ.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—John D. Sullivan; Clk.—Leo H. Wood; Treas.—Geo. A. Fruchey; H. C.—I. H. Church; J. P.—A. W. Rock.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—John H. Lanshaw; Clk.—L. H. Wood; Treas.—E. A. Bauer; H. C.—B. T. Hamilton, Ed. O. Bryant, tie. O. of H.—Calvin C. Best; J. P.—Cage Wood; Review—Louis M. Behler.

Woman suffrage: Yes, 77; no, 115.

County road system: yes, 32; no, 207.

**Supervisors.**

Geo. L. Spicer, 1855.
Hiram Burgess, ap. Oct. 6, '55.
Sylvanus Groom, 1856.
Sidney S. Hastings, 1857.
Amasa Packard, 1858.
Cornelius Holiday, 1859, '60, '61, '62, '63.
Luther Smith, 1864, '66, '67, '68, '74.
John R. Cheesman, ap. Dec., '64.
Jas. Gargett, 1865.
Jas. K. Wright, 1869.
John Vanderbeek, 1870, '71, '72.
Edson Packard, 1873.
Henry P. Clark, 1875.
Daniel R. Sullivan, 1876.
Daniel O. Cuff, 1877, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '88, '89, '90.
Chas. R. Holliday, 1883, '84.
Henry L. Wood, 1885, '86.
Henry W. Sandall, ap. Dec., '86.

Herbert N. Robinson, 1887.
Gordis Smith, 1891, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10.
Elmer N. Post, 1911.
John D. Sullivan, 1912.
John H. Lanshaw, 1913.

### Township Clerks.

Henry Smith, 1855, '56.
Edson Packard, 1857, '58, '71.
Fred M. Badger, 1859, '60, '61.
Silas Moody, ap. June, '61; '62.
Geo. W. McHenry, 1863, '64, '67.
Penuel Richardson, 1865.
J. R. Moffett, 1866.
Jas. R. Baldwin, 1868.
Jas. Paddock, 1869.
John A. Wilcox, 1870.
Carlton Abbott, 1872, '73.
Wm. A. McOmber, 1874.
Willard D. Tucker, 1875.
Aciel F. Wright, 1876.
Chas. L. Delavan, 1877.
Chas. H. Crandall, 1878.
L T Wright, 1879, '80, '81.
John J. McCarthy, 1882, '83, '84, '85
Zealous Sperry, 1886, '87.
Albert H. Lowry, 1888, '89, '90.
Myron E. Hull, 1891.
Geo. Watts, 1892, '93.
Elmer A. Bauer, 1894, '95, '96, '97.
Clement S. Shue, 1898, '99, '00.
Milton L. Perrigo, 1901, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06.
Leavitt E. Camfield, 1907, '08.
Alonzo Phillips, 1909, '10.
Leo H. Wood, ap. March 21, '11; '11, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Elijah Porter, 1855.
Elisha H. Brooks, 1856.
John N. Adams, 1857, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64.
Otis Bartlett, 1858.
John W. Doane, 1865, '84, '85.
Chas. M. Fleming, 1866, '67, '68, '69.
David Leach, 1870, '71.
Valmore Hoyt, 1872, '73, '75, '76, '77.
Aaron Wessels, 1874.
Fred. Fox, 1878.
Geo. W. McHenry, 1879, '80.
Sylvester B. Heverlo, 1881, '82.
D. R. Sullivan, 1883.
Chas. L. Delavan, 1886, '87.
A. S. McIntyre, ap. 1887; '88.
Geo. W. Long, 1889, '90.
Eward Creech, 1891.
Herbert N. Hays, 1892, '93.
Ed. Sherwood, 1894, '95.
John H. Lanshaw, 1896, '97.
Elmer N. Post, 1898, '99.
John D. Sullivan, 1900, '01.
Wm. Vanderbeek, 1902, '03.
Wm. Sullivan, 1904, '05.
John V. Behler, 1906, '07.
C. F. Johnson, 1908, '09.
Elmer A. Bauer, 1910, '13.
Geo. A. Fruchey, 1911, '12.

## PINE RIVER BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### ACKER.

George J. Acker, of Pine River Township, was born April 12, 1848, in Crawford County, Ohio, son of George Acker and Catharine (Gebhart) Acker, the former born in Bavaria, Germany, September 29, 1822, the latter also born in Germany. Death claimed the mother when the little son was but two and a half years old, and the father was married later to Catharine Laib. Children resulted from this latter union as follows: Mary C., born November 16, 1853, died in 1895; John M., born July 3, 1855; Sophia L., born May 13, 1857, died in 1894; William C. born August 20, 1859; Eliza, born August 26, 1861; Caroline, born January 21, 1864; Frank, born April

8, 1867; David, born October 4, 1869; Edward, born April 12, 1876, died December, 1894.

George J. Acker removed with his parents to Lowell, Kent County, Mich., in 1853, where he lived until December 5, 1868, when he removed to St. Louis, Michigan. Previous to his removal to this county, he was married—September 28, 1868—at Lowell, to Ann Graham, daughter of W. K. and Margaret (Bolton) Graham. The father was born February 7, 1809, the mother, December 7, 1811. Ann Graham was born in England, November 16, 1845, the following being her brothers and sisters, all born in England: Henry, born April 29, 1835, died April 2, 1856; James, born March 31, 1837, died May 12, 1856; Margaret, born April 26, 1841; William, born April 15, 1839, died August 1, 1909; Walter, born June 17, 1843, died in 1905; Charles, born August 21, 1848, died in December, 1877; Sarah, born May 19, 1850. Ann (Graham) Acker, wife of our subject, died October 17, 1876.

George J. Acker and his wife Ann were the parents of three children: Charles E., Sarah E. and Percy W. After the mother's death, Mr. Acker was married—January 30, 1878—to Mrs. Frances (Stewart) Gamble, widow of John Gamble, of Bethany Township, and daughter of Alec and Alice Stewart, natives of Ireland. She was born in Ireland, July 20, 1850. Two children came to the union of George J. and Frances Acker—Gracie E. and George, Jr.

The following data are given concerning the lives of George J. Acker's children: Charles E. was born at St. Louis, May 3, 1870, and was married to Lottie Richmond in May, 1896. They have one son—Clyde. They are farmers in the township of Porter, Midland County, Michigan. Sarah E. was born June 30, 1872, in St. Louis, and was married to Dennis Woodmansee, of Pine River Township, in November, 1892. She died in November, 1902, leaving two children—Hazel and Miles. Percy W. Acker was born in St. Louis, July 19, 1874. He is married to Nina Sias, of St. Louis. Gracie E. was born in St. Louis, April 1, 1879. September 29, 1901, she was married to Charles Mapes, of Pine River Township; now engaged in farming in Wheeler Township. George Acker, Jr., was born in St. Louis, May 28, 1884. He was united in marriage in Pine River, in October, 1907, to Mabel Gilbert, of that township, where they now reside. They have a little son, Keith, born March 28, 1909.

At the age of 18, Mr. Acker left home to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner, a vocation which he followed while a resident of St. Louis. April 15, 1886, he removed with his family to a farm which he bought, located on section 12, Pine River township, where he has since resided. He now has a good and fertile farm, well supplied with suitable and convenient buildings, and, with his estimable wife, is enjoying a good degree of prosperity, well earned and worthily bestowed.

Recognizing his worth, Mr. Acker's townsmen have chosen him one of the justices of the peace of the township, a position which he filled satisfactorily for a period of about 15 years. Soon after his arrival in St. Louis, he united with the First Presbyterian Church, and has continued an active and consistent member up to the present time, Mrs. Acker also being a member, and both regular attendants at the services. Mr. Acker has been on the church board as an Elder for many years. It is gratifying to mention also that all of the children are members of some branch of the Christian Church.

Mr. Acker votes the Prohibition ticket, and one of his chief desires is to see Michigan a "dry" state.

## CHURCH.

Isaac H. Church, residing on section 31, Pine River Township, is known as one of the leading agriculturists of the county. He is still better known as an efficient highway commissioner of his township, a position held by him many years, and in which he gained an enviable reputation as a practical and expert builder of roads. He was born October 5, 1845, on a farm in Wayne County, N. Y., son of the late Isaac Church who died in Seville Township, October 26, 1902, aged 93 years; and of Loretta (Williams) Church whose death occurred in Pine River, March 12, 1882, at the age of 65 years. The father was a native of Vermont, as also was the paternal grandfather, Thomas Church. The mother also was a daughter of the Green Mountain State.



ISAAC H. CHURCH.

Isaac H. Church's brothers and sisters were the following: Louise, widow of Saul Wright, of Alma; Julia, who married the late Eric Whipple, of Eaton County, this state; Elisha and Willard who died young; Elisha (second) and Willard (third), now farmers of Pine River, and residents of Alma and St. Louis, respectively; George, a farmer, of Seattle, Wash.; Harriet, wife of Adam Muhn, living at Cedar Lake, Mich.; Frank, an agriculturist, of Arcada Township.

Isaac H. Church was four years of age when brought to Jackson County, Mich., by his parents. Coming to Gratiot County in 1858, he devoted his time to farming and working in the lumber woods. In 1867 he bought 80 acres on section 31, Pine River, a tract of land that by hard work and good calculation has been developed into the valuable farm where he still resides.



MRS. I. H. CHURCH.

October 29, 1868, Mr. Church was married to Susie A. Huff, in Carson City, Mich. She was born in Wood County, Ohio, June 6, 1859, daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth (Smith) Huff, both of whom died in Jefferson Township, Hillsdale County, Mich., the former in May, 1887, aged 67 years, the latter January 29, 1882, in her 47th year. Jesse Huff was born March 1, 1820, in Harrisburg, Penn. He was of German and English extraction, the oldest of seven brothers, all of whom have passed away excepting J. R. Huff, who now resides at Milton Center, Ohio, 89 years old. B. L. Huff, one of the brothers, was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and died on the battle fields of Georgia. Another brother, Dr. Samuel Huff, died in the State of Illinois. Jesse Huff spent his boyhood days in his native place, later migrating to Ohio and locating near Toledo, when that place was so young it

boasted of only a double-log hotel, a postoffice and a blacksmith shop. He bought a farm of 100 acres at Gilead, Ohio, and also owned and operated canal boats between Toledo and Cincinnati. He was twice married, first to Susannah Welch, by whom he had three children —John, of East Tawas, Mich.; Mrs. Elizabeth Phelps and Mrs. George Duryee, of Osseo, Mich. His second wife was Elizabeth Smith, daughter of William Smith, of Waterville, Ohio, and to this union children were born as follows: Susie A. Church; Mrs. Marion R. Older, of Charlevoix County, Mich.; Ida I. Huff, of Hillsdale County, Mich.; George S. and Jacob J., both of Indianapolis.



CHARLES F. CHURCH.

George S. and Jacob J. Huff have been termed, "The Wizard Inventors of Indiana." Quoting: "They invented many practical and useful things, from a nitro-glycerine 'go-devil' used for shooting oil and gas wells, to a rotary engine of great power. When tested, it developed speed that would run a locomotive eleven miles a minute. The original is now on exhibition at the State House, Indianapolis. They perfected a smoke consumer and stoker that was installed throughout the city. They invented a light of wondrous beauty, brighter than electricity, and more mysterious, by piping air through water and separating the gases. But this light did not shine long; its radiance was 'extinguished' by the oil and gas capitalists of Ohio and Indiana, who gained control of it."

Jesse Huff migrated from Wood County, Ohio, to Michigan in 1870, settling in Elm Hall. In 1872 be bought the sawmill located midway between Elm Hall and Riverdale and erected a flouring mill in connection with it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Isaac H. Church 10 children have been born as follows: Walter M., who married Elizabeth Chambers, of Saginaw, and lives in Pittsburg, Penn.; Emory A., who married Carrie Grover, of Alma, now living near Seattle, Wash.; Charles F., unmarried, a telegraph operator, now in Ohio.

Mr. Church has held various offices in his township. For ten years he was a justice of the peace, and for ten years was highway commissioner. By reason of his road building abilities Pine River has boasted of more miles of first-class gravelled roads than any other township in the state. In six consecutive years no less than 36 miles of highway were graded and gavelled by Mr. Church as commissioner. In 1902 Mr. Church was the Democratic candidate for sheriff, but suffered defeat with the entire ticket. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the I. O. O. F. and the K. O. T. M. Mrs. Church, his estimable helpmeet, is an active member of the United Brethren Church.

## FAILING.

Bert H. Failing, farmer and stock raiser residing on section 8, Pine River Township, was born on a farm in the Township of Vevay, Ingham County, Mich., January 12, 1858. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs Daniel

Failing, late of Emerson Township, both natives of the State of New York. The parents came to Gratiot County with their family in January, 1860, settling on an 80-acre tract of woods on section 17, Emerson Township. In getting to their place they had to cut a road ahead of them, and had to clear away the forest to make a place to build their first home in Gratiot.

Bert Failing grew to manhood on the parental farm, aiding in its improvement and cultivation. His first work away from home was driving oxen and logging for a neighbor for which he received 25 cents a day, and was paid in "shinplasters" for his work. At the age of 18, wanting to get out of the woods, he wended his way to Plainfield, Livingston County, where he secured a job as stage driver and U. S. mail carrier, from Plainfield to Iosco, three days in the week; the other three days carrying the mail to Fowlerville and the little stations between. He held this position two years, after which he returned to his home in Emerson and became a tiller of the soil.

Bert Failing was married November 10, 1881, to Miss Dora Griffith, of Emerson, who also was a pioneer of Gratiot, having been born in St. Louis, this county, January 22, 1861, daughter of Daniel and Nancy M. (Burgess) Griffith, who moved to a farm in Emerson in March, 1862. Mrs. Dora Failing was educated in the rural schools and in the St. Louis High School, and was herself a teacher at the time of her marriage. They began married life and farm life under difficulties, as many others have done, but with plenty of hard labor, combined with stick-to-itiveness, they have won out and made good, doing their full share in making Gratiot County what it is, one of the best in the state or in any other state.

Mr. and Mrs. Failing are living on their beautiful farm of 160 acres about a mile north of Forest Hill, and with their family, are enjoying all of the advantages of an independent farm life. They are the parents of five sons and one daughter, born as follows:

E. Burr Failing, born January 12, 1884. He is married and is a rancher in California. E. Bruce Failing, born May 21, 1890, is married and resides in Marquette, Mich. He is a licensed undertaker. Archie Failing, born July 29, 1894; Gladys Hulah Failing, born January 5, 1896; Dewey Failing, born March 29, 1898; Duff Utridge, born January 17, 1903. All the children were born in Emerson. The four last mentioned are all unmarried and are still under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Failing, with their family, are reckoned with the substantial and reliable citizens of their community enjoying the respect and friendship of all with whom they come in contact either in a business or social way.

## LANSHAW.

John H. Lanshaw residing on section 7, Pine River Township, was born April 10, 1861, in the City of Detroit, Mich., son of John and Anna Lanshaw who were natives of Germany. The father was born January 25, 1830, near Hamburg. In the year 1855 he migrated to America, and the next year was married at Mauricetown, New Jersey, to Anna M. Ziesse. She was born in Hesse, Germany, November 29, 1833. After their marriage, and during the same year Mr. and Mrs. Lanshaw moved to Detroit, Mich. Here Mr. Lanshaw worked at common labor until the year 1861, when he removed to Oakland County, Mich., working at farm labor until April 7, 1865, when he responded to his country's call for volunteers, enter-

ing the army and serving until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged September 6, 1865.

In the year 1866 Mr. Lanshaw removed with his family to Gratiot County, settling on section 17, Pine River Township, the tract purchased consisting of 100 acres of wild timbered land. Here the son, John H., the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood, aiding in clearing up the farm and in other agricultural labors incident to a farmer's avocation, and attending the district school in the winter. In course of time and by the application of much hard labor, and through many hardships, the farm became one of the best in the township. The son, John H., now owns and cultivates 50 acres of the old homestead. He has good buildings and all the modern conveniences for carrying on successful farming operations.



JOHN H. LANSHAW AND FAMILY.

John Lanshaw, the father, was one of Pine River's most respected citizens, and will long be remembered by the old residents for his many estimable qualities. His good wife was a noble helpmeet, and is lovingly remembered by all her neighbors. The father died November 24, 1905, in his 75th year. The mother survived till February 13, 1908, when she passed away, being in her 74th year.

John H. Lanshaw was married January 2, 1889, to Elvira M. Elliott, of Pine River Township. She was born September 2, 1870, in Bruce County, Ontario. Her father, David Elliott, was born April 10, 1833, in Durham County, Ontario. He passed the years of his youth on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools. On becoming of age he worked at farming for himself for six years and then, in company with his brother, went to Brant Township, Bruce County, where they each purchased a farm. David kept bachelor's hall for one year when fire consumed his dwelling and

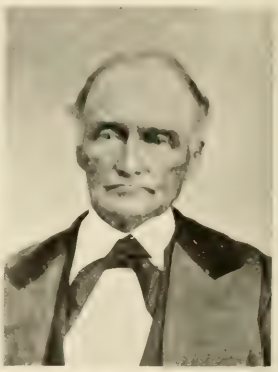
all its contents, including his clothing and $1,000 in gold and silver. He then returned to his native county and one year later—in the spring of 1864—he came to Michigan, locating in the vicinity of Adrian. Here, on October 19, 1869, he was married to Jane, daughter of Henry and Jane Bourns. They were of Scotch descent, though reared in Ireland. Jane was born in Adrian, September 1, 1845, remaining there until her marriage, immediately after which event they went to Bruce County, Ontario, remaining there two years and then returning to Lenawee County, Mich. In the spring of 1875, they came to Gratiot County and purchased 80 acres of partially improved land in Pine River Township. In 1902 he sold this farm and bought 40 acres on section 7 of the same township, where he died February 15, 1904, leaving his wife, Jane, who died August 7, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Lanshaw are the parents of three children as follows: Edyth P., born October 17, 1889, married July 4, 1910, to Harrison Wood, of Forest Hill; Carl William, born May 20, 1891; Verne Elliott, born March 5, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Lanshaw are very much respected in their neighborhood as well as in the township at large. Mr. Lanshaw has served his township as drain commissioner—1886 to 1888, being elected when only 26 years of age. He was elected township treasurer in 1896 and re-elected in 1897. He held the office of treasurer in his school district six years, or until his removal from the district. He is now one of the justices of the peace, and in the spring of 1913, was elected supervisor of his township.

## BURGESS.

Hiram Burgess was one of the first settlers of Pine River Township, settling on section 25 in the year 1855. He was a member of the first board of supervisors, and took an active part in organizing the county and in establishing the county seat at Ithaca. At the first election in the township—April 2, 1855—he was elected one of the justices of the peace. October 6, 1855, the township board appointed him supervisor, in place of George L. Spicer who had been elected at the April election, but who had left the office vacant by removing from the township. Thus, while he was Pine River's first member of the board of supervisors, he was not Pine River's first supervisor, Geo. L. Spicer having that distinction.



HIRAM BURGESS.

Hiram Burgess was born October 10, 1802, in Cayuga County, N. Y. His first wife was Keziah Terry, who died five years after marriage. Mr. Burgess then married Betsey Placeway. In 1837 they migrated to Michigan, first making their home in Northville, after two years removing to Clinton County, thence, after four years, to Livingston County where they lived twelve years, returning to Clinton County in 1853. In 1855, coming to Gratiot County, he located "in the unbroken wilderness, which had never before hardly known the presence of the foot of a white man, and the household experienced pioneer incidents sufficient to fill a volume."

Mr. and Mrs. Burgess were the parents of children as follows: Nancy M., Frederick L., Julia A., Ann M., Mary A., Emery W., Clarkson L., James W., Seth C. and Betsey A. Those known to the writer to be still living are Emery W. of Saginaw and James W. of Arcada Township.

Hiram Burgess died at his home in Pine River, April 9, 1879. The wife and mother—Betsey Burgess—died at the residence of her son, Emery, in Pine River at that time, August 12, 1891.

## POST.

Thomas R. Post was born in County Cork, Ireland, August 17, 1843, son of James and Ann (Raycraft) Post, the former a native of Ireland, the latter born in England, a daughter of Richard and Ann (Cox) Raycraft, of Irish and English ancestry, respectively. James and Ann (Raycraft) Post had five children, as follows: Richard, born in 1835; James, born in 1839; Thomas R.; William, born in 1846, and Ann, born in 1851.



THOMAS R. POST AND WIFE.

Thomas R. Post came to Michigan from Rochester, N. Y., with his parents, at the age of nine years, and settled with them in Riley Township, Clinton County. He was married in Lansing, Mich., June 9, 1868, to Elizabeth P. Hunt, born in Oakland County, Mich., November 22, 1842, daughter of Nelson and Mary A. (Conradt) Hunt, both natives of the State of New York, the former born December 9, 1813, the latter October 18, 1817. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hunt were the parents of children with names and birthdates as follows: Ansley A., born June 3, 1839; Mary M., July 1, 1844; Adam J., June 9, 1850; Effie C., May 11, 1857. The family moved from Oakland County to Clinton County, Township of Watertown, in the year 1851, and there they resided at the time of the marriage of the daughter, Elizabeth P., to Thomas R. Post.

Mr. Post removed to Gratiot County in the year 1874, settling in the woods of section 20, Pine River Township. Like a majority of the early settlers, he labored under the disadvantages which go with a scarcity of this world's goods. For a time he had no team, and consequently had to work out and "change works" with neighbors in order to get teams for

clearing and cultivating his ground. But persistent work and strict economy won out at last, and a fine farm with good buildings was the result.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Post were the parents of children as follows: Elmer N., born in Watertown, Clinton County, Mich., May 12, 1869; Otis A., born in Watertown, June 16, 1864.

**Elmer N. Post** was married December 25, 1902, to Miss Florence McCann, of Jackson, Mich. She was born June 9, 1880, daughter of Michael and Mary Jane (Fea) McCann. Four children have resulted from this union: Thelma Ione was born May 31, 1904; Thiel Eugene was born September 3, 1905; Thalia E. was born August 11, 1910; Gertrude M. was born August 28, 1912.

Otis A. Post was married to Miss Myrtie Mallory, of Alma, daughter of Perley and Adella (Nelson) Mallory. They have one child—Dorothy Irene, born February 10, 1902. Otis A. Post migrated, with his family to Bradley County, Tennessee, in 1905. Later, the parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Post, followed to that southern section with its milder climate, and there remained until 1911, when all returned to Gratiot. Elmer had bought the old homestead when the others removed to Tennessee. He sold the farm in 1910 and moved to Forest Hill and still resides there.

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Post, the wife and mother, died November 29, 1912. In July, 1913, Otis A. removed with his family to a farm which he bought near Vernon, Mich., where they now reside, the father, Thomas R. Post, making his home with them.

Elmer N. Post, on his removal to Forest Hill, erected an elevator and went into the business of buying grain and other farm produce, dealing also in coal, lime, cement. His father and brother are associated with him, the firm name being, The Forest Hill Elevator Company; the business managed by Elmer N.

The Post family have always enpoyed the respect and confidence of their fellow-citizens. Elmer N. Post has held several positions of responsibility in his township, and in 1894, he was the candidate of his party (Democrat) for county clerk. His was the minority party, however, and though he made an excellent run, he was defeated with the entire ticket. In the spring of 1911 he was elected supervisor and served one year, declining a renomination on account of pressing business interests. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., of the Grange and of the Gleaners. Mrs. Post is a member of the Grange, Gleaners and of the Ladies of the Maccabees; also an esteemed member of the Baptist Church.

## VANDERBEEK.

The name of Vanderbeek, if not a household word, has been a familiar one to the people of Pine River about as long as there has been a Pine River Township. John Vanderbeek came with his family to Gratiot County in an early day, settled in Pine River Township and by industry made for himself and family a valuable home. He was a man of strict integrity and was a leading citizen in his community for many years. He served as supervisor of the township in 1870, '71 and '72. He died April 25, 1889. His wife, Matilda (Walker) Vanderbeek, died March 12, 1881.

Children of John Vanderbeek: Lucinda, married Austin Campbell; Martin, married Harriet Clise; Harrison and Harriet, twins; Harriet married George W. Saunders; William Walker, died in the army; Daniel married Ellen Holmes; Rosa married Micajah Wood. All are deceased but Lucinda and Rosa.

William Vanderbeek, the principal subject of this sketch, is the son of Martin and Harriet (Clise) Vanderbeek, and was born in Pine River, April 1, 1866. Martin Vanderbeek was born in New York State, June 15, 1838. Harriet Clise was born in the State of New York, March 9, 1843. The children of Martin and Harriet Vanderbeek were born in the following order: Luella, March 20, 1864; William; Nettie, November 10, 1878. Luella is married to John Small. They live in Seville Township, and have children —Hattie, deceased; Elizabeth; Bernice; Ward. Nettie married Roy Small. They live in Oscoda County, and have children—Gerald, Donald, Lorna, Doris.

William Vanderbeek was married September 10, 1889, to Ina Creech, daughter of Edward and Malinda (Vroman) Creech, of Pine River. She was born in Moscow, Jackson County, October 5, 1872. Children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Creech were Fred; Ina; Stella, who died in infancy; Tunis; Warren.

Children were born to the union of William and Ina Vanderbeek as follows: Clara John, August 8, 1897; Freddie Creech, born April 22, 1901, died October 19, 1905. Mrs. Ina Vanderbeek, the wife and mother, died May 16, 1901.

Mr. Vanderbeek was married, (second) to Cora Shong, of Seville, September 2, 1902. She is the daughter of Michael and Mary (O'Boyle) Shong, natives of Germany and Ireland, respectively. Their children, in the order of their birth, are as follows: Mary, William, Michael, Josephine, Nellie, Margaret, Catharine, John. Two children have been born to William and Cora Vanderbeek—the first died in infancy; Garl Martin, born May 18, 1905.

Martin Vanderbeek, father of William, died August 10, 1887. The mother, Mrs. Harriet Vanderbeek, was afterward married to William T. Depue, of St. Louis. She died August 9, 1913, aged 70 years and five months.

Edward Creech and family now live in Salem, Oregon. Michael Shong and family are now residents of Alma.

William Vanderbeek is properly considered as one of the leading and prosperous farmers of his township. He owns and occupies his father's old homestead, on section 15, the farm on which he was born and reared. To this he has added until his landed possessions now are an even 200 acres; one of the very best farms in Pine River Township; gently rolling, fertile and well cultivated, and fitted out with ample and commodious farm buildings.

Mr. Vanderbeek takes a commendable interest in neighborhood and township affairs. His townsmen have shown their confidence in his ability and integrity by calling him to various positions of responsibility, the most important, perhaps, being that of township treasurer in 1902 and '03, and that of highway commissioner. As intimated at the beginning of this sketch, a history of Pine River would be incomplete without prominent mention of the Vanderbeek family. It is, therefore, distinctly gratifying to be able to include this sketch with the list of Gratiot County's many pioneer families, given prominent and well-merited recognition in this volume.

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**Daniel R. Sullivan** was born in Newport, R. I., June 8, 1830. His parents, Cornelius and Margaret (Murphy) Sullivan, were natives of Ireland, coming to America in 1829. Daniel R. came to Gratiot in 1854, locating 160 acres of land on section 33, Pine River, which, however, he did not occupy until 1861. From that time on he was closely identified with the township and county, and was one of the most honored and respected

of the pioneers. In December, 1862 he took to wife Jeanette Adams, daughter of Emery and Maria (Lewis) Adams, of Arcada Township. Children born to them were William C., John D., Pearl and Maggie M. Mr. Sullivan rightfully held the entire confidence of his fellow citizens, and served them faithfully in various positions—highway commissioner, treasurer, supervisor. He was a Democrat, and was his party's candidate for county treasurer in 1880, but fell with his party before the big Republican majority. He was treasurer of the Michigan Central Union Fair Association during its entire life, and was one of the most successful farmers of the county. His death occurred January 16, 1896.

**Gordis Smith,** a farmer on section 27, Pine River, where he has resided more than fifty years, is a son of Ira and Zada (Hitchcock) Smith, and was born September 7, 1832. His father, Ira Smith, died in Pine River Township in 1878, aged 85. Gordis Smith has been a progressive farmer, well thought of by his townsmen. Officially he has been prominent only as supervisor, and in that capacity he has broken all records, having been elected twenty consecutive years, commencing with 1891 and ending with 1910. He positively declined further service on account of his advanced age. He was married to Mrs. Jane M. (Badger) Rice, who passed away January 12, 1912, at the age of 84 years. Her first husband was Elijah B. Rice, a pioneer, who died in 1861.

**Valmore Hoyt,** a pioneer of Pine River, settled in that township—section 19—in 1855, and there remained during the rest of his days. He was born in Monroe County, N. Y., September 23, 1826, and was married in Calhoun County, Mich., January 26, 1858, to Ann E., daughter of Frederick and Sarepta (Fox) Wright. The Wrights migrated to Gratiot the same year and spent the remainder of thir lives as agriculturists in Pine River Township. Fred. Wright died May 1, 1880, aged 66. Valmore Hoyt, the principal subject of this sketch, bore an enviable reputation as a man and as an official, serving efficiently as treasurer five years. He finished his course and passed away in 1896. His wife, Ann E. Hoyt, died February 14, 1897.

**Cornelius Holiday,** one of Pine River's hardy and aggressive pioneer farmers, died at his residence in St. Louis, August 15, 1887, aged about 70. Commencing with the year 1859 he was supervisor five successive years, and not only served his township well but was recognized as one of the most influential members of the board of supervisors. (See Important Doings of the Board of Supervisors). He was really elected supervisor again in the spring of 1875, but in the canvass of the votes he was basely counted out; a fact shown and fully proven nearly a year afterward. He was candidate for sheriff on a Union ticket in 1862.

**Theron A. Johnson** was one of Gratiot's leading citizens for many years. He came to the county in 1862, settling in Alma. He took an active part in public matters and was elected supervisor of Arcada in 1865, and was appointed postmaster in President Johnson's term. Commencing in 1868 he was editor of the Gratiot Journal about four years. He was a man of pronounced and aggressive views, characteristics that made him some enemies and many friends, and gained for him the respect of all. In 1882 he was the candidate of the Democrat and Greenback parties for state senator. His death, at the age of 61, was the result of injuries inflicted upon him by a vicious bull. (See sketch of D. Lloyd Johnson.)

**John W. Doane** was one of the early and influential first-comers in Pine River Township. He is now a resident of Mt. Pleasant, Mich. In October, 1854 he settled in the woods of section 8 and proceeded to transform the wilderness into a fertile farm. He always held a high place in the esteem

of his townsmen as a neighbor and fellow-sufferer in the times that tried men's souls in Gratiot County. In official life he fully met the expectations of those who confided in him. He held many official positions, perhaps the most important being that of township treasurer in the years 1865, '84 and '85. He served a little over three years in the Civil War, a member of the 8th Mich. Infantry, and was discharged in 1864 with the rank of First Lieutenant. Mr. Doane was married December 10, 1857, to Lucinda, daughter of Amasa and Mercy Packard. One child—Ida—was born, who died at the age of two years. Mrs. Doane died November 4, 1860. Mr. Doane was again married, March 17, 1865, to Martha A. Packard, a sister of his first wife. Children born to them were Amasa, Erastus, Lucinda and Edith. The second wife died August 6, 1880. Mr. Doane married—third—Minnie L. Mey, April 3, 1881. She is the daughter of the late Julius Mey, of Pine River.

Pine River has had, and still has, a vast number of citizens who would rank among the best and most influential of any country. A few of them are here named, in addition to those already mentioned more or less fully. In other departments of this volume the names and doings of many others are chronicled. Sylvanus Groom, who was the first supervisor; James B. Allen; Amasa Packard; Edson Packard; James Wood; Elisha H. Brooks; Amos V. Packer; John N. Adams; Fred. M. Badger; Marcus Ring; Joseph Brady; John Vanderbeek and his sons, Martin, Daniel and Harrison; Aaron Sloan; Luther Smith, who was representative in 1864 and '66; Joshua N. Robinson and his son, Herbert N.; Orson Briggs; Nelson Colburn; Lorenzo Kyes; Henry L. Wood, who was respresentative three terms; Levi B. Quick; Morris B. and Lyman C. Cahoon; William O. Johnson; John Lanshaw; Jehu E. Parkinson; Eleazer F. Wiley; L. H. Mapes; Frank M. Frear; Henry W. Sandall.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Allen, Jas. B.,** a staunch and reliable resident of northern Pine River, January 1, 1894, aged 62.

**Boyer, Daniel,** Aug. 3, 1875, aged 63. Came here in 1855.

**Burgess, Betsey Ann,** April 29, 1873, aged 23; youngest daughter of Hiram and Betsey Burgess.

**Bigelow, Elijah,** Nov. 13, 1878, aged 79.

**Brady, Mrs. Martha,** Aug. 18, 1889, at the age of 74 years; widow of Joseph Brady, and mother of James G. and Samuel S. Brady.

**Brooks, Rev. Elisha H.,** Sept. 19, 1890, aged 72. An early settler and a pillar in the Christian Church. Township treasurer in 1856 and justice in 1857.

**Briggs, Orson,** about April 10, 1903, aged 84. A hustling and well-known pioneer coming here in 1860.

**Brady, Jas. G.,** May 17, 1909, aged 73. A pioneer of Pine River and an old soldier.

**Bauer, Mrs. Mary (Grill),** April 7, 1911, aged 75. An esteemed old resident.

**Burgess, Mrs. Marcelia S.,** wife of Emery W. Burgess, and daughter of Abraham Woodin who settled between Alma and St. Louis before the towns were named; died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Wilhelm, Saginaw, Mich., March 9, 1912, aged 70 years.

**Chandler, Mrs. George,** Oct. 6, 1876. An esteemed pioneer.

**Colburn, Mrs. Nelson,** May, 1884. A much respected pioneer, living between Alma and St. Louis.

**Cornell, Edward S.,** Sept. 30, 1899, aged 74 years. A pioneer and a man of the strictest integrity; brother of Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, at Ithaca, N. Y.

**Cornell, Mrs. Edward S.,** March 17, 1893, aged 67.

**Coleman, John,** Dec. 22, 1897, aged 54; at the home of his son Decatur.

**Cohoon, John, John C.,** Dec. 28, 1897, aged 73.

**Christman, Mrs. Mary Jane,** wife of James D. Christman, at her home in Pine River, June 17, 1911, aged 77. Daughter of the well-known and popular pioneer, Ben. Cowles, of Fulton.

**Christman, James D.,** at Traverse City, June 20, 1911, aged 82. His death came only three days after that of his wife. He settled first in Fulton in the early '50s, soon removing to St. Louis, where he was head sawyer on the upright in the H. L. Holcomb sawmill many years. In his old age he had retired to a small farm, west of St. Louis. Many good words could rightfully be said of Mr. and Mrs. Christman.

**Dorland, Philip,** at his home near Forest Hill, Aug. 15, 1911, aged 67.

**Eldredge, Benj. F.,** March 10, 1872, aged 42.

**Ellison, Briggs B.,** Dec. 9, 1904, aged 92. He came here in 1854, and always maintained a good standing in the community.

**Ellison, Mrs. B. B.,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Colmore R. Moulton, Aug. 20, 1910, aged 85.

**Foglesong, George,** Oct. 26, 1867, aged 52.

**Frary, Mrs.,** wife of Joseph L. Frary, Nov. 26, 1871, aged 57.

**Farmer, Thankful,** Nov. 19, 1879, aged 67.

**Gould, Jonathan,** Oct. 10, 1872, aged 85.

**Goodrich, Egbertson,** on angling road between Alma and St. Louis, Aug. 3, 1882, aged 57. A pioneer from 1865.

**Henry, John, Sr.,** Oct. 8, 1869, aged 56.

**Hayes, Wm.,** April 7, 1885, aged 64. He came to Pine River in 1867; father of John D. Hayes, at one time a St. Louis attorney.

**Huffman, Mrs. George,** June 26, 1885, aged 51.

**Hurlbut, Nehemiah L.,** March 8, 1887, aged 66. An 1865 pioneer.

**Hurlbut, Mrs. N. L.,** about Nov. 1, 1905.

**Hayes, Charles,** February 16, 1897, aged 33 years; at Forest Hill.

**Harrison, Stewart,** June 9, 1910, at the home of his son in Cleveland, aged 75. A resident of Gratiot since 1866, first at St. Louis, later a farmer in Pine River.

**Johnson, Mathew,** Dec. 20, 1888, aged 88. Father of the late Theron A. Johnson.

**Johnson, Mrs. Julia,** wife of Theron A. Johnson, July 22, 1905, aged 68.

**Johnson, Mrs. Bradley,** April 13, 1897, aged 61. They came to the county in 1870.

**Johnson, Amos,** Oct. 10, 1894, aged 70.

**Johnston, Alex.,** at his home in Olivet, Mich., Dec., 1912, aged 81 years. He was an early settler in southeastern Pine River, coming in 1866, and had an enviable reputation as an upright Scotchman. Burial in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis.

**Kingdon, John L.,** February 11, 1888, aged 60. A popular pioneer; school inspector several years.

**Kipp, John,** Oct. 3, 1893, aged 85. He came to the county in 1871; a first-class citizen in all ways.

**Kipp, Mrs. Elizabeth,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Minor, in Bethany, Nov. 28, 1901, aged 89; widow of John Kipp.

**Kyes, Lorenzo,** Sept. 11, 1895, aged 63.

**Kline, John,** in Lansing, Nov. 27, 1898. A long-time resident of Pine River and St. Louis; village marshal in 1887 and '88.

**Leppard, Abraham,** February 5, 1884, aged 57.

**Lanshaw, John,** Nov. 24, 1905, aged 75. An old soldier and good citizen, coming to the county in 1866.

**Leonard, Mrs. Mary A.,** March 8, 1906, aged 70 years.

**Leonard, Levi,** Feb. 5, 1910, aged 82.

**Mey, Mrs. Wilhelmina,** wife of Julius Mey, February 8, 1890, aged 63. Came to Pine River in 1855; highly esteemed pioneers.

**Moody, Mrs. Marie,** wife of Rev. Wm. Moody, May 27, 1897, aged 85.

**Moody, Rev. Wm.,** at the home of his son, Silas, February 12, 1899, aged 89.

**Mapes, Seth,** Oct. 18, 1890, aged 69.

**Merrill, Thomas,** at his home in Saginaw, Oct. 3, 1912, aged 97 years. He located in Pine River in 1856. Six years later he removed to Saginaw. He was a pioneer lumberman, and operated extensively in Gratiot County in the early days, and was well known here. He was a friend and patron of Alma College, contributing largely to its endowment funds, and was one of its original trustees.

**Owen, Eugene C.,** June 14, 1910, aged 63. Esteemed mercantile dealer at Forest Hill, and postmaster several years.

**Packard, Amasa,** Sept. 14, 1870, aged 57. An early settler and prominent citizen; supervisor in 1858; postmaster five years. His son Edson was supervisor in 1873.

**Packard, Mrs.,** widow of Amasa Packard, at the home of her grandson, Amasa Doane, February 1, 1890.

**Pitt, George,** Aug. 18, 1900, aged 85. A respected pioneer, father of Wm. T., George, John and Charles. He had considerable talent along poetical lines, and left several meritorious poems, of a quaint and rustic order.

**Pitt, Mrs. Elizabeth,** wife of George Pitt, June 15, 1900, aged 75.

**Parkinson, Henry J.,** July 20, 1896, aged about 55. Son of Jehu E. Parkinson.

**Packer, Amos V.,** Oct. 14, 1891, aged 77. One of the sturdy and energetic early settlers.

**Perrine, Reuben D.,** May 22, 1896, aged 67. Came to St. Louis in 1869; died at the home of his son, Cassius D. in Pine River. He was an exceptionally meritorious and popular citizen; justice of the peace for Pine River several years.

**Perrine, Mrs. Mariette,** widow of the late Reuben D. Perrine, Sept. 2, 1910, aged 76; at the home of her son Cassius D. Perrine. An exceptionally good woman.

**Post, Mrs. Thomas R.,** at her home near Forest Hill, Nov. 29, 1912, aged 70 years. Valued resident of Pine River nearly 40 years.

**Robinson, Joshua N.,** June 8, 1872, aged 56. An esteemed citizen who was elected justice of the peace in 1867.

**Robinson, Anson P.,** July 8, 1877, aged 56.

**Russ, Josiah,** Dec. 10, 1889, aged 69.

**Randolph, Cornelius S.,** July 1, 1891, aged 80 years. A valued pioneer.

**Randolph, Mrs. Margaret,** widow of Cornelius Randolph, February 2, 1903, aged 94; at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Markman, Ithaca.

**Reeves, Wm. M.,** Nov. 27, 1890, aged about 65 years. A well-known carpenter and an early settler.

**Rock, Mrs. Esther (Noviss),** February 18, 1910, aged nearly 66; wife of Albert W. Rock; respected residents here since 1880.

**Raycraft, Thomas,** May 7, 1911, aged 67. A valued resident here since 1870. A wife and eleven children survived him; six sons acting as pall-bearers at his funeral.

**Robinson, Charles,** at St. Louis, July 24, 1911, aged 69. A pioneer of Pine River.

**Ring, Mrs. Mary Ann,** widow of Jacob C. Ring, died in St. Johns, January 18, 1912, aged 84 years. Her husband, enlisting from Pine River, lost his life in the Civil War. Mrs. Ring resided in Pine River many years.

**Steele, Thomas,** Aug. 14, 1890, aged 57. A respected citizen and popular teacher.

**Sparhawk, Mrs. Fanny,** April 12, 1887, aged 80 years; at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Silas Randolph.

**Sias, Solomon,** February 4, 1884, aged 81; at the home of his son-in-law, Eli Woodmansee. A pioneer of the county.

**Sloan, Aaron,** March 20, 1891, aged 76. Was one of the first-comers, settling here in 1854.

**Sandall, Miss Nellie A.,** estimable daughter of Henry W. Sandall, Forest Hill, July, 1894, aged 18.

**Sprague, Mrs. Susan S. (Packer),** June, 1913, wife of Stephen Theodore Sprague, at her home in St. Louis. They settled in Pine River Township in 1863, near Forest Hill, residing on the same farm nearly half a century. They were among the best of the pioneers.

**Thomas, Mrs. John,** January 8, 1876. They came to Gratiot in 1855.

**Thurlow, James,** March, 1876. A well-known pioneer; died in Kansas.

**Tann, Wm.,** Oct. 23, 1882, aged 74.

**Vanderbeek, John,** April 25, 1889, aged 75 years. One of the best of the early settlers; supervisor in 1870, '71 and '72.

**Vanderbeek, Mrs. Matilda,** March 12, 1881, aged 64. Esteemed wife of John Vanderbeek.

**Vanderbeek, Martin,** Aug. 8, 1887. A popular citizen, son of John Vanderbeek.

**Vanderbeek, Harrison,** Nov. 17, 1885, aged 44. Son of John Vanderbeek.

**Vanderbeek, Daniel,** Nov. 15, 1905, aged 58. Son of John Vanderbeek.

**Woodin, Wallace,** June 4, 1871, aged 25 years. Son of Abraham Woodin.

**Wooley, George,** March 2, 1872, aged 52.

**Wilbur, Wm.,** Dec. 31, 1878, aged 67.

**White, Mrs. Amos,** February 10, 1879.

**Wright, Frederick,** May 1, 1880, aged 66. An esteemed pioneer, settling in Pine River in 1858.

**Wright, Jane,** Nov. 30, 1882, aged 89.

**Wood, James,** June 24, 1885, aged 68. A respected pioneer who settled here in 1855. His wife was Deborah Cornell, sister of Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

**Wood, Mrs.,** wife of Rev. C. L. Wood, of the U. B. Church, February 24, 1888.

**White, Levi G.,** March 23, 1893, aged 72. A valued old settler.

**Woodmansee, Amy A.,** wife of Eli Woodmansee, July 3, 1894, aged 58.

**Woodmansee, Eli,** February 27, 1894, aged 56; well-known early settlers.

**Wood, David,** April 6, 1911, aged 77.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1877, Dec. 7—The farm barn of Geo. Boyer burned with much of the contents. Loss, $1,500; insurance, $1,300.

1887, Nov. 12—L. H. Mapes lost a barn by fire, loss including hay, grain and tools. Loss, $1,000; insurance, $300.

1897, April 3—The fine residence of Warren Brooks was burned, together with the household goods. Loss about $2,500, with no insurance.

1897, April 13—The grange hall, located at Wright's corners, was burned. Thought to hape been the work of an incendiary.

1895, April 9—The residence of John Henry was burned with part of the contents.

1896, April 14—Thos. Raycraft lost his house by fire, together with the contents. The insurance was $1,300 which was much less than the loss.

1898, July 13—Edward Creech, of Forest Hill, lost a barn and its contents by fire. Insurance small.

1899, June 20—House of Frank M. Frear burned June 20, with a loss of about $2,500.

1905, Aug. 19—Lightning struck the barn of Ernest Vliet, north of St. Louis, and the resultant fire destroyed barn and contents, entailing a loss of $1,500 which was partly covered by insurance.

1911, March 13—The farm residence of Cass Curtis was burned at breakfast time, with half the contents. Lightly insured.

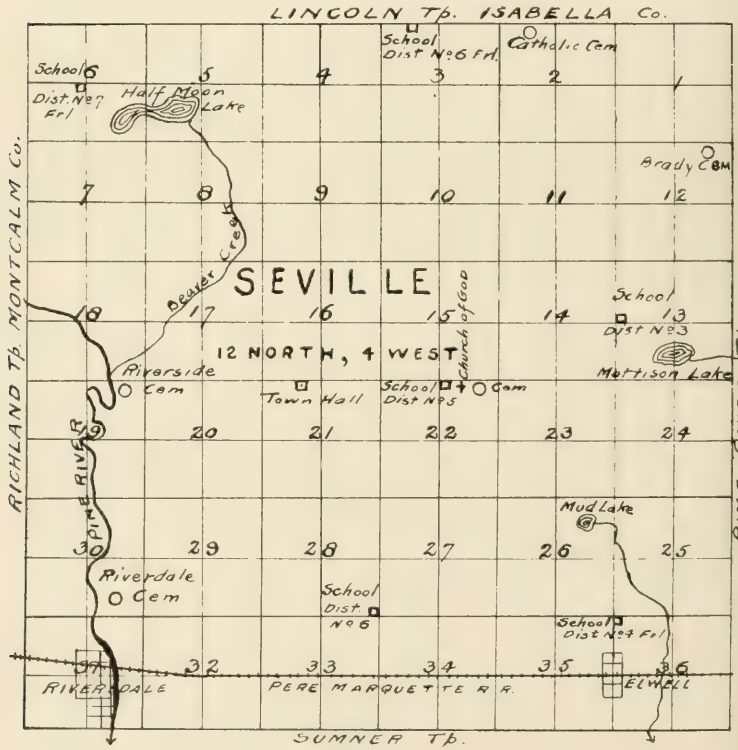
1913, Jan. 8—Ed. Creech lost a barn by fire at 3 o'clock a. m. Most of the contents also burned. Loss about $1,500, with some insurance.

1913, Feb. 19—The farm bouse of Charles Faunce, on the H. W. Sandall farm, was burned, at 8 o'clock p. m., with nearly all the contents. Small insurance.



## SEVILLE TOWNSHIP.

The description of Seville Township—Town 12 north, range 4 west—shows it to be the northwest corner township of the county; as far removed from the principal meridian and the base line as possible and still remain in the county. Quite a portion of the township is hilly and is pine land, having been the home of some of the most valuable pine forests of the state. The soil of that part of the township is of a sandy nature, and, without fertilization will not stand extensive cropping. Properly managed, however, it raises good average crops; and it has the advantage of being easy to till, and is up out of the water. The heaviest soil is found in the eastern and southeastern part, and many fine farms are there located. Relics of the pine forests are seen on every hand throughout the hilly portions, in the form of pine stump fences. They are not now as numerous as they were, and the old stumps are beginning to show the ravages of time to some extent. Even a pine stump is not everlasting; but it is nearly so. However, the last stump of the last stump fence will finally go, and then when there is nothing else left to verify the fact that such a thing ever existed, the proof may be found in the reproduction here shown in these pages.



Under date of February 17, 1910, the late lamented Wm. T. Pitt who was for so many years identified with the interests and history of Seville, sent to the writer a communication bearing upon the early history of his township, to be used as might seem best in the preparation of this work. Mr. Pitt's death occurred only a few weeks later—March 26th—and this fact adds to the interest that naturally will be felt for any communication coming from his pen. Such portions of his article as seem to be especially appropriate for use here are given as follows:

"In the year 1854, over half a century ago, a few brave, hardy men who desired homes of their own, struggled through the wilderness—the forests and swamps of Gratiot County, to what is now Seville, the northwest corner township of the county. Nineteen of the 36 sections were at that time covered with beautiful, large white pine trees. Five sections were tamarack swamp. The remaining 12 sections were hardwood timbered land. There are four lakes in the township—Half-moon, Mattison, Peterman and Dunkling. The beautiful Pine River with its hard banks and gravelly bottom passes through the western portion of the township.



PINE STUMP FENCE.

"The hardwood land is mostly on the east side of the township, and it was there that the first settlements were made. The earliest pioneers located their lands, then went 'outside'. Outside meant civilization; a good place to go after the long, weary tramp that was necessary to find and locate the claim that was to make the future home. In the year 1855 a few who had located their land the year before, moved in with their families. It required 'a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together', to get through, with no roads except what could be made with an ax and handspike as they made their slow progress through the wilderness.

"The following year more settlers came in, the township was organized and the first election held at the log house of Adam Oberlin on the southeast corner of section 12, where his son Simon now resides. When it came to naming the township several names were suggested, but none seemed to be just the one wanted until Mrs. S. S. Hastings suggested that it be named Seville, after her old home in Ohio. The idea seemed to strike favorably, and Seville it was named.

"At the first election—April 7, 1856—a hat was used for a ballot-box. Just what kind of a hat it was I do not know, but it hardly seems likely that it was a derby. Eighteen of the 27 voters were elected to office at

this election. Those who did not get an office were P. D. Eagan, Fergis Conley, Henry Boyer, Samuel Shroy, Jacob Oberlin, Peter Lott, Nathaniel G. Smith, Warner Lott and David Hosford. Other early settlers were Patrick Murray, who died soon after he came here, his being the first death in the township; Michael Murray, Thos. Murray, John Manion, Nicholas Joslin, Henry Dexter, Nicholas Demory, Calvin B. Fisher, Thos. J. Tann, Jacob Boyer, David Hamp, Nathaniel and Jacob Strayer, John Robbins and Aaron B. Mathewson. The latter cut his road alone from the Strayer farm to his place just north of Riverdale. His shanty was covered with black ash bark, mother earth was the floor, wolves and wild cats his nearest neighbors.

"Geo. W. Wright, John W. Dunn, L. J. Van Leuven, Robert Wood and Marklan Stanton were early settlers in the northwest part of the township. The last named lies buried on the farm which he cleared and lived upon,



EASTWARD VIEW FROM THE PITT FARM.

the southeast corner of section 7. In 1863, 860 acres were assessed to J. W. Dunn, and the valuation placed at $2,000, a fraction over two dollars per acre. At that time the tract of land was covered with the nicest kind of green, standing pine.

"When Joseph Abbott moved into his log house on section 12, on the 2nd day of February, 1855, he had but two rows of shakes on his roof, the rest being open to the blue sky and the tree tops. He ground corn in a coffee mill for his family of six. Hubbardston was the place he had to go to mill. The distance was 31 miles and the route was by way of Alma. His oldest son, Frank, who is still a resident of Seville, remembers well his father's tool chest which was used by him for a bed to sleep on nights, and for a table to eat from during the day. Maple Rapids was their postoffice. During the fall of 1856, known as 'the smoky fall', people got lost in their little clearings.

"At the spring election of 1859 the man who made the ballot-box that had been used at the two preceding elections refused the use of the box to the inspectors. He felt that he had not been fairly treated as he had got no office. So the result was a large sugar bowl was procured and used for a ballot-box. When an elector handed in his ticket the inspector raised the cover, dropped in the ticket and then replaced the cover; a proceeding

that was repeated as often as necessary until the polls were closed. This story was told me by Mrs. John B. Mallory, who said that for many years that election was referred to as the 'sugar bowl election.'

"A curiosity in the shape of a bill for damages was presented to the township board June 5, 1865, reading as follows: 'Gentlemen this is for damages for road running this day across section 3 it is $10.00. Sighned Doe.'

"The first school in the township was taught in a log shanty on what is now the George Emsley farm on section 13. It was located just north of where the Mallory school house now stands. It was taught by Eunice Doyle, a sister of the late Jas. L. Shults, who was supervisor several years. There were five scholars—Mary A. Shults, Jas. H. Shults, Walter C. Mallory, Fayette Mallory and Julia Mallory. The first Sunday school was held at the Brady school house, Adam Oberlin, superintendent. The superintendent had a family of 16 children.



OLD SNAGS JUST EXTRACTED.

"In many places in Seville Township we have evidence of the existence of a people that lived here long before the Indians. On sections 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 30 and 36, stone and copper implements, pottery, skeletons and many other relics of prehistoric times have been found. On section 30 a mound 60 feet in diameter, and the center eight feet above the level of Pine River has been found. The river has cut away from the north side 15 or 20 feet. A recent investigation of this mound shows that two different excavations were made into it many years ago.

"Bones of two different mastodons have been found, one on the N. Demory farm, section 14, the other on the M. Mallory farm, section 23; about a mile apart."

## SEVILLE ELECTIONS.

"The first annual township meeting held in pursuance of statute, at the house of Adam Oberlin, April, 7, 1856."

**April, 1856:** The whole number of votes cast was 27. Sup.—Carlile Weeks; Clk.—John B. Mallory; Treas.—Jas. L. Shults; H. C.—Henry Clifford, Jas. L. Shults, Joseph Abbott; J. P.—Samuel Boyer, Cornelius Rockwell, Wm. Badgely; Sch. Insp.—Carlile Weeks, Wm. Badgely; Overseer of Poor—Peter Lalle, A. N. Rockwell; Const.—Jackson Amburster, Henry Shults, A. Fisher, C. Rich. Signed by Jas. L. Shults, Adam Oberlin and N. G. Smith, as inspectors of election.

The meeting voted $100 for contingent expenses and $250 for highway purposes.

The supervisor and clerk had to go before Elijah Porter, a justice of the peace in Pine River Township, to be sworn into their respective offices.

A special election was held Nov. 29, '56, to elect justices of the peace, presumably in place of those who failed to qualify. The following were elected, 15 votes being cast: Chas. Rich, Nathaniel G. Smith, Wm. H. Badgely, John Coulson. This is signed by Jas. L. Shults, Wm. H. Badgely and C. J. Rockwell, as inspectors.

**April, 1857:** Twenty-six votes were polled.

Sup.—Henry Boyer; Clk.—C. J. Rockwell; Treas.—A. N. Rockwell; H. C.—Chas. Rich, Jacob K. Strayer, Samuel Shroy; J. P.—Jas. L. Shults, John Coulson, Calvin B. Fisher; Sch. Insp.—Nathaniel G. Smith, John B. Mallory; Directors of Poor—Peter Lott, Wm. H. Badgely; Const.—Arthur McCoy, John Currence, Henry Shults.

Overseers of highways were elected as follows: Joseph Abbott, Samuel Boyer, Nat. G. Smith, David Hosford, J. B. Mallory, Pat. Eagan, Nicholas Joslin, Joel Rogers.

**1858:** Election was held at the house of John B. Mallory, and 29 votes were cast.

Sup.—Henry Boyer; Clk.—Asa N. Rockwell; Treas.—John B. Mallory; H. C.—Nicholas Joslin; J. P.—Nicholas Joslin; vacancy, Geo. W. Wright; Sch. Insp.—Nat. G. Smith; O. of Poor—Sam. Boyer, Jo. Abbott.

A bounty of $4 was voted for wolves, and $5 for the use of Mr. Mallory's house for election purposes.

Oct. 2, '58, Pat. Eagan was appointed clerk in place of A. N. Rockwell, resigned.

**1859:** The election was held at the residence of Wm. H. Badgely, and 29 votes were cast as follows:

Sup.—Henry Boyer 16, Jas. L. Shults 11; Clk.—Pat. D. Eagan 16, Henry Shults 13; Treas.—John B. Mallory 18, Thos. J. Tann 11; H. C.—Adam Oberlin 21, David Hosford 8; J. P.—Nat. G. Smith 18, Henry Shults 6, David Hosford 3; 3 yrs, N. Joslin 17; 2 yrs, Geo. W. Wright 28; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Mallory 19, T. J. Tann 10; Directors of Poor—Calvin P. Fisher 19, Jacob K. Strayer 25.

The meeting voted to appropriate $50 "to build a town house and each resident to be allowed to work his proportional share thereof. The town house to be erected as near as practicable to the center of town, and that Henry Boyer, Nicholas Joslin and Geo. W. Wright be appointed to superintend the building thereof."

**1860:** Election held at the house of Samuel Shroy; 21 votes cast.

Sup.—Henry Shults; Clk.—Pat. D. Eagan; Treas.—J. B. Mallory; H. C.—Sam. Shroy; J. P.—David Hamp; Sch. Insp.—N. G. Smith.

It was voted to appropriate $50 of the 2-mill tax for the purchase of books for the library; also voted to establish district libraries.

The town house evidently had not progressed very far toward completion, for Henry Boyer, Geo. W. Wright and Pat. Eagan were appointed to

look after the matter, the building to be 18 by 20 feet in size, and to be built by Oct. 20. To be let to the lowest bidder.

**April, 1861:** Election held at the house of Samuel Shroy; 20 votes polled.

Sup.—Henry Shults; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—J. B. Mallory; H. C. —Henry Clifford; J. P.—E. F. Wiley; 3 yrs, Henry Shults; Sch. Insp.—Henry Shults.

The erection of a town house still seemed to hang fire for it was voted to have the town house built on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 26; and that Ira Amsbury, Calvin B. Fisher and John A. Robbins be appointed to superintend the same; and $25 was voted to build the same; to be built on or before April 1, 1862.

At a meeting of the board Jan. 4, '62, the building committee recommended that "$50 be advanced to Warner Lott on the town house building, as he has the body up." The board agreed, and issued a town order.

**April, 1862:** The election was held in the new town house.

Sup.—Henry Boyer; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—J. B. Mallory; H. C. —Anthony McCoy; J. P.—John Hicks; Sch. Insp.—Ira Amsbury.

Jan. 24, '63, the board appointed Asa N. Rockwell supervisor vice Henry Boyer, "who has vacated his office", says the record.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Ira Amsbury; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—J. B. Mallory; H. C.—A. N. Rockwell; vacancy, Daniel Hicks; J. P.—Jas. L. Shults; vacancy, Daniel Hicks; Sch. Insp—E. F. Wiley.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Ira Amsbury; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Samuel Boyer; H. C.—Isaac Welch; vacancy, T. J. Tann; J. P.—Henry Boyer; vacancy, Samuel Boyer; Sch. Insp.—Ira Amsbury, vacancy, T. J. Tann.

A special election was held Aug. 25, '64, "for the purpose", says the record, "of trying to raise a bounty for persons volunteering into the United States, the whole number of votes polled were 11, of which number there were polled nine against raising $100, and for raising $100 there were polled two votes. We, therefore, declare the above vote was lost." Signed by Pat. Eagan, Ira Amsbury, Thos. J. Tann, Jas. L. Shults, township board.

A special election was held Oct. 9, '64, "to elect a supervisor to fill the vacancy caused by Ira Amsbury, the late incumbent, being drafted into the United States service as a soldier. The whole number of votes cast was 12, and Henry Boyer received the 12 for supervisor."

Pat. Eagan seems to have resigned as clerk and the board must have appointed Jas. L. Shults to the vacancy, for on Dec. 12, '64, a special township meeting elected John J. Moffett as clerk, "the former officer, Jas. L. Shults, having been drafted, leaving said office of township clerk vacant."

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Henry Boyer; Clk.—John J. Moffett; Treas.—Sam. Boyer; H. C.—Adam Oberlin; vacancy, Henry Clifford; J. P.—John B. Mallory; 3 yrs, N. Joslin; 2 yrs, Thos. J. Tann; 1 yr, Henry Boyer; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Mallory; vacancy, T. J. Tann.

The meeting voted that T. J. Tann, Sam. Boyer and J. J. Moffett be a committee for the purpose of removing the town house to the N. E. corner of the S. ½ of the N. E. ¼ of section 27; and $20 was voted "to pay Mr. Faulkner for the land and for the necessary writings."

For some reason the regular April election of 1866 was skipped, for the record shows that a special meeting was held at the town house on **April 26, 1866,** at which there were 49 votes polled as follows:

Sup.—Jas. L. Shults 25, Ira Amsbury 24; Clk.—Pat. D. Eagan 24, Joseph Davis 23; Treas.—Asa N. Rockwell 24, Sam. Boyer 24; H. C.—Henry Clifford 48; J. P.—Jesse L. Pelton 47; vacancies, Richard Whit-

beck 25, Elias Sias 23, Joseph Davis 24, David Hosford 24; Sch. Insp.—Ira Amsbury, Jesse L. Pelton.

Joseph Davis was declared elected clerk, for the reason that Pat. D. Eagan, who received one more vote than Davis, refused to qualify as to his being a citizen, when somebody challenged him.

In gambling off the tie on treasurer, Boyer won.

For school inspectors Amsbury was declared elected for the long term because he received one more vote than Pelton.

Thus our forefathers amicably got around certain difficulties and perplexities that might have caused serious troubles, and some law suits, in these later days, when much more money and much less work might be involved.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Ira Amsbury; Clk.—Jo. Davis; Treas.—Sam. Boyer; H. C.—Geo. W. Newcomb; vacancy, Sam. Shroy; J. P.—Ira Amsbury; vacancy, Wm. L. Woods; Sch. Insp.—Jesse L. Pelton, Ira Amsbury, J. B. Mallory.

**April, 1868:** There were 75 votes cast at this election.

Sup.—Jas. L. Shults 38, Ira Amsbury 37; Clk.—Wm. G. Faulkner 40, P. D. Eagan 34; Treas.—Jas. S. Donahue 40, Richard Whitbeck 36; H. C.—Adam Oberlin 72; J. P.—J. J. Moffett 37, David Hosford 36; vacancy, Amos White 37, J. L. Pelton 20, Sam. Boyer 17; 1 yr, David Hamp 10; Sch. Insp.—Ira Amsbury 38, Jas. L. Shults 37.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Jas. L. Shults; Clk.—J. L. Pelton; Treas.—J. S. Donahue; H. C.—Henry Clifford; J. P.—Pat. D. Eagan; vacancy, Ralph Kilpatrick; Sch. Insp.—Jas. L. Shults.

Nov. 27, '69, a special election was held to vote on the question of $8,000 aid to the proposed Owosso & Big Rapids R. R. Yes, 51; no, 47.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Jas. L. Shults; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Jas. S. Donahue; H. C.—Geo. W. Newcomb; J. P.—Jas. L. Shults; 3 yrs, Geo. W. Newcomb; 2 yrs, N. Joslin; Sch. Insp.—Isaac Hilsinger.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—Jas. L. Shults; Clk.—Ira Amsbury; Treas.—Jas. S. Donahue; H. C.—Eber Loomis; J. P.—David Hamp; vacancy, J. L. Pelton; Sch. Insp.—J. B. Mallory, Henry Dexter.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Ira Amsbury; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Jas. S. Donahue; H. C.—Isaac Hilsinger; J. P.—Hiram W. French; Sch. Insp.—Marcus D. Teeple; Dr. Com.—Wm. J. Moffett.

March 22, '73, the board appointed Geo. W. Newcomb supervisor in place of Ira Amsbury, deceased.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Wm. J. Moffett; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Jas. S. Donahue; H. C.—Adam Oberlin; vacancy, Marcus D. Teeple; J. P.—Geo. W. Newcomb; Sch. Insp.—Jas. L. Shults; vacancy, Miles Dunham; Dr. Com.—Lineus Webb.

April 8, '73, the board appointed Wm. Medler highway commissioner vice Eber Loomis, resigned.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—Jas. L. Shults; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Jas. McLaughlin; H. C.—Wm. Duzenbury; J. P.—David McLaughlin; vacancy, Miles Dunham; Sch. Insp.—Wm. J. Moffett; Dr. Com.—Nathaniel T. Carter.

**April, 1875:**—Sup.—Jas. R. Errett; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—John S. Hildreth; H. C.—Geo. Haynes; J. P.—Wm. J. Moffett; vacancy, Jesse L. Pelton; Supt. Sch.—John J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—Thos. J. Tann.

By a vote it was determined to sell the town hall to the highest bidder, and to raise $100 to build a town hall as near the center of the township as practicable. Also that N. Joslin, John A. Boyles and Lucien J. Van Leuven

be a committee to superintend the same. The building to be constructed of boards and double-boarded, and to be 20 by 30 feet in size.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Jas. R. Errett; Clk.—Thos. J. Lyon; Treas.—John S. Hildreth; H. C.—Lucius J. Van Leuven; J. P.—Newton W. Brown; Supt. Sch.—John J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—Wm. J. Moffett; Dr. Com.—Isaac Hilsinger.

The next township election and the fall election to be held at Riverdale.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Pat. D. Eagan; Clk.—M. D. Teeple; Treas.—Geo. W. Newcomb; H. C.—Ambrose McLaughlin; J. P.—L. J. Van Leuven; Supt. Sch.—John J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—Andrew A. Minor.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Pat. D. Eagan; Clk.—A. A. Minor; Treas.—Geo. W. Newcomb; H. C.—Ambrose McLaughlin; J. P.—Thos. J. Tann; Supt. Sch.—J. J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—Thos. J. Lyon; Dr. Com.—Austin Duzenbury.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Jas. R. Errett; Clk.—Robert S. Miller; Treas.—Wm. Medler; H. C.—Hiram W. French; J. P.—Wm. J. Moffett; vacancy, N. Joslin; Supt. Sch.—John J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Lyon; Dr. Com.—Ralph Kilpatrick.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Jas. R. Errett; Clk.—Thos. H. Patterson; Treas.—Wm. Medler; H. C.—H. W. French; J. P.—Jas. L. Shults; Supt. Sch.—Wm. D. Strong; Dr. Com.—Asa Dalrymple.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Jas. L. Shults; Clk.—Thos. J. Patterson; Treas.—Walter C. Mallory; H. C.—Isaac Hilsinger; J. P.—Geo. W. Brown; Supt. Sch.—J. J. Moffett; Sch. Insp.—Jas. R. Errett.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Francis E. French; Treas.—Seely Amsbury; H. C.—Jas. McLaughlin; Sch. Insp.—Thos. J. Tann, Dewitt Vought.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—F. E. French; Treas.—Seely Amsbury; H. C.—John P. Madden; J. P.—Theo. L. Travis; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Taylor.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—F. E. French; Treas.—P. D. Eagan; H. C.—Wm. A. Bradley; J. P.—P. D. Eagan; 3 yrs, Daniel Smith; Sch. Insp.—John H. Norton.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—P. D. Eagan; H. C.—David Frank Abbott; J. P.—Lucius J. Van Leuven; 3 yrs, Wm. G. Cronkite; Sch. Insp.—Wm. J. Moffett.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—Geo. H. Lane; H. C.—D. Frank Abbott; J. P.—Robert S. Miller; Sch. Insp.—Thos. Steele; Dr. Com.—Isaac Vought.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—G. H. Lane; H. C.—D. F. Abbott; J. P.—Napoleon B. Bradley; Sch. Insp.—Wm. J. Moffett.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—Geo. W. Saunders; H. C.—Geo. Ludwick; J. P.—P. D. Eagan; Dr. Com.—Chas. H. McLachlan; Const.—Wm. Gerrard, S. Mathewson, Wm. Duzenbury, C. R. Rockwell.

**April, 1889:** Sup. Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—Thos. Steele; H. C.—Geo. Ludwick; J. P.—L. J. Van Leuven; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Taylor.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—F. E. French; Treas.—Wm. Medler; H. C.—Cecil Decker; J. P.—Geo. H. Lane; Sch. Insp.—Thos. Steele; Review—W. H. Sibley, P. D. Eagan.

Dec., '90, board appointed Pat. D. Eagan supervisor vice Pitt, elected register of deeds.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Geo. Brandell; Clk.—P. D. Eagan; Treas.—Wm. Medler; H. C.—Patrick Connelly; J. P.—Bert O. Markham; vacancy, Wm. G. Falkner; Sch. Insp.—Thos. J. Lyon, Wm. L. Steele.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Geo. Brandell; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—W. G. Faulkner; H. C.—Patrick Connelly; J. P.—Thos. J. Lyon; vacancy, Geo. J. Sibley; Sch. Insp.—Thos. J. Lyon, Emma D. French; Dr. Com.—Clifton R. Rockwell.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—Geo. Brandell; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—F. E. French; H. C.—D. F. Abbott; J. P.—Geo. McGregor; vacancy, C. Langley; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Lyon; Review—Michael Shong.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—C. R. Rockwell; H. C.—D. F. Abbott; J. P.—Geo. Dick; 3 yrs, Ray Bates; 1 yr, John B. Adams; Sch. Insp.—Emma D. French; Dr. Com.—Isaac Hilsinger, Sr.; Review—Myron P. Halstead, Thos. Connelly.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Seely Amsbury; Treas.—C. R. Rockwell; H. C.—Geo. J. Sibley; J. P.—Elmer O. Strayer; 3 yrs, Wm. W. Medler; 2 yrs, Ray Bates; Sch. Insp.—Jas. S. Eagan; Review—Jas. McLaughlin.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Timothy Kirwin; Treas.—Seely Amsbury; H. C.—Geo. J. Sibley; J. P.—David H. McLaughlin; vacancy, Isaac P. Taylor; Sch. Insp.—Fitch J. Hilsinger; Dr. Com.—I. P. Hilsinger; Review—Myron P. Halstead.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Seely Amsbury; Clk.—Tim. Kirwin; Treas.—Thos. S. Tallon; H. C.—F. E. French; J. P.—Ray D. Bates; vacancy, Chas. E. Going; Sch. Insp.—Chas. H. Knapp; vacancy, Jennie F. Carroll; Review—Wm. Carroll.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Seely Amsbury; Clk.—Tim. Kirwin; Treas.—T. S. Tallon; H. C.—I. P. Taylor; Sch. Insp.—Jas. H. Dexter; Review—Jas. B. Tubbs.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—John B. Adams; Treas.—Alton G. Wiley; H. C.—Chris. C. Wonders; J. P.—Frank S. Cook; vacancy, S. Truman Carr; Sch. Insp.—T. S. Tallon.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—J. B. Adams; Treas.—A. G. Wiley; H. C.—C. C. Wonders; J. P.—David McLaughlin; vacancy, Chas. E. Going; vacancy, F. A. Freeman; Sch. Insp.—Jas. Dexter; Review—D. F. Abbott.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—J. T. Carr; Treas.—Jas. S. Eagan; H. C.—Peter W. Britton; J. P.—Fred A. Greenman; Sch. Insp.—W. L. Steele; Review—Jas. Allen.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—J. T. Carr; Treas.—Jas. S. Eagan; H. C.—C. C. Wonders; J. P.—Seymour Kouts; Sch. Insp.—Walter A. French; Review—David Smith.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—J. T. Carr; Treas.—Vincent P. Cash; H. C.—Jas. McLaughlin; J. P.—Chas. E. Going; vacancy, A. G. Wiley; Sch. Insp.—J. H. Dexter; Review—W. M. Allen.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Seely Amsbury; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—Vincent P. Cash; H. C.—C. C. Wonders; J. P.—Watson M. Allen; Sch. Insp.—Walter A. French; Review—Warren Van Leuven.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—Peter W. Britton; H. C.—Henry M. Miller; J. P.—Rolla Holabaugh; Sch. Insp.—Harry Tubbs; Review—W. C. Mallory.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—W. T. Pitt; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—P. W. Britton; H. C.—Henry M. Miller; J. P.—W. C. Pugsley; vacancy, Dan. M. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Allen Sadler; Review—Jas. B. Tubbs.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—V. P. Cash; H. C.—H. M. Miller; J. P.—Chas. E. Going; Sch. Insp.—W. A. French; Review—H. McLaughlin.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—V. P. Cash; H. C.—H. M. Miller; O. of H.—Geo. Ludwick; J. P.—W. M. Allen; Sch. Insp.—J. A. Sadler; Review—Bert Thorp.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Wm. T. Pitt; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—F. E. French; H. C.—H. M. Miller; O. of H.—Lewis L. Pratt; J. P.—Dan. M. Smith; Sch. Insp.—W. A. French; Review—Wm. Carroll.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Chas. E. Going; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—F. E. French; H. C.—H. M. Miller; O. of H.—Lewis L. Pratt; J. P.—W. C. Pugsley; Review—Bert Thorp.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Wm. Horton; Clk.—F. E. French; Treas.—Walter C. Mallory, (appointed); J. P.—Lee Houck; Review—R. J. Lathrop; H. C.—H. M. Miller.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Walter E. Swope; Clk.—Wm. Horton; Treas.—Alex. E. Miller; H. C.—H. M. Miller; O. of H.—Lewis L. Pratt; J. P.—W. C. Mallory; vacancy, Slyvanus P. Parks; Review—Peter W. Britton.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Wm. Horton; Clk.—Frank E. French, Jr.; Treas.—C. E. Going; H. C.—Henry M. Miller; O. of H.—W. M. Allen; J. P.—Walter A. French; Review—D. F. Abbott.

Vote on woman suffrage: Yes, 54; no, 122.

Vote on county road system: Yes, 33; no, 150.

### Supervisors.

Carlile Weeks, 1856.
Henry Boyer, 1857, '58, '59, '62, sp. el. Oct. 9, '64, '65.
Henry Shults, 1860, '61.
Asa N. Rockwell, ap. Jan. 24, '63.
Ira Amsbury, 1863, '64, '67, '72.
Jas. L. Shults, 1866, '68, '69, '70, '71, '74, '81.
Geo. W. Newcomb, ap. March 22, '73.
Wm. J. Moffett, 1873.
Jas. R. Errett, 1875, '76, '79, '80.
Pat. D. Eagan, 1877, '78, ap. Dec., '00.
Wm. T. Pitt, 1882, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '94, '95, '96, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09.
Geo. Brandell, 1891, '92, '93.
Seely Amsbury, 1897, '98, '04.
Chas. E. Going, 1910.
Wm. Horton, 1911, '13.
Walter E. Swope, 1912.

### Township Clerks.

John B. Mallory, 1856.
C. J. Rockwell, 1857.
Asa N. Rockwell, 1858.
Pat. D. Eagan, ap. Oct., '58; '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '70, '72, '73, '74, '75, '91.
Jas. L. Shults, ap. '64.
John J. Moffett, sp. el., Dec. 12, '64; '65.
Joseph Davis, 1866, '67.
Wm. G. Faulkner, 1868.
J. L. Pelton, 1869.
Ira Amsbury, 1871.
Thos. J. Lyon, 1876.
M. D. Teeple, 1877.
A. A. Minor, 1878.
Robert S. Miller, 1879.
Thos. H. Patterson, 1880, '81.
Francis E. French, 1882, '83, '84, '90, 1911.
Seely Amsbury, 1885, '86, '87, '88, '89, '92, '93, '94, '95.
Timothy Kirwin, 1896, '97, '98.
John B. Adams, 1899, '00.
J. T. Carr, 1901, '02, '03.
Wm. Horton, 1904, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '12.
Frank E. French, Jr., 1913.

**Treasurers.**

Jas. L. Shults, 1856.
A. N. Rockwell, 1857.
John B. Mallory, 1858, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63.
Samuel Boyer, 1864, '65, '66, '67.
Jas. S. Donahue, 1868, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73.
Jas. McLaughlin, 1874.
John S. Hildreth, 1875, '76.
Geo. W. Newcomb, 1877, '78.
Wm. Medler, 1879, '80, '90, '91.
Walter C. Mallory, 1881, 1911.
Seely Amsbury, 1882, '83, '96.
Pat. D. Eagan, 1884, '85.
Geo. H. Lane, 1886, '87.
Geo. W. Saunders, 1888.
Thos. Steele, 1889.
W. G. Faulkner, 1892.
F. E. French, 1893, '09, '10.
C. R. Rockwell, 1894, '95.
Thos. S. Tallon, 1897, '98.
Alton G. Wiley, 1899, '00.
Jas. S. Eagan, 1901, '02.
Vincent P. Cash, 1903, '04, '07, '08.
Peter W. Britton, 1905, '06.
Alex. E. Miller, 1912.
Chas. E. Going, 1913.

## SEVILLE BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### MALLORY.

Walter C. Mallory was born in Westfield, Chautauqua County, N. Y., June 10, 1851. His father, John B. Mallory, was descended from Irish and English parentage, having been born in the same place, May 12, 1821.

John B. Mallory was married to Laura C. Wright, of Westfield, N. Y., June 1, 1850. They resided in their native town for several years, and then moved with their two children, Walter C. and Fayette A., to Hillsdale County, Mich., where they remained until 1856, when the public lands of central Michigan came on the market and they removed to Gratiot and secured half a section of land on sections 23 and 24 in Seville Township. Alma then consisted of five log houses, and only two of the six and one-half miles of road built on section lines was then opened.

For some time they lived in their log cabin with no doors or windows. On April 7, 1856, Mr. Mallory made a trip to Ithaca and remained over night. Mrs. Mallory sat up all night and kept fire brands burning to drive back the wolves that howled around the cabin until daylight.

The first two acres were chopped and cleared off without the aid of a team. The first school district organized in the township was in their neighborhood, and the first term was taught by Eunice (Shults) Doyle in an abandoned settler's shanty, with five children enrolled. Slab seats made of peeled poles were fastened around one side of the shanty, and basswood bark formed the roof. This shanty was replaced by the old log school house, and that was succeeded by one of the first frame structures that now dot so many corners in Gratiot County.

Walter C. Mallory, the subject of this sketch, spent his winters in school and his summers on the farm. When 21 years of age he went for himself; taught school, worked in the lumber woods, and in the harvest fields of Ionia County, and commenced clearing up an 80-acre farm. In 1879 he was married to Nina C. Brainerd, of Summit County, Ohio. From this union were born six children, as follows: Frank W., now of Princeton, Idaho, married to Eston McCan, of Jasonville, Indiana, in 1909; Henry G., of Spokane, Wash.; Laura C., of Palouse, Wash.; John B., on home farm; Leslie T., of Bovill, Idaho, and Amy M.

Mr. Mallory has held several responsible offices in his township, and is one of the five directors of the Clinton and Gratiot Mutual Fire Insurance Company, a position he has held for about 17 years. He is one of the well-known men of Gratiot County, and is justly held in high esteem by his large circle of acquaintances and business associates.

Although Mr. Mallory has seen the beauties of the great West, he and his wife will probably spend the remainder of their lives in the comfortable farm house on their well-cultivated farm, section 24, Seville Township.

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## PITT.

Few residents of Gratiot County have ever reached that high position in the affections and esteem of its citizens as did the subject of this sketch —William T. Pitt—now deceased. And it seems within the bounds of strict truth to say that no death has caused more general, or more sincere regret. The work of writing his biographical sketch, though briefly, is by no means a welcome or pleasurable task, excepting only as it may be considered a tribute to a good man and a good friend, and as an absolute necessity in the preparation of a reasonably complete, truthful and consistent history of the county.



WM. T. PITT, WIFE, DAUGHTER, GRANDCHILDREN.

At the time of his death — March 26, 1910—he was serving his twenty-second term as supervisor of Seville Township; and this fact clearly indicates his standing among those who knew him best. He served as register of deeds one term, being elected in the fall of 1890 on the ticket nominated by the Patrons of Industry and endorsed by the Democrats. In 1886 and again in 1888 he was Fusion candidate for county treasurer, and in 1894 he was the nominee of the People's party for congressman from the 11th district. His popularity carried him largely ahead of his ticket but the Republican vote overwhelmed him, together with the entire Fusion

ticket. In 1906, as Democratic candidate for representative in the state legislature, he made a great run, but went down before the heavy Republican majority.

William T. Pitt was born May 13, 1841, near the Village of South Lyon, Mich., son of George and Elizabeth (Duncan) Pitt. He was the oldest of four children, the others being Delphine, George and Anna. The mother died in 1851. George Pitt married Elizabeth Manchester two years later, and two sons—Charles and John—came to this union. George Pitt died at his home in Pine River, to which township he had removed in 1868. William T. Pitt spent his boyhood days as a farmer, attending the district schools in winter. At the age of 18 years he went to California by way of the Isthmus, remaining in that state about eight years engaged in various pursuits. Returning to Michigan in the fall of 1866 he remained about a year and then took a trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming; a town just founded, but destined to become of considerable note as one of the roughest frontier settlements in the entire country. After about a year Mr. Pitt returned to Michigan. In the spring of 1877 he again took a trip to the West, the Black Hills being his destination, and gold mining his object. He returned to his home in the following fall, and the next spring—1878—he removed to Gratiot County, locating in Pine River Township where he remained about two years and then removed to a wild farm that he had bought on section 22 of Seville Township; the farm that constituted his home until his death, thirty years later.

Mr. Pitt was married, March 4, 1869, to Bettie Lawson, of Northville, Mich., daughter of Moses and Elsie (Beard) Lawson. She was born March 7, 1845. A daughter—Isabel—came to this union, born July 14, 1872. She is now the wife of William Shong, of Seville. They are the parents of children as follows: George, Ruth, Esther, Leah.

Mr. Pitt carried on his farming operations along intelligent and progressive lines. His farm, located on the pine hills of central Seville seemed well adapted to the raising of peaches. His early experiments in peach raising proved successful, and in later years the fame of his peach farm extended far outside of the county limits. He always took a deep interest in the agricultural development of his township and county, and was prominent in the support and encouragement of societies and clubs having for their object the advancement of agricultural interests.

Death claimed our subject after a brief illness with pneumonia, at the home of his daughter. His faithful wife had preceded him to the Unknown World in October, 1909. A county publication, in closing an account of his death, paid him this tribute: "He was an enthusiast in whatever he undertook, yet quiet in manner. He was a man of influence in the community where he lived, kindly in disposition, sympathetic and progressive." Another gave expression to the people's appreciation of his qualities in these words: "Mr. Pitt was a man who was ever ready to help in the advancement of the town and county, ever striving to help and elevate the farmers and their interests in every way possible. A man of unusually pleasant and genial disposition, he will be greatly missed, not only in his own immediate community, but throughout the whole county."

In closing, it may well and truthfully be added that in all his relations with his fellowman, William T. Pitt was always a true, just and effective friend or opponent, and though firm and tenacious in his views and convictions, was uniformly and always a gentleman. And Mrs. Pitt was his faithful helpmeet in every sense. She was a woman of superior worth, a leader and helper in all work for the betterment of humanity.

## STEELE.

Helen L. Steele, section 10, Seville Township, was born in Cape Codd, Massachusetts, September 16, 1851, second daughter of Marcus and Zilpha (Robbins) Ring, pioneers of Pine River Township, and numbered among its most respected citizens.



THOMAS STEELE.

Marcus Ring was born October 16, 1816, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. After reaching maturity he sailed the seas for 20 years, and then — January, 1858 — removed to Gratiot County, locating in Pine River Township. He was married in Nova Scotia to Zilpha, daughter of Rufus and Letitia (Wyman) Robbins, May 4, 1843; a woman of great force and courage, no obstacle in life being too great for her faith and perseverance to remove or overcome. Mr. and Mrs. Ring removed from the farm to Alma, May 21, 1892, and there Mrs. Ring died on the 17th day of October, 1905. Mr. Ring followed her a year later, passing away November 18, 1906, at the ripe age of 90 years. Mr. and Mrs. Ring were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over 50 years.

Helen L., the subject of this sketch, was married April 11, 1874, in Pine River Township, to Thomas Steele, who was born in Seneca County, N. Y., May 25, 1833, the son of William and Elizabeth Steele. He became a school teacher by profession, being engaged in that vocation in various places in Ionia County, in Shepherd, Isabella County and in Sumner and Pine River, Gratiot County. He fitted himself for his profession in the schools of New York State, finishing at Hillsdale College, Mich., after his removal to this state.



HELEN L. STEELE.

May 24, 1874, Thomas and Helen Steele moved to Montcalm County, residing there one year. They then removed to Ionia County, remaining there until 1884, when they returned to Gratiot County, locating on section 10, Seville, where Mr. Steele died August 14, 1890. He had continued in the business of teaching up to within two years of his death. Mrs. Steele made her preparations for teaching in the schools of Alma, Ithaca and St. Louis.

To the union of Thomas and Helen Steele four children were born — Jennie F., Zilpha E., James M. and Paulena M. Jennie F. Steele was married September 22, 1896, to William Carroll, and resides in Seville. Zilpha E. Steele has been a teacher in the schools of Gratiot for many years, and holds a life certificate from the Michigan State Normal. James M. Steele has devoted his time to agricultural pursuits on the old homestead in Pine River Township, and also on his farm on section 10, Seville. Paulena M. devotes her time to the study and practice of music.

Mrs. Steele's first recollections of Pine River Township are of a vast wilderness with a small clearing, and with a rude log cabin in the clearing. Her arrival was not by rail, nor yet by stage, but in an ox-cart. Her spring seat was the family wash-tub turned bottom up. She has seen changes in the more than 50 years of her residence here. She has lived to see Gratiot stripped of its grand forests, and in their place she sees fertile fields of growing and ripening grain. The rumble of the railroad train and the tooting of the motor car horn indicate that Gratiot has kept pace with the rest of the world; a member of the vanguard in all that typifies progress and development, and the varied improvements indicative of the march of modern civilization.

Mrs. Steele is a valued member of the M. E. Church. Mr. Steele, also, was a member of this church at the time of his death.

## EMSLEY.

George H. Emsley was one of the best-known, and one of the best, farmers of Seville Township for many years. His fine farm was located on section 13 and consisted of 160 acres of well-cultivated land, and supplied with first-class farm buildings. His farm home, one of the best in the county, is well portrayed by the accompanying view.



GEO. H. EMSLEY AND WIFE.

Mr. Emsley was born in St. Catharines, Ontario, December 12, 1848, son of Richard Emsley, who was a native of England, and of Jane (Umpleby) Emsley, who also was born in England.

When George H. was five years old his parents removed to the State of New York, settling on a farm in Erie County, 15 miles east of Buffalo. The father died there in 1864. In 1866 George H. came to Gratiot County with his mother and his sister, Priscilla, who was then 16 years old. They came by way of St. Johns, that being the nearest railroad station at that time, coming the rest of the way by team. They settled on 120 acres of land two miles west of Alma, 40 acres being on section 32, Pine River, and 80 acres on section 5, Arcada. The mother died at Alma in 1873. In 1868 the sister, Priscilla, was married to Manferd Strong, of Buffalo, N. Y.

In his earlier years in Gratiot, Mr. Emsley, in addition to his business as a farmer, was also engaged in lumbering. In 1895 he settled on the Seville farm referred to at the beginning of this sketch. There he lived, engaged in the varied activities incident to a farmer's life, and with gratifying success for about 15 years. He and Mrs. Emsley spent two or three winters in Florida and California, and in 1911 he sold his fine Seville farm

and removed permanently to California where he and his wife are enjoying all the comforts, luxuries and advantages of the fine climate, the luscious fruits and the delectable flowers of that favored state.

Mr. Emsley was married December 13, 1870, in St. Louis, this county, to Rose Van Leuven, who was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., May 8, 1848. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Mary Van Leuven. Her brother, Lucius J. Van Leuven was for many years a prominent and well-known resident of this county.



THE EMSLEY RESIDENCE.

Mr. and Mrs. Emsley have no children. By their removal to California, Gratiot County lost an estimable family. Wherever they are they win the friendship and respect of all with whom they come in contact, both in a social and business way.

## WONDERS.

Christopher C. Wonders has lived in Seville Township since 1896. He is a native of Seneca County, Ohio, born October 17, 1842, only son of Christopher and Electa (Desmond) Wonders. His mother was afterward married to David Strouse. She died in Newark Township, this County, at the age of 70 years. When Christopher was two years of age his parents moved from Seneca County to Sandusky County and there the lad grew to manhood. At the age of 18 years, he left home and began life for himself. He went to Indiana, remaining about five years, and then, in June, 1866, he came to Michigan and to Gratiot County, where he lived for the next ten years. In 1876 he removed to Dushville, Isabella County, remaining there about three years and then returned to Gratiot County.

Mr. Wonders was married in 1872 to Lucinda Down. Six children were born to them—Lillian married Burdette Southwell; Laura married Bert Johnson; Alzada is single; Burrill married Laura Drew; Jennie married Bert Willett; Jesse married Maggie Rundio.

Mrs. Lucinda Wonders, the wife and mother, died February 24, 1883. On September 14, 1885, Mr. Wonders was married the second time, to Mrs. Alma (Franklin) Emsley, daughter of John and Lucy (Carter) Franklin, of North Star. She was the youngest of seven children, all of whom were born in Lenawee County, Mich. Jane was born in 1838, died February, 1862; Elbridge, born 1840; Luther, born 1841, died July 30, 1863, of wounds received at the Battle of Gettysburg; Susan, born 1844, died 1863; Lydia, born April 10, 1848, married James Harter; Elisha W., born May 4, 1850; Alma, born November 2, 1852.

Alma Franklin was married to Emanuel Emsley, July 11, 1874. By this marriage she had three sons—John F., Arthur and George, the last two now being dead. John F. is now a resident of Buffalo, N. Y., married to Louisa Lininger. They have one son.

Mr. and Mrs. Wonders have one son, Ernest, born August 7, 1897.

Mr. Wonders, during his busy life, has not been confined to one line of activities. His avocations have been varied. He spent twelve years at the blacksmith's trade, and was for a considerable period of time engaged in running saw mills. He is now devoting his energies to farming. He served three months as a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Co. H, 21st Ohio Infantry. In politics he is a Democrat, and has served in various local positions of trust, including that of highway commissioner of his township—Seville—four years, and is esteemed as an honorable, energetic and reliable citizen.

John Franklin, Mrs. Wonders' father, was born in Palmyra, N. Y., in 1811; removed to Lenawee County, Mich., in 1835, and to Gratiot County in 1854, settling in North Star Township. He was son of Billa Franklin, who was born in 1774, and died in 1849, he being son of Col. John Franklin, prominent in the Revolutionary War, born in 1749, and died in 1831, in Athens, Penn. He was the son of John Franklin, of English ancestry.

## MILLER.

Henry M. Miller, a well-known farmer of Seville, residing on section 15 of that township, was born in Cascade Township, Kent County, Mich., January 2, 1867. His father, Anton Miller, was born in Hesse, Germany, April 2, 1837, and came to America with his parents, Christian and Elizabeth Miller, in 1846, settling in Canada. Henry M. Miller's mother, Augusta Merkel, was born in Swartzburg, Germany, November 22, 1835. Her parents, Anton and Elizabeth (Krouse) Merkel, both died in Germany. Augusta came with her brother to Canada in 1857, and lived there until 1863, when she was married to Anton Miller and moved to Kent County, Mich., where the subject of this sketch was born.

Anton and Augusta Miller's family consisted of seven children: Anna—Mrs. E. L. Bock, of Port Elgin, Ontario; Leah—Mrs. W. H. Thomas, of Shepherd, Mich.; Henry M., our subject; Edward M., deceased—murdered at St. Ignace in September, 1893; Alex E. and Alfred, of Seville, and Almina—Mrs. W. C. Perkins, of Winn, Mich. In September, 1875, they moved to Seville, where Mr. Miller still resides, Mrs. Miller having died February 27, 1910.

After acquiring a common school education, Henry M. Miller began work in a shingle mill and followed that occupation—working in both the upper and lower peninsulas—until the fall of 1890, when he settled on a farm on section 11, Seville. In the fall of 1896, he bought the farm on

section 15, on which he still resides. He is a man who stands well in his community, as is shown by the fact that he has served about 15 years as school director, and eight years as highway commissioner of his township. Energetic and industrious, accommodating and helpful among his fellows, he gains many friends and retains them. As evidence of his sympathetic kindness it is mentioned that at one time when a fellow-workman was disabled, he took his place on the night force, working both day and night with scarcely any sleep, for six days, in order to hold the position for his friend.

Mr. Miller was married February 22, 1889, to Lorett Worthing, of Sumner Township. She was a teacher by profession. Their children are Zelma, born August 15, 1894, and Willard Wellington, born May 27, 1903. Barlow Worthing, father of Mrs. Henry M. Miller, was born in Bakersfield, Vermont, November 29, 1812. He located in Sumner Township in 1855, helped to organize the township, and was its first supervisor. (See sketch.)

Mrs. Miller's mother, Sibyl (Kellogg) Worthing, was born in Troy, Penn.; moved with her parents to Michigan in 1848; married to Norman Metcalf in 1851. In 1858 he died, leaving her with four children. They are—Mrs. Clara Mecomber, of Greenville; James H., deceased; Mrs. S. N. Fletcher, of Wheeler; Levi F. Metcalf, of Stony Brook. In October, 1862, Mrs. Metcalf was married to Barlow Worthing, of Sumner. Their children are—Lorett—Mrs. Miller, of Seville; Mary—Mrs. Levi Pritchard, and Barlow A., both of Sumner. Barlow Worthing, the father, died December 20, 1893. The mother, Mrs. Sibyl Worthing, died May 17, 1910, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Levi Pritchard, of Sumner Township.

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**Napoleon B. Bradley** was born June 20, 1838, in Sullivan County, N. Y., son of William and Harriet (Fisk) Bradley, natives of Connecticut and Vermont, respectively. At the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in Company H, 28th N. Y. Infantry, served about two years, was captured and spent some time in Libby prison. He was married in 1864 to Harriet, daughter of William and Jane Barton. In 1871 he came with his brother, William A., to Seville Township, settling on land where Riverdale was afterward located. He was later proprietor of the Commercial Hotel at Riverdale and was otherwise actively interested in the business and social life of the village. He was elected justice of the peace in 1887, and in 1892 was elected register of deeds, and was re-elected in 1894. He remained a resident of Ithaca after the close of his term as register, and in 1897 he was elected village president, serving acceptably one term. He was a man of genial and pleasing personality and unusually popular. Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bradley were William, Alvin and Marion. Mr. Bradley died at his home in Ithaca, February 14, 1899.

**Patrick D. Eagan** died at his home in Seville, March 16, 1911, aged 89 years. He was among the earliest and best known of Seville's pioneers. His first-class standing among his townsmen is proven by the fact that he was chosen to nearly all of the important offices—township clerk twelve years, treasurer two years, supervisor two years. His son, James D., was treasurer in 1901 and '02.

**Calvin B. Fisher** was one of Seville's sturdy and substantial citizens. He was early on the scene, and did valiant service as a pioneer agriculturist when it took grit and perseverence. His name appears among the

elect in 1857, when he was chosen as one of the justices of the peace. He died February 1, 1887, at the age of about 60 years. His widow passed away in April, 1907, at a ripe old age.

**John J. Moffett** was one of those who faced and braved the terrors of the Seville forests in the early '50s. He stood well among his townsmen who elected him clerk in '65, justice in '68 and several times superintendent of schools. He died January 1, 1897, aged 88 years. His wife, Susan, died August 28, 1879, aged 68 years. Their son, William J. Moffett, was elected supervisor in 1873; still a respected citizen of Gratiot.

**James L. Shults,** still remembered by old settlers as one of Seville's tried and true pioneers, came to that township in 1854 and at once took an active part as a progressive and public-spirited citizen. That his neighbors appreciated his worth is evidenced by the fact that they repeatedly elected him to responsible positions—treasurer at the first election, and supervisor in 1866, '68, '69, '70, '71, '74 and '81. He died October 5, 1900, aged 79 years.

**Thomas J. Tann** was born in London, England, April 27, 1813, son of William and Hannah (Jenkins) Tann. He came to America with his parents, and then to Oakland County, Mich., in 1839. In 1854 he came to this county, taking up land on sections 35 of Seville and 2 of Sumner, and then devoting himself to clearing up his possessions. In 1839 he was married to Mrs. Sarah C. (Truman) Lathrop. Children of this union were George J., Charles W. and Emily H. Mr. Tann was a man of superior intelligence, with positive convictions and with a tendency to maintain them against all oppostion. Nevertheless he was courteous, sympathetic, and an all around good friend. He was entrusted with various local offices —school inspector, justice of the peace, etc. In 1860 he was elected a county coroner. In another place in this volume may be found an article from his pen in humorous vein, telling of an adventure when Seville was still young. Mr. Tann died November 13, 1901. His wife preceded him by about 25 years, having passed away February 9, 1876.

**Lucius J. Van Leuven** was for many years, dating from 1854, a prominent citizen of Seville, and quite well known throughout the county. He was born September 20, 1828, in Albany County, N. Y., son of Nicholas and Mary P. (Delamater) Van Leuven. The father and mother were early settlers in Sumner Township, this county. The latter died in 1873, the former in 1875. Lucius J. located on section 3, Sumner, in 1854. In 1860 he removed to a tract of land on section 6 of Seville where he spent many years in agricultural pursuits, in lumbering and in the manufacture of lumber. He married Mrs. Mary (Delamater) Sweet. Their children were Warren, Elton, Laura, Ida and Myrtle.

Among the many other prominent citizens of Seville more or less entitled, either in the past or at the present time, to at least brief notice in this connection, the following are mentioned: Henry Boyer, who was several years supervisor in the early years; Henry Shults, for similar official reasons; also Asa N. Rockwell; Ira Amsbury; James R. Errett; George Brandell; Seely Amsbury; William Horton; Thomas H. Patterson; Francis E. French; John B. Adams; Samuel Boyer; George W. Newcomb, Greenback candidate for sheriff in 1878; C. R. Rockwell; David Hamp; Adam Oberlin; Austin Dusenbury; John S. Hildreth; Isaac Hilsinger; Ambrose McLaughlin; William and John Medler; W. D. Strong; D. Frank Abbott; Thos. S. Tallon; Lee Houck; Sylvanus Mathewson; Vincent P. Cash, Democratic candidate for representative in 1908, and for state senator in 1910; A. J. Williams; H. B. Angell; W. A. Bradley.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Amsbury, Ira,** February 5, 1873, aged 46. A prominent pioneer, supervisor several years, commencing with 1863.

**Abbott, Joseph,** at Rose City, Mich., Dec. 26, 1896. He voted at the first election, April 7, 1856.

**Adams, John B., Sr.,** January, 1899, in Sparta, Tenn., where he had resided three years. Settled in Seville in 1868. Was prominent in Riverdale's early history.

**Angell, Albert,** January 16, 1901; father of Horace B. Angell.

**Bennett, Mrs. Phylinda,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George Teachworth, of Riverdale, Dec. 11, 1912, aged 86 years. Devoted mother of nine children, all of whom survive her.

**Coffinbury, Mrs. Katrina E.,** wife of Michael Coffinbury, January 3, 1890, aged 68. A pioneer of 1860.

**Clifford, Henry,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Simon Oberlin, September 7, 1909, aged 88. He helped to organize the township in 1856, and was elected the first highway commissioner, and was re-elected several times.

**Cash, Miss Agnes,** April 7, 1911, aged 18 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Cash, of Riverdale. A death greatly regretted.

**Dunn, Joshua,** May 18, 1876, aged 69.

**Dusenbury, George,** March 10, 1875, aged 74.

**Dunham, Miles,** Nov. 3, 1878, aged 57.

**Eagan, Susan,** June 11, 1874, aged 88.

**Eagan, Patrick,** March 23, 1880, aged 65.

**Evans, Friend,** Nov. 6, 1908, aged 66.

**Ellsworth, Dewitt C.,** February 16, 1909, aged 57.

**Evans, Andrew J.,** at Riverdale, Aug. 21, 1912, aged 72. For 31 years a resident of the county.

**French, Mrs. Catharine,** widow of Hiram W. French, at the home of her son, Frank E., in Seville, Dec. 14, 1910, aged 79. For 40 years popular residents of the township.

**Hosford, David,** May 6, 1872, aged 62.

**Hudson, Horace,** Aug. 10, 1901, aged 90.

**Holsinger, Philip I.,** June 2, 1905, aged 76.

**Hildreth, Chas. E.,** Nov. 20, 1907, aged 61.

**Hendershott, Isaac H.,** at St. Louis, Nov. 4, 1912, aged 53 years. A life-long resident of Seville, and with many friends.

**Hendershott, James M.,** Oct. 2, 1913, aged 79. Settled in Seville in 1871.

**Joslin, Nicholas,** Aug. 25, 1888, aged 74.

**Kinney, Jerome,** August 8, 1913, aged 64 years. Came in 1889.

**Ludwick, Lydia,** April 12, 1879, aged 45.

**Mallory, Frances, E.,** June 19, 1873, aged 17. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Mallory.

**Miner, Wm.,** June 28, 1879, aged 9.

**Miner, Edward,** June 29, 1879, aged 6.

**Miner, Allen,** July 14, 1879, aged 5. Children of Anderson A. and Jane E. Miner.

**Murray, Michael,** Nov., 1893, aged 80.

**Moffett, Mary A.,** Oct. 31, 1893, aged 20.

**Moffett, Wm. O.,** Dec. 24, 1893, aged 24.

**Moffett, Jennie, (Mrs. Carter),** Dec. 3, 1893, aged 24. Three children of John J. and Malinda Moffett.

**McKinstry, Uzal,** May 20, 1891, aged 75.

**Miller, Mrs. Augusta,** wife of Anton Miller, February 28, 1910, aged 74. A respected resident since 1875.

**Moblo, R. E.,** July 17, 1910, aged 56. An active and influential resident 28 years; in mercantile trade.

**Miller, Robert S.,** at his home in Elwell, Oct. 10, 1912, aged 72. (See sketch.)

**Matthewson, Sylvanus,** Jan. 21, 1911, aged 61. A respected pioneer.

**McLaughlin, Nathaniel,** May 13, 1913, aged 24 years. Son of David H. McLaughlin.

**McLaughlin, Daniel,** May 15, 1913, aged 28 years. Son of David H. McLaughlin.

**Mallory, Mrs. Laura C.,** September 23, 1913, aged 85 years. She was the wife of John B. Mallory whose death occurred September 22, 1886. They were pioneers of the county, being among the very first settlers in Seville, and were among its most respected citizens. (See sketch of W. C. Mallory.)

**Newcomb, Lucinda,** Aug. 17, 1887, aged 66.

**Norton, Wm. Wallace,** May 29, 1910, at Elwell, aged 92 years. An esteemed pioneer.

**Oberlin, Adam,** Dec. 15, 1893, aged 79. The first election in the township—April 7, 1856—was held at his house, and he was one of the inspectors.

**Pratt, Mrs. Almira,** Oct. 28, 1894, aged about 50.

**Phelps, Ira,** at the home of his son, D. V. Phelps, July 20, 1900, aged 76.

**Rockwell, Asa N.,** April 4, 1903, aged 75. One of the first settlers in the township, holding various official positions—treasurer, clerk, highway commissioner.

**Rhodes, Frederick,** Aug. 25, 1910, aged 93.

**Spayd, George,** July 5, 1881, aged 75.

**Stalter, James H.,** Nov. 13, 1885.

**Sherwood, Samuel,** Sept. 21, 1892, aged 70.

**Sherwood, Mrs. Caroline A.,** May 13, 1909, aged 86. They settled in Seville in 1868.

**Shults, Betsey E.,** February 7, 1904, aged 72.

**Taylor, Charles,** Sept. 15, 1886, aged 69.

**Tann, Geo. J.,** Aug. 17, 1896, aged about 53. Son of Thomas J. Tann, a pioneer of 1854.

**Tinkham, Levi,** April 15, 1892, aged 78.

**Tinkham, Mrs. Lydia,** Jan. 24, 1899, aged 82.

**Tallon, Thomas S.,** Sept. 30, 1909, aged 47.

**Tann, Charles W.,** Oct., 1910, aged 68. An active citizen, son of Thos. J. Tann. Democratic candidate for county clerk in 1870, and for sheriff in 1872.

**Vought, Harrison,** Jan. 2, 1880, aged 18.

**Vought, Isaac,** Oct., 1896; one of the pioneers of the township.

**Vought, Mrs.,** widow of Isaac Vought, February 7, 1907, aged 70 years.

**Welch, Mrs. Ella,** Jan. 12, 1890; wife of Aaron Welch. They came here in 1860.

**Welch, James,** Dec. 2, 1891, aged 57.

**Wood, "French",** about March 1, 1892. An early settler, and a well-known and popular character.

**Wiley, Mrs. Lavina G.,** wife of Alton G. Wiley, Dec. 19, 1910, aged 48.

**Waldron, Mrs. Narcissa,** wife of John S. Waldron, at her home in Riverdale, March 1, 1911, aged 70. Daughter of the late Jacob M. Kemp, of St. Louis. Her first husband, James Bennett, died Nov. 3, 1881.

**Zink, Martin,** February 14, 1878, aged 61.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1880, Sept. 7—Dunning's saw and shingle mill, at Riverdale, burned at 2 o'clock a. m. Mill and contents a total loss.

1881, Feb. 2—J. B. Adams' shingle mill at Riverdale burned. Loss, $3,000; no insurance.

1885, July 7—The home of Wm. J. Moffett burned with the greater part of the contents, and with no insurance.

1896, April 22—The residence of Horace B. Angell, with most of its contents, was destroyed by fire. Partially insured.

1897, Sept. 23—A destructive fire at Riverdale Thursday night at 11:30, destroyed Delon Fleming's store and R. E. Moblo's hardware and furniture store, and some other smaller affairs. Fleming's loss was reported as $3,000, with $500 insurance; Moblo's loss, $8,000, with $2,000 insurance.

1898, Jan. 23—Another big fire for Riverdale. Fire started in R. S. Keyes & Co.'s store, owned by J. B. Adams, and extended to W. D. Strong's livery barn, also owned by Mr. Adams, and both were destroyed; also a blacksmith shop.

1909, May 23—Fire did a lot of damage in Marlie Slingluff's store at Elwell.

1910, Feb. 26—Van Alstine Bros.' store, at Riverdale burned with loss of $5,000 and no insurance.

1911, April 3—Elwell had a destructive fire Monday morning, April 3rd, burning W. C. Pugsley's hardware store, a meat market and two other buildings. Appliances for fire-fighting are limited, and much other property was in great danger. Alma, four and a half miles away, sent its fire team with men and ladders, and an automobile made the distance in 12 minutes. The losses were stated to approximate $3,500 with $1,500 insurance.

1911, April 18—Fire made quite extensive inroads into the business section of Riverdale at 4:30 a. m., destroying Geo. Skaff's clothing store, the postoffice and jewelry store of John G. Young, and damaging the Wyeth building, occupied as a general store by McNitt & Hendee. The entire loss was estimated at $8,000, on which there was a light insurance.

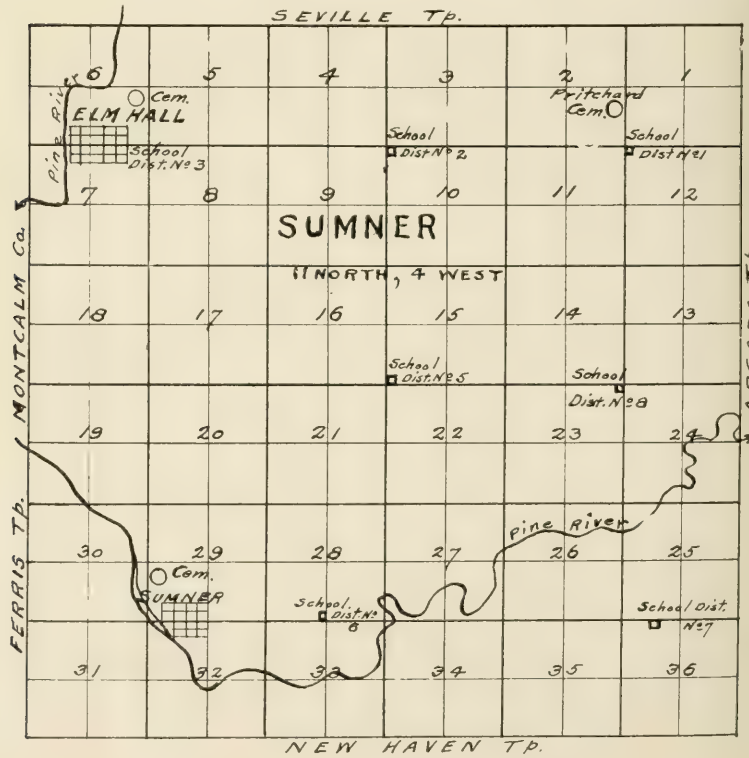
1913, May 31—A disastrous fire visited Riverdale at 10 o'clock p. m., destroying the hotel and a livery barn near by on the north. The fire originated in the barn. The loss was about half covered by insurance.



## SUMNER TOWNSHIP.

Sumner Township is one of the border townships of the county occupying a position on the western border, with Montcalm County bounding it on the west. Its technical description is town 11 north, range 4 west. The township has an undulating surface mainly which renders drainage comparatively easy. Its hills were once covered with pine forests; forests that ranked among the best in the state. The last of this valuable timber was all lumbered off many years ago, not much now remaining to verify the fact of the township's former wealth along that line excepting the long lines of pine stump fence to be found in many portions of the township, particularly in the western part. Like pine lands generally, the soil is of a sandy nature, easily worked, and with proper management capable of bearing excellent crops.

The township has more miles of Pine River than any other township in the county. It has no railroad within its boundary lines, its nearest railroad town being Riverdale, a half mile over the line, in Seville Township. It has enjoyed the promise of a railroad, however, for lo these many years;



the old Marshall, Coldwater & Mackinaw proposition projected about 40 years ago, that was to traverse the township from north to south, and which has been given a little galvanic life from time to time for the encouragement of the people along the line.

The township began to be invaded by settlers along in the fall of 1854, George S. Bell being the first in the southern part of the township, the Strayers in the northern part.

In 1875 C. B. Whitney erected a sawmill on the river between Elm Hall and Riverdale, which proved of much value to that part of the county. A shingle mill and planing machinery were added, and later on a flouring mill was established in connection. W. B. Lathrop & Co. afterward became the owners. In 1885 the saw mill was destroyed by fire, and in 1900 the flouring mill met the same fate. At the time of the last fire the property was owned by W. D. Kimball, of Toledo. This last fire left not much of



THE DAM WENT OUT.

value but the dam, and in the high water period of April, 1912, that yielded to the severe strain and was carried down stream. The dam has since been rebuilt by the present owner of the property, Hon. J. W. Robinson, of Alma, but as this is written the power is not being utilized.

In the fall of 1883, the Corner Local, a little paper at that time being published at Elm Hall, contained a write-up of Sumner's early history, a portion of which is here reproduced. It was understood that the investigation into the pioneer days of Sumner, and the resultant article mentioned, came about by the joint efforts of the editor of the Corner Local—C. C. Gilmore—and Dr. J. R. Shaffer, of Elm Hall. The article mentioned, after being straightened out with a few corrections, gives the findings of its authors as follows:

"The township of Sumner was, of course, named after the illustrious statesman Charles Sumner, of Massachusetts. Its first election was held in April, 1856, at Michael McNamara's shingle mill, at which time Barlow Worthing was elected supervisor and Henry A. Walker clerk. The election seems to have been non-partisan, as there was but one ticket. There were 29 votes cast. At the November election following, there were 23 votes cast, and they were all for the Republican ticket.

"Among the earliest comers were Daniel Strayer, in 1855, with his sons, Nathaniel, Jacob, Michael and William, and his son-in-law, Baron Blanchard, all from Lucas County, Ohio. They located on section 6. At about this time came Geo. and Isaac Gee, Michael McNamara, Timothy Bardwell, Isaac B. Ward, Geo. S. Bell, Barlow Worthing, Hamilton Pritchard and Samuel

Story. Nearly all of them are still living (1883) and enjoying comfort and plenty where they first located. Hamilton Pritchard, on section two, located in the fall of 1854 and now has a fine farm and a large family to enjoy what they have earned. Geo. and Isaac Gee and M. McNamara located on sections 15 and 10, and still own the largest and best farms in the township. James, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. McNamara, was the first white child born in the township, and was certainly a vast improvement over the aboriginal pappoose, in the matter of civilization. Geo. S. Bell, I. B. Ward and Samuel Story located near Estella, now Sumner Village. Homer L. Townsend located on section 11, and was the second sheriff of the county. For the first two or three years the nearest postoffice was Matherton, about 23 miles away, in Ionia County, and the settlers took turns in going for the mail once in two or three weeks—a good two-days' trip through the woods. In 1857 a postoffice was established on petition of citizens, and Baron Blanchard was appointed postmaster. The name of the office was Elm Hall. The first store was started at Estella by Titus Stover, and the place was sometimes called Stoverville. The place was also called Belltown after Geo. S. Bell. Stover and Stratton also built the first sawmill in the township, although another one was shortly afterward built at Elm Hall by Strayer and Blanchard.

"The first drive of pine logs taken past Elm Hall was put in by Hinman, of Coldwater, and amounted to 1,400,000 feet; while there was plenty of water, yet the drive was forced to lie over on account of the numerous old trees and snags in the river. Fish were plenty in Pine River, anywhere, and the woods abounded with game of all kinds, and the rod and rifle were almost the sole dependence of the early settlers, for meat. Many were the adventures had in hunting bear, deer, etc., one of which may be related here. One morning three of the settlers started on a bear hunt, and after chasing bruin seven or eight miles south, they found that some Indians had got in between them and the bear with the same intent that they had. They accordingly abandoned the bear and started for home, but upon reaching the river bank, at a place now called Duner's Bridge, the dogs started a large deer into the water, at which all three hunters fired and succeeded in wounding it. The deer came out of the water on the side next to our hunters, and was at once seized by the cheek by one of the dogs, which hung on tenaciously, but only to be thrown high in the air, coming down between the huge antlers of the infuriated buck. At this point the owner of the dog rushed in to save his favorite, only to become the object of attack, for the deer charged on him so furiously that he had no chance to run, but sprang up to escape the lowered antlers of the buck which darted between the man's legs, entangling his horns in the man's clothing in such a way as to peel him bare from the waist down. However, he managed to get a 'tail hold' in going over, and the dog getting the deer by the throat they managed to come off victorious, but much to our hero's chagrin and the admiration of a score or more of squaws who, heretofore unobserved by the white hunters, had been spectators of the entire scene from a bluff a few rods away.

"The village of Elm Hall was started in 1858 by a few neighbors clearing away the brush and building a log school house. The village got its name from the timber used in the construction of Samuel Story's house, viz.: rock elm. The first teacher was Lydia Walker, sister of Ben. and Adam Walker. The entire school furniture consisted of basswood slabs with legs in them, for seats and desks. The rude building served for school and church purposes for many years. Transportation was by ox team and

on foot; but teaming was done under difficulties for want of roads. For instance, Samuel Story moved in from Geauga County, Ohio, by team, but could get no nearer to where he now lives than Ward's Bridge, and was obliged to establish a transportation line overland through the woods, on his shoulders, bringing his wife last, who had to stand guard at one end of the route during the moving.

"During the summer of 1856 it was thought that the river might be used to convey goods from Saginaw, and an Indian was hired to build a large canoe, which he did in two and a half days. The Indian was then employed in the capacity of pilot and helper to accompany the canoe and its owner to Saginaw for freight, the compensation agreed upon being all he could eat and drink on the way. The down trip was easily accomplished; the Indian quietly ate, steered the craft and meditated. But on the return came what every old settler who tried it, so well remembers—the steady, hard work of getting a load of freight up-stream. The Indian then began to demand the second consideration in the contract—drink. A quart of whiskey had been provided, as being an ample supply for the trip up, and he was given a drink. After working a short time he demanded another drink, and this was kept up so frequently that it had to be refused in order to keep the Indian sober enough to not capsize the whole affair. The result was, 'Sick Injun; no work'. Again the supply was furnished and a remarkable cure was effected. The boat went bravely on, until finally the demand for more drink was answered by showing the bottle, empty. One disgusted glance was enough for the red brave; he swung the craft in near to the bank, and the leaves quivered with his wild whoop, 'Me go'; and he went.

"Chas. Merrill and David Ward were the first to start lumber camps in the township, and thus the settlements continued to thrive until 1857, when the famine came, and help was called for, for 'Starving Gratiot.' Only pure Yankee grit kept the little band at their posts. In an old memorandum book of one of them is the following entry: 'March, 1857—Received of the state donation 24½ pounds flour, 22 pounds of wheat, one peck of beans, six quarts of seed corn. Paid for same in highway work for the state.' Slight as the help was, it served to tide them over the worst, and they lived through it. How vivid is the memory of those years printed in the minds of the old settlers who went through it all, only they can appreciate.

"After those trying times had passed the population began to increase, and the county to take on an air of civilization. Clement Hickman located the farm now known as the A. A. Pratt farm, and L. Van Leuven the Quick farm, now among the best in the township. Solomon Lapaugh came some time before 1859 and is now a prosperous farmer. A. Shaffer, on section 9 is also a prosperous farmer and mill owner. W. H. Pratt came in 1859, but enlisted and did not move his family until after the war. He was supervisor in 1869 and '70, and was elected sheriff in 1872, serving two terms. John Boyd came in 1861, and has two sons and two daughters still living here, viz.: David, Robert, Mrs. Seneca Sly and Mrs. Jas. Faulkner. Geo. J. Butcher came from Canada in 1862 and built the first frame building ever put up in Elm Hall—the Exchange Hotel, now owned by Warner Lott. Jas. Faulkner came at about the same time and built the second frame building. Geo. J. Sly came with his family in 1856. He held during his life the office of justice of the peace 22 years, and has left a large family of sons.

"At the beginning of the Civil War the men of Sumner responded to their country's call and many enlisted in the 8th and 21st Michigan Infantry and in the 5th Cavalry. No lack of patriotism can ever be attributed to

Sumner. Some of her brave boys sleep the eternal sleep in southern soil. All honor to their names who gave their lives for their country.

"Among the farmers who have located here later may be mentioned Henry Griffin, Wm. Alvord, David Fry, Henry Fisher, H. R. Bentley, Wm. Skinner and many others. In 1854 the entire amount of cleared land was about two acres near Fisher's bridge, used by the Indians; now it is increased by many thousands of acres of as fertile land as can be found in the state. The log cabins have given way to modern architecture; and black and white are not more different in appearance than the pioneers' shanties and such dwellings as McNamara's, Lapaugh's, Gee's, Pratt's, Alvord's, Anderson's, and many others to be found in the township. The trip to Saginaw that formerly occupied one and a half days down and seven days back, by constant hard work, is now made in a few hours by rail. The drive of less than one and a quarter million feet, has been replaced by a business that sends over the same water course to the markets of the world, from fifty to eighty million feet per annum. The 29 votes have increased to over 400, while the log school houses have been replaced by eight buildings for the same purpose, some of them very fine structures. The Villages of Estella and Elm Hall are finely located on the banks of Pine River, and contain each about 350 inhabitants. The elections are now held alternately at the two villages. The bed of the M. C. & M. Railroad is graded north and south through the entire township. We rank as second in the delegate representation at the county conventions.

"Many columns might be filled with facts that would come within the object and purpose of this article, and many who figured in the earlier days of the settlement have not had the prominence they deserve in these jottings; but space forbids, and all such can point with pride to the results of their labors seen on every hand, and rest assured that they have not been intentionally slighted."

A pioneer meeting was held at Elm Hall in the summer of 1906, the participants being mainly old settlers of Sumner Township. An account of the meeting was published in a county paper, and from that I make some extracts. The reader will notice that some of the names and some of the incidents fit in very appropriately as a sequel to the foregoing article on early Sumner as published in the Corner Local in 1883. The account mentioned is as follows:

The pioneer meeting held at Elm Hall last Saturday proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. A goodly number were present and listened to the reminiscences of those who came to Gratiot in the early days. Mrs. Wm. Lovell gave the address of welcome, and music by the Elm Hall orchestra helped to enliven the program.

Baron Blanchard, a veteran of the Civil War, gave an interesting talk. He left Ohio April 19, 1855, with a party of ten men, seven women and four children. They had two span of horses, two single horses and seven yoke of oxen. Daniel Strayer was the leader. They landed at Pine River on section 6 of Sumner, May 10, 1855, having been 21 days on the road. The next day they went to cutting logs and clearing ground for a house. The third day they moved into the building they had erected.

They had to get their mail of Mr. Ely, where Alma now stands, and it took two or three days to go and return; so they soon began planning for a postoffice of their own. They got up a petition with 27 names on it, one of them being the name of an infant, and sent it to Washington. The petition was granted, and Baron Blanchard was appointed postmaster. The

office was supplied from Elyton, or as it is now, Alma. Wm. Strayer was the first mail carrier. Wm. Strayer afterward was a soldier in the Civil War and served three years, finally being killed in the Battle of the Wilderness.

Mr. Blanchard exhibited the first mail bag and showed how they carried it around their necks when they made their trips. Mr. Blanchard's home was just across the river from Elm Hall. Marshall Smith now owns the farm, (1906).

Mrs. Jacob Strayer said that with her husband and child they moved into their home in July, 1855. "We had no garden that year, and we got so hungry for vegetables! Hearing that Mr. Hunting, living three miles east, had raised some rutabagas, Mr. Strayer went over and bought a bushel for 25 cents. I fried some in bear's lard and it seemed as if we had never tasted anything so good." One night when Mr. Strayer was away, Mrs. Michael Strayer stayed with her and in the night they were awakened by two bears fighting, and there were no doors or windows in the house. When Mr. Strayer returned he put them in right away.

Seneca Sly told how he walked in from Pewamo and hired out to Benjamin Fowler where he worked for his board the first winter. Mr. Fowler had a job of lumbering, and Mr. Sly had to do the cooking. He did teaming later. He afterward located in Elm Hall and raised a family of children. He is a veteran of the Civil War, and is at present postmaster at Elm Hall

Nathaniel Strayer said that when they wanted meat they would kill a deer, and when they wanted lard they would kill a bear. When they wanted a road they took an ax and cut their way. All were happy. They went for miles to raisings and always took their guns. One fall when provisions were scarce, and there was a light fall of snow, they took their hand sleds and went beyond Hubbardston for provisions. It snowed so hard before they got home that they had to take turns tramping down the snow before they could get through with their sleds. He said they finally got home, tired but happy. A statement not hard to believe.

Mr. Oliver came with his father in 1857 when but a lad of eight years. They settled in Sumner center, on the farm on which his mother now lives. His father was a veteran of the Civil War, and they all saw many of the hardships of the pioneers.

W. H. Pratt, who came in 1864, gave an interesting talk. He traded with the Indians and always found them friendly.

One time, going down the river in a canoe, Nathaniel Strayer heard someone singing. Resting on his oars, he thought he never heard such sweet music. He soon discovered a shanty in the woods, and a girl sitting on a log, knitting while she sang. When she saw him she got up quickly and went into the house. Nathaniel was a single man, and he afterward married that same girl, and could truly say that they "lived happily ever after.'

Timothy Bardwell, who came to Gratiot in 1854 located on section 3, Sumner. He split logs for roof and floors, and made a shanty. A stranger was never turned away. He went down near St. Louis and paid $1.50 for a bushel of potatoes which he planted after clearing the ground. He used his ax to cut holes in the ground to put the seed in. In this way he planted his garden, using his ax for a hoe. After they had supplies to sell, his wife carried her butter and eggs to Alma, walking both ways; six miles and return.

Mrs. Rachel Gee gave an interesting talk. She came to Alma with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Kress, and located about one mile west of Alma.

on what is known as the Cohoon farm. When only 16 years old she was married to Geo. Gee and moved to their home one mile east and one mile north of Sumner Center, where she resided until her removal to Ithaca in 1912.

Mrs. Jas. Hildreth came to Sumner with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griffin, when only two years old. She went to school in the old log school house located where Blair's store now stands, in Elm Hall. Lydia Walker was the first teacher, Miss Bell the second. Religious services were held in the same place by the United Brethren, Rev. Daniel Strayer being the first minister.

Mr. Blanchard said that the old pioneers had tried to discharge their duties to the best of their ability, and they leave the rest to the generations following them.

## SUMNER ELECTIONS.

The records of eight elections in Sumner are lost, consequently this record is deficient in part. Though I offered a liberal reward for the missing records they failed to come to light.

Twenty-nine votes were polled at the first township election in Sumner Township which was held April 7, 1856, and they were distributed as follows:

**April, 1856:** Sup.—Barlow Worthing 29; Clk.—Henry A. Walker 29; Treas.—Joseph Rockafellow 27, H. L. Townsend 2; H. C.—John Mecomber 29, Lucius J. Van Leuven 29, H. L. Townsend 20, John H. Giles 7, Jo. Rockafellow 2; J. P.—John H. Giles 28, Homer L. Townsend 28, Jacob E. Bullock 27, Michael Strayer 26, Daniel Strayer 2; Sch. Insp.—Benj. Walker 26, B. Worthing 25; Directors of Poor—John Mecomber 29, Nicholas Van Leuven 28; Const.—Joseph Rockafellow, John Ransom Jr., Joseph Hickman, Jas. N. Root.

The inspectors of election were Homer L. Townsend, Barlow Worthing and Henry A. Walker.

**April, 1857:** There were 25 ballots cast, resulting as follows, there being but one ticket in the field:

Sup.—Barlow Worthing; Clk.—Baron Blanchard; Treas.—Daniel Strayer; H. C.—John Mecomber, Geo. A. Curtis; J. P.—Michael K. Strayer, John Miller, Isaac Gee; Sch. Insp.—Barlow Worthing; Overseers of Poor—Thos. I. Huntington, John Mecomber; Const.—Nathaniel K. Strayer, Joseph Hickman, Jas. N. Root, Isaac B. Ward.

The statement of the result of the election is signed by Barlow Worthing, Michael K. Strayer and Baron Blanchard, and is in the handwriting of Barlow Worthing.

**April, 1858:** Sup.—David Ward; Treas.—Peres Walker.

**April, 1859:** Sup.—Isaac Gee; Treas.—Joseph Rockafellow.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—Joseph Rockafellow; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1861:** Sup.—Barlow Worthing; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Geo. Stratton; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Geo. Stratton; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Barlow Worthing; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Geo. Stratton; Treas.—John Mecomber.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—Jabez Hawkins; Clk.—Geo. A. Curtis; Treas.—John Mecomber; H. C.—Barlow Worthing; vacancy, Dillman Stoughton; J. P.—Chas. Merrill; 3 yrs., Calvin Race; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Pratt.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Jabez Hawkins; Clk.—Samuel Bigelow; Treas.—John Mecomber; H. C.—Isaac B. Ward; J. P.—Peres Walker; 2 yrs., Thos. R. Christie; Sch. Insp.—Jesse M. Trapp.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Barlow Worthing; Clk.—Sam. Bigelow; Treas.—John Mecomber; H. C.—Isaac Gee; J. P.—Geo. J. Sly; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Pratt.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Wm. H. Pratt; Clk.—Dillman Stoughton; Treas.—John Mecomber; H. C.—Wm. D. Clark; J. P.—B. Worthing; vacancy, Sam. Bigelow; Sch. Insp.—Peres Walker.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Wm. H. Pratt; Clk.—Jesse Trapp; Treas.—John Mecomber; H. C.—Isaac B. Ward; J. P.—Geo. Stratton; Sch. Insp.—Daniel B. Pyle.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—Christopher Cleverdon; Clk.—Lucien H. Dayton; Treas.—I. B. Ward; H. C.—Wm. J. Gargett; J. P.—Amos Shaffer; 3 yrs., C. Cleverdon; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Pratt.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—C. Cleverdon; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—Hezekiah R. Bentley; H. C.—Geo. Rockafellow; J. P.—Franklin Oliver; 3 yrs., Wm. J. Madison; Sch. Insp.—Sam. Bigelow; Dr. Com.—H. R. Bentley.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—C. Cleverdon; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—H. R. Bentley; H. C.—Samuel Story; J. P.—Ralph Quick; Sch. Insp.—W. J. Gargett; Dr. Com.—H. R. Bentley.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—C. Cleverdon; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—H. R. Bentley; H. C.—Geo. R. Ball; J. P.—C. Cleverdon; Sch. Insp.—Edward L. Drake; Dr. Com.—Byron Drake.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—Ralph Quick, (a tie between Quick and C. Cleverdon, and Quick won); Clk.—Albert C. Jarvis; Treas.—H. R. Bentley; H. C.—I. B. Ward; J. P.—Thos. J. Blair; Supt. Sch.—Jesse Trapp; Sch. Insp.—Edward Wilson; Dr. Com.—Lafayette Peters.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Ralph Quick; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—H. R. Bentley; H. C.—I. B. Ward; J. P.—Dr. John J. Sandall; vacancy, Sam. Bigelow; Supt. Sch.—Jesse Trapp; Sch. Insp.—John N. Wilson; Dr. Com.—Homer L. Townsend.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—Hezekiah R. Bentley; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—I. B. Ward; H. C.—Ralph Quick; J. P.—Wm. D. Clark; Supt. Sch.—Jesse Trapp.

March 1, '78, the board appointed Geo. Stratton supervisor vice Bentley, removed from the township.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—John N. Wilson; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—I. B. Ward; H. C.—Caleb Ayres; J. P.—Edward L. Drake; vacancy, Chas. C. Gilmore; Supt. Sch.—Jesse Trapp; Sch. Insp.—John R. Shaffer; Dr. Com.—Henry Skinner.

Jan. 14, '79, the board appointed T. J. Blair supervisor vice Wilson, resigned.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—Isaac B. Ward; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—Isaac N. Beeson; H. C.—Caleb Ayres; J. P.—Chester Rosecrans; Supt. Sch.—John R. Shaffer; Sch. Insp.—Eugene Chappell.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—Henry A. Weiss; Clk.—Warren E. Dewitt; Treas.—Isaac N. Beeson; H. C.—Caleb Ayres; J. P.—H. A. Walker; vacancy, L. H. Dayton; Supt. Sch.—J. C. Rings; Sch. Insp.—C. D. Smith; Dr. Com.—Gustavus Quick.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—H. A. Weiss; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—Geo. G. Hoyt; H. C.—I. B. Ward; J. P.—Seneca Sly; vacancy, Isaac N. Beeson; Supt. Sch.—S. I. Horr; Sch. Insp.—Alonzo Bailey.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—H. A. Weiss; Clk.—L. H. Dayton; Treas.—Geo. G. Hoyt; H. C.—Henry Griffin; J. P.—Ed. L. Drake; vacancy, Ellis A. Potter; Sch. Insp.—Benj. Walker; vacancy, Jesse Trapp; Dr. Com.—Michael McNamara.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—H. A. Weiss; Clk.—Bird J. Tucker; Treas.—Gustavus Quick; H. C.—Henry Bansil; J. P.—Chester Rosecrans; Sch. Insp.—John B. Hall.

Later, Henry Bansil resigned as highway commissioner and John E. Booth was appointed to the vacancy. Still later, I. B. Ward was appointed in place of Booth, resigned.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—H. A. Weiss; Clk.—Chas. C. Gilmore; Treas.—Gustavus Quick; H. C.—Wm. J. Gargett; J. P.—Ellis A. Potter; vacancy, L. H. Dayton; Sch. Insp.—Burgess Hall, Geo. McCurdy; Dr. Com.—Amos Shaffer.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Gustavus Quick; Clk.—C. C. Gilmore; Treas.—Jas. McNamara; H. C.—Geo. Rockafellow; Sch. Insp.—John B. Hall; Dr. Com.—John Bogert.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—Burgess Hall; Clk.—S. I. Horr; Treas.—Geo. Rockafellow; H. C.—Henry C. Ferris; J. P.—Ed. L. Drake; Sch. Insp.—Benj. L. Walker; Review—H. C. Ferris, John Lewis.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—Burgess Hall; Clk.—S. I. Horr; Treas.—Geo. Rockafellow; H. C.—Wm. Parr; J. P.—L. H. Dayton; Sch. Insp.—Geo. McCurdy; Dr. Com.—J. W. Fullerton; Review—L. H. Dayton, E. A. Potter, John E. Booth.

May 2, '87, Wm. Parr resigned as highway commissioner and Wm. J. Gargett was appointed to the vacancy.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—Burgess Hall; Clk.—Geo. McCurdy; Treas.—Thos. J. Blair; H. C.—Geo. Rockafellow; J. P.—J. W. Fullerton; Sch. Insp.—Allen J. Williams; Dr. Com.—John L. Evey; Review—Job C. Wolford, Albert Beeson.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—Burgess Hall; Clk.—Geo. McCurdy; Treas.—T. J. Blair; H. C.—Geo. Rockafellow; J. P.—Seneca Sly; 3 yrs., E. A. Potter; 2 yrs., Chas. A. Button; Sch. Insp.—Nettie A. Schlappi; Dr. Com.—John E. Booth.

Nov. 1, '89, B. J. Tucker was appointed clerk vice McCurdy, removed from the township.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—H. A. Weiss; Clk.—Wm. Davis; Treas.—Geo. Argent; H. C.—Geo. Rockafellow; J. P.—John Dunlap; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Pingle; Dr. Com.—Wm. D. Clark; Review—G. Quick, Job C. Wolford.

July 31, '90, Fred Fullerton was appointed school inspector vice Mrs. Schlappi, resigned.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Warren C. Pugsley; Clk.—Fred Fullerton; Treas.—Geo. Argent; H. C.—Wm. D. Clark; J. P.—Chas. A. Button; Sch. Insp.—B. A. Ferris; Review—J. W. Fullerton.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—W. C. Pugsley; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—Birton I. Gee; H. C.—G. Quick; J. P.—Wm. D. Clark; Sch. Insp.—John B. Hall; Dr. Com.—Christopher W. Gee; Review—Chas. E. Joseph, J. W. Fullerton.

**April, 1893:** Sup—W. C. Pugsley; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—B. I. Gee; H. C.—G. Quick; J. P.—Homer B. Gibson; vacancy, E. A. Potter; Sch. Insp.—Burton A. Ferris, Monroe M. Copp; Dr. Com.—Wm. M. Franks; Review—Phil. Hicks.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—Leo. J. Schaeffer; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—Irett F. Tucker; H. C.—Albert Beeson; J. P.—Abram Flewelling; vacancy, E. A. Potter; Sch. Insp.—Wilber McClosky; Dr. Com.—Jay I. Gee; Review—Henry Bansil, Wm. Tomlin.

April 24, '94, Seneca Sly was appointed census enumerator.

July 19, '94, J. E. Booth was appointed drain commissioner in place of J. I. Gee, resigned.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—L. J. Schaeffer; Clk.—Seneca Sly; Treas.—Irett F. Tucker; H. C.—Albert Beeson; J. P.—Chas. A. Button; Sch. Insp.—B. A. Ferris; Dr. Com.—H. C. Ferris; Review—Wm. Parr, Chas. L. Mumford.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—L. J. Schaeffer; Clk.—Melvin Medler; Treas.—Richard Lang; H. C.—Albert Beeson; J. P.—E. A. Potter; vacancy, Albert N. Morton; Sch. Insp.—Wilber McClosky; Dr. Com.—Phil. Hicks; Review—Chas. L. Mumford.

Melvin Medler failing to qualify as clerk, Melbourn Medler was appointed clerk, April 18, '96.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—L. J. Schaeffer; Clk.—I. F. Tucker; Treas.—Richard Lang; H. C.—Geo. Graham; J. P.—A. N. Morton; Sch. Insp.—Avery Bachelor; Review—J. E. Booth, Wm. A. Pratt.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—L. J. Schaeffer; Clk.—W. E. Medler; Treas.—E. A. Potter; H. C.—Thos. Lang; J. P.—Chas. Clark; Sch. Insp.—Jas. Holden; Review—Chas. Ellis.

L. M. Forquer was appointed clerk, later.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Henry A. Clow; Treas.—E. A. Potter; H. C.—Wm. Parr; J. P.—Chas. A. Button; Sch. Insp.—H. O. Lyon; Review—Jas. Fisher.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—H. A. Clow; Treas.—Samuel Fletcher; H. C.—Adam Reuhle; J. P.—Chas. Slingluff; Review—Edgar Follick.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Henry O. Lyon; Treas.—Reason M. Forquer; H. C.—Jas. Fisher; J. P.—Chas. Elliott; vacancy, Chris. E. Prine; Sch. Insp.—Harlan Woodard.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—H. G. Bansil; Clk.—W. E. Rings; Treas.—R. M. Forquer; H. C.—B. I. Gee; J. P.—A. A. Thompson; Sch. Insp.—Francis J. Tucker; Review—J. E. Booth.

Dec. 11, '02, Supervisor Bansil resigned and E. A. Potter was appointed to the position.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Ellis A. Potter; Clk.—C. A. Button; Treas.—Frank E. Clapper; H. C.—B. I. Gee; J. P.—Thos. Lang; Sch. Insp.—Harlan Woodard; Review—Geo. Rockafellow.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—Ellis. A. Potter; Clk.—F. J. Tucker; Treas.—Thos. Lang; H. C.—B. I. Gee; J. P.—Geo. Rockafellow; vacancy, D. Link; Sch. Insp.—Benj. Walker; Review—T. J. Blair.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—E. A. Potter; Clk.Chas. Nunn; Treas.—Thos. Lang; H. C.—Harry Clark; J. P.—Albert Morton; vacancy, C. A. Button; Sch. Insp.—H. Woodard; Review—T. J. Blair.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Chas. A. Elliott; Treas—Frank E. Clapper; H. C.—Arthur E. Fowler; J. P.—Wm. Parks; vacancy, G. Quick; Sch. Insp.—Sheridan Witherel; Review—W. F. Allen.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Harlan Woodard; Clk.—R. M. Forquer; Treas.—Thos. Morton; H. C.—A. E. Towler; J. P.—Geo. H. Oliver; vacancy, A. A. Thompson; Sch. Insp.—John Rockafellow, Bruce Lang; Review—T. J. Blair.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Geo. H. Oliver; Treas.—Thos. Morton; H. C.—Frank E. Clapper; O. of H.—Geo. Clark; J. P.—Albert A. Morton; vacancy, Frank Allen; Sch. Insp.—Brice Lang; Review—Sidney Evey.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Geo. H. Oliver; Treas.—Sidney A. Evey; H. C.—Frank E. Clapper; J. P.—Gustavus Quick; Review—John B. Hall.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Oliver Duffield; Treas.—Sidney A. Evey; H. C.—Frank E. Clapper; J. P.—Adelbert Hale; vacancy, C. A. Button; Review—John Seaman.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Sidney A. Evey; Clk.—Sam. Cleverdon; Treas.—Oliver W. Duffield; J. P.—Chas. L. Booth; vacancy, Ellis A. Potter; Review—Birton I. Gee; H. C.—Fred E. Fea.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Sidney A. Evey; Clk.—Sam. Cleverdon; Treas.—Albert Robertson; J. P.—Albert N. Morton; vacancy, Seneca Sly; H. C.—B. I. Gee; Review—Jas. G. Fisher.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Sidney A. Evey; Clk.—Sam. Cleverdon; Treas.—Albert Robertson; H. C.—A. C. Tomlin; J. P.—H. N. Stearn; Review—Birton I. Gee.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 70; no, 110.

County Road System: Yes, 40; no, 160.

### Supervisors.

Barlow Worthing, 1856, '57, '61, '64, '64, '68.
David Ward, 1858.
Isaac Gee, 1859.
Joseph Rockafellow, 1860.
Geo. Stratton, 1862, '63, '65.
Jabez Hawkins, 1866, '67.
Wm. H. Pratt, 1869, '70.
Christopher Cleverdon, 1871, '72, '73, '74.
Ralph Quick, 1875, '76.
Hezekiah R. Bentley, 1877.
John N. Wilson, 1878.
Thos. J. Blair, ap. Jan. 14, '79.
Isaac B. Ward, 1879.
Henry A. Weiss, 1880, '81, '82, '83, '84, '90.
Gustavus Quick, 1885.
Burgess Hall, 1886, '87, '88, '89.
Warren C. Pugsley, 1891, '92, '93.
Leo J. Schaeffer, 1894, '95, '96, '97, '98.
Wm. L. Hutchinson, 1899, '00, '01, '06, '08, '09, '10.
H. G. Bansil, 1902.
Ellis A. Potter, ap. Dec. 11, '02; '03, '04, '05.
Harlan Woodard, 1907.
Sidney A. Evey, 1911, '12, '13.

### Township Clerks.

Henry A. Walker, 1856.
Baron Blanchard, 1857.
Geo. A. Curtis, 1866.
Samuel Bigelow, 1867, '68.
Dillman Stoughton, 1869.
Jesse Trapp, 1870.
Lucien H. Dayton, 1871, '72, '73, '74, '76, '81, '82.
Albert C. Jarvis, 1875.
Seneca Sly, 1877, '78, '79, '92, '93, '94, '95.
Warren E. Dewitt, 1880.
Bird J. Tucker, 1883, ap. Nov. 1, '89.
Chas. C. Gilmore, 1884, '85.
S. I. Horr, 1886, '87.
Geo. McCurdy, 1888, '89.
Wm. Davis, 1890.
Fred Fullerton, 1891.
Melvin Medler, 1896.
Melbourn Medler, ap. April 18, '96.
I. F. Tucker, 1897.
W. E. Medler, 1898.
Henry A. Clow, 1899, '00.
Henry O. Lyon, 1901.
W. E. Rings, 1902.
Chas. A. Button, 1903.
F. J. Tucker, 1904
Chas. Nunn, 1905.
Chas. A. Elliott, 1906.
R. M. Forquer, 1907.
Geo. H. Oliver, 1908, '09.
Oliver Duffield, 1910.
Sam. Cleverdon, 1911, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Joseph Rockafellow, 1856, '59, '60.
Daniel Strayer, 1857.
Peres Walker, 1858.
John Mecomber, 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, 70.
I. P. Ward, 1871, '77, '78.

H. R. Bentley, 1872, '73, '74, '75, '76.
Isaac N. Beeson, 1879, '80.
Geo. G. Hoyt, 1881, '82.
Gustavus Quick, 1883, '84.
Jas. McNamara, 1885.
Geo. Rockafellow, 1886, '87.
Thos. J. Blair, 1888, '89.
Geo. Argent, 1890, '91.
Birton I. Gee, 1892, '93.
Irett F. Tucker, 1894, '95.
Richard Lang, 1896, '97.
Ellis A. Potter, 1898, '99.
Sam. Fletcher, 1900.
Reason M. Forquer, 1901, '02.
Frank E. Clapper, 1903, '06.
Thos. Lang, 1904, '05.
Thos. Morton, 1907, '08.
Sidney A. Evey, 1909, '10.
Oliver W. Duffield, 1911.
Albert Robertson, 1902, '13.

## SUMNER BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### WORTHING.

Among the foremost names of Sumner's pioneers must be placed that of Barlow Worthing. At the first election held in the township — April 7, 1856—there was but one ticket, and he received the vote of all the electors, 29 in number for supervisor, and he was re-elected in '57, '61, '64 and '68. He also served as justice of the peace and highway commissioner several years each.



BARLOW WORTHING.

Barlow Worthing was born November 29, 1812, in Waitesfield, Washington County, Vermont. His parents, Abner and Sallie (Barlow) Worthing, were natives of New England, and both died at Northport, Vermont. Our subject, in his earlier years, was engaged in various callings. He learned and worked at the tanners' trade, afterward spending a year sailing on Lake Champlain, and then shipping as a sailor on the high seas, going on a whaling expedition. Returning, he was variously engaged until 1855, when he located government land under the "graduation act", on section 10, Sumner Township, where he remained until his death. He died December 21, 1893, at the age of 81 years.

Mr. Worthing was united in marriage October 17, 1862, to Mrs. Sibyl (Metcalf) Kellogg, born in Bradford County, Penn., July 4, 1831. Children were born to them as follows: Sibyl L., Mary L., and Barlow A. Mrs. Worthing died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Levi Pritchard, of Elwell, May 24, 1910.

Mr. Worthing and his family were among the best and most trustworthy of Sumner's many good pioneers, and their influence was always in the interest of morality and right-living generally. Barlow Worthing's record as an official can always be pointed to with pride by his descendants, and by all who knew him personally. (See sketch of Henry M. Miller.)

## HAWES.

A history of Sumner Township would be seriously defective did it not contain a personal or family sketch of Dennis Hawes, a prominent farmer on section 9 of that township for many years. He was introduced to the scenes of earth July 26, 1848, in Geauga County, Ohio, by his father and mother, Enos Hawes and Betsey (Morton) Hawes, the former of whom was born in Boston, Mass., in 1795, the latter born in Ohio in 1808.



DENNIS HAWES.

Besides Dennis there were six other children born to Enos and Betsey Hawes. Nellie, born in 1839, died in 1888; Edwin was born in 1841; Julia, born in 1843; Clara, born in 1845; Lou, born in 1847, died in 1902; Warren, born in 1849.

Dennis Hawes was married July 26, 1873, to Alice Fowler, who died the following year—May, 1874. In 1876 he was married to Maggie A. Shaffer, born in Ohio, November 9, 1855. Her father, Samuel Shaffer, was born February, 1826; her mother, Susie (Rings) Shaffer was born February, 1836. Other children of Samuel and Susie Shaffer were Dr. J. R. Shaffer, born December 10, 1853, and Alice E. (Shaffer) Dyer, born August 26, 1858.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawes came to Gratiot County in the fall of 1878, settling one-half mile west of Elm Hall. April 19, 1883, they removed to the farm where they now reside, section 9, Sumner. Mrs. Hawes' parents settled in Montcalm County in October, 1864.

By hard work and a fair grade of calculating Mr. Hawes has apparently placed himself far outside and beyond any danger of being overtaken by extreme poverty. He has added to his possessions till he is now the owner of 440 acres of as good farming land as can be found in the township, most of which is under a fine grade of cultivation. His house and other buildings are in keeping, in comfort, convenience and appearance, with his splendid farm. The view of the house, shown in connection with this sketch, does not do justice to the subject, as, owing to the abundance of shade trees, it is impossible to take it from a first-class viewpoint, and the barns are altogether out of range. But a lively imagination, properly directed, can easily supply the deficencies.

Mr. Hawes, while a diversified farmer, has a leaning toward the raising of horses and sheep as more profitable than other lines. This also means a preference for hay and corn crops over a more general and diversified order of agricultural operations.

In politics he was a Republican up to 1876, when, along with many others about that time and a little later, he became what he terms a "Peter Cooper Reformer." Now, and for some years past he has a habit of sorting out and voting for the best men on the tickets, regardless of politics, according to his best judgment, as to character and qualifications.

Two daughters and a son have come to cheer the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hawes. Leta Alice was born July 30, 1883. She was married to Earl A. Houck, October 21, 1903. They reside in Riverdale, where they are engaged

in the hardware trade. Their children are Russell Hawes Houck, born September 17, 1908, and Earl A. Houck, born September 2, 1910.

The second daughter—Susie Lou—was born February 24, 1885. She was married to Rev. Harold G. Gaunt, June 9, 1910. Both are graduates of Alma College, Mr. Gaunt afterward taking a theological course at Princeton,



THE HAWES RESIDENCE.

N. J. He is now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Wheaton, Minnesota. A daughter—Margaret Philena—was born to them May 5, 1911.

The son—Enos S. Hawes—was born May 29, 1898. His picture in the residence view does not loom up large, but it is his picture, nevertheless.

## FOLLICK.

Edgar Follick is properly classed among the best farmers of Sumner Township. His valuable farm is located on sections five and eight, and comprises a tract of 120 acres. Of this, there are 100 acres improved, yielding as good crops as are raised in this part of the state, and consequently giving satisfactory returns for the outlay of toil, care and general expense of cultivation. The buildings are good and sufficient, and a general appearance of thrift and prosperity pervades the premises.

Edgar Follick was born in the State of New York, December 7, 1854. He came to Michigan with his parents the same year of his birth. They settled in the Township of Carmel, Eaton County, near Charlotte, remaining there till the year 1865, when they came to Gratiot County, locating on section 26, Seville Township. February 20, 1879, Mr. Follick was united in marriage at Forest Hill to Miss Jennie L. Rich, of Seville Township. She is the daughter of Charles J. and Ann (Evans) Rich. Her father and mother were both natives of New York State, the former born in 1828, the latter in 1829. Both came to this state while young, and were married in Washtenaw County in 1848. In 1850 they came to Gratiot

County, settling on section one of Seville Township, where they remained until 1881, when they migrated to Oscoda County where they still reside. Three children were born to them, namely: Henry, born in Wayne County in 1849; Charles R., born in Seville in 1856, and Jennie L., born in Seville, May 10, 1858. The father, Charles J. Rich, made the trip to California in 1852. Later, in the Civil War, he served his country as a soldier in the Union army.

In the spring following their marriage, Edgar Follick and wife settled in Sumner Township, section eight, later purchasing an adjoining forty acres on section five where their dwelling is now located. They have one child, a son, Floyd J. Follick, born in Sumner Township, January 19, 1880. He remained at home with his parents until May 10, 1905, on which date he was married to Olive Ward, at the home of her parents in Elm Hall. Their daughter, Donnivere, was born September 24, 1906. They reside on the Follick homestead, on the farm on which he was born.

Philander Follick, the father of Edgar Follick, was born in Wayne County, New York in 1815. At the age of 24 he was married to Welthena Phelps. In 1854 they moved to Eaton County, Mich., at that time a comparatively new section of the state, covered with heavy forests. In 1857 his wife died leaving four small children, all born in the State of New York. Three others had died in early childhood. The children's names were as follows: David, born April 14, 1838, died September 20, 1852; Myron, born December 10, 1840, died March 10, 1842; John, born January 14, 1844, died September 12, 1855; Marvin, born March 18, 1846, now lives at Elwell; Cora Ann, born May 27, 1850, now wife of R. C. Latimer, of Alma; Mary J., born September 9, 1852, lives at Alma; Edgar, born December 7, 1854. In 1859 Philander Follick was again married, Martha Knapp, of Carmel, Eaton County, Mich., becoming his wife. She was formerly from the State of New York. Two children resulted from this union—Myron Melvin, born August 28, 1860, died April 28, 1913. Welthena, born May 16, 1863, now the wife of Charles Taylor, of Seville.

Philander Follick died September 5, 1896, in his 81st year. Martha Follick, his wife, died August 25, 1902, at the age of 76. Both died at their home on section 19 of Sumner, where they had lived since 1892.

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Many others of the township's earlier settlers are worthy of especial mention but circumstances of time, space and lack of complete and satisfactory details permit of the following only:

**The Strayers—Daniel,** the father and his sons **Nathaniel, Jacob, Michael** and **William,** from Lucas County, Ohio, settled on section 6 of Sumner Township in 1855. The were reliable and worthy pioneers and did their share in that early day to start the county on its way toward its present flourishing and civilized condition. At the first election in the township—April 7, 1856—Michael K. Strayer was chosen as one of the justices of the peace. Daniel Strayer, the father, was elected township treasurer in 1857. All of the sons served in the Civil War, and William lost his life in the service. Nathaniel died September 24, 1908, aged 81; Michael K. died April 10, 1909, aged 84; Jacob died at his home in Elm Hall, August 9, 1911, aged 82.

**Baron Blanchard,** who came to Sumner with the Strayers and who married a daughter of the elder Strayer was prominent in the township in many ways. He was the first postmaster at Elm Hall, elected township

clerk in 1857, and served in the Civil War. He died at the Soldiers' Home, Grand Rapids, November 23, 1910.

**Samuel Story,** born in England, February 23, 1829, came to America in 1849, and in 1855 came to Gratiot County, settling on sections 19 and 20 of Sumner. He cut his road in to his place, making an original road for a distance of eleven miles. His first wife, whom he married in England, was Johanna Giddings, who died at the family home May 20, 1867. His second wife, to whom he was married September 6, 1867, was Mrs. Mary (Mecomber) Braddish. She died at Alma, April 19, 1912, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. A. Schlappi. Mr. Story was highly respected and served as highway commissioner several terms. He died at the home of his daughter in Owosso, July 5, 1912, aged 83 years.

**George S. Bell** was born in Massachusetts, July 30, 1812, and removed with his parents to Ohio. He came to Gratiot in the fall of 1854, locating on a tract of the forest in southwestern Sumner. He is said to have been the third settler in Sumner Township, the two preceding him being Hamilton Pritchard and Timothy Bardwell. When the nucleus which afterward developed into the present Village of Sumner was first conceived and planted, the spot was called Belltown in honor of Mr. Bell, and by that name it was known for several years. Mr. Bell was largely engaged in lumbering. He was twice married, first to Triphena Barker, who died April 18, 1859, and second to Mrs. Louisa (Worthing) Peters. He died June 1, 1902, aged 90 years.

**Seneca Sly,** a pioneer of Sumner Township and still a resident of Elm Hall, is a son of George J. and Samantha (Riggs) Sly, and was born in White Oak, Ingham County, Mich., January 20, 1842; received a good common school education and at the age of 20 enlisted in the U. S. military service a member of the 26th Mich. Infantry. After his discharge he came to Sumner Township, locating at Elm Hall, where he has been engaged in various lines of business, and has always been ranked as one of the town's leading citizens. He was township clerk and justice of the peace several years. In 1882 he was appointed postmaster and has held the office a large share of the time since. He was married to Mary I. Boyd, February 22, 1866, at Elm Hall. His father, George J. Sly, was a justice of the peace several years and was postmaster at Elm Hall from 1867 to 1875.

**Christopher Cleverdon** was a prominent citizen of Sumner Township, especially along in the '70s, when, among other important positions held by him was that of supervisor from 1871 to '74, inclusive. He departed this life March 15, 1883, at the age of 48 years.

**Lucien H. Dayton,** who died in Sumner Township December 5, 1888, at the age of 54 years, was for many years a conspicuous citizen in official life, holding the office of justice of the peace several terms, and township clerk seven years, beginning with 1871.

**Edward L. Drake** was born April 5, 1811, in Cayuga County, N. Y., son of Elijah and Abigail (Stoddard) Drake. He became a teacher and was engaged in other avocations. In 1862 he came to St. Louis. He removed to Sumner Village in 1868, where he died in February, 1896, aged 85 years. While a resident of St. Louis he was elected supervisor of Bethany in 1862 and '65, and in Sumner he was justice of the peace 12 years.

**Burgess Hall** was an influential citizen of Sumner Township many years, especially in the '80s when he served as supervisor of his township four years—'86-'89. He died August 7, 1891, aged about 60 years.

**John Mecomber,** who settled in Sumner Township in 1854 among the very first of the pioneers, died March 8, 1874, aged 67 years. There was no other house within six miles of his own log shanty. As an indication of his standing among his fellows it is enough to say that he was made township treasurer six years successively—1860 to '65. Mrs. Mecomber, the wife, died January 17, 1892, aged 84.

**Michael McNamara,** a prominent farmer for many years on section 10, Sumner Township, was born in Ireland, November 1, 1826, son of James and Mary (Curtis) McNamara. Michael came to America in 1849, and in April, 1855, found his way to Gratiot, taking up land in the wilds of Sumner, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was married in Massachussets, December 31, 1854, to Margaret Hallarron, a native of Ireland. Seven children were born to them—James, Cornelius, Henry, Michael, Mary, Katie and Sarah. The McNamara family, individually, were and are, among the most reliable and substantial in the township. Mr. McNamara, the father died February 10, 1892.

**Hamilton Pritchard,** whose name is firmly implanted in the memories of all the older residents of Sumner, was born in Gates County, N. Y., June 16, 1818, son of Levi and Lydia (Pratt) Pritchard. In the course of time he came to Gratiot County, landing on section 1 of Sumner in the fall of 1854, and was, possibly, the first permanent settler in the township. By industry and perseverence he created a fine farm from the native wilderness. He was married first in Hornellsville, N. Y., to Lucy Brown. She died January 16, 1863, and August 1, 1864, he married Mrs. Minerva (Newville) Hahn. Mr. Pritchard was in the public eye of Gratiot people several years along in the '70s on account of his explorations for gold in the bowels of his real estate, which he was led to believe existed there in large quantities. His efforts proved futile. He died December 27, 1897.

**Ralph Quick** came to Gratiot County in 1871, purchasing a farm on section 3, Sumner. He was born in Pennsylvania and was married to Calista Treat, a native of New York State. As a resident of Sumner Mr. Quick stood well in the esteem of his townsmen who made him justice of the peace in 1873, highway commissioner in '77, and supervisor in '75 and '76. His son, Gustavus, was township treasurer in 1883 and '84, and was supervisor in 1885. Ralph Quick died at the home of his son George, in Sumner, April 4, 1897, aged 90. The wife and mother preceded him, passing away March 29, 1882, aged 70.

**Homer L. Townsend,** a resident of Sumner Township in the day that tried men's souls, and the second sheriff of the county, was born in Genesee County, N. Y., February 14, 1817, son of Chester and Delight (Wilber) Townsend. Homer L. came to Michigan in 1835 and engaged in teaching in Livingston County for a time, afterward going to Detroit where, in 1842, he married Jeannette Wilcox. She died in 1850. October 5, 1854, he was married at Eaton Rapids, to Ruby Piersons, daughter of Josiah and Lorilla (Clark) Piersons, born in Genesee County, N. Y., August 3, 1833. Early in 1855 they settled on section 11, of Sumner, which remained their residence until Mr. Townsend's death, which occurred February 19, 1879. In the fall of 1856 Mr. Townsend was elected sheriff of the county, receiving 317 votes to 164 for Hiram Burgess. He was re-elected in 1858, by a vote of 280 to 271 for Jo. B. Smith. Mr. Townsend is credited with having been a man of integrity and ability, and with having been responsible for the township being named Sumner.

**Henry A. Weiss,** elected representative in the state legislature on the Democratic ticket in 1884, was a leading and popular citizen of Sumner

several years, supervisor of the township six years. Later he removed to St. Louis, where he was officially connected with the city government several years. He died February 24, 1905, at the age of 61 years.

Other citizens whose names occur to mind as having been leaders in the township's business and official life are—George and Isaac Gee; George Stratton; William H. Pratt (sheriff in 1872 and '74); Warren C. Pugsley; Leo. J. Schaeffer; William L. Hutchinson; Ellis A. Potter; Joseph and George Rockafellow; Thomas J. Blair; Birton I. Gee; A. E. Fowler; H. A. Clow; Geo. H. Oliver and half a hundred others.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Alvord, Wm. A.,** April 19, 1900, aged 73.

**Benedict, Hiram,** March 7, 1883, aged 84.

**Bardwell, Hannah,** May 2, 1879, aged 84.

**Bigelow, Mrs. Samuel,** March 11, 1896, aged 51.

**Bigelow, Samuel,** Nov. 25, 1903, aged 76. Settled in Sumner Village in 1866 and went into business as a druggist. Was called somewhat eccentric. Was postmaster, township clerk, school inspector and justice.

**Blanchard, Mrs. Christina (Strayer),** wife of Baron Blanchard, March 20, 1904, aged 73.

**Boyer, Mrs. Anton,** Dec. 9, 1911, aged 71. An esteemed resident since 1869.

**Butcher, Geo. J.,** at his home in Elm Hall, January 2, 1912, aged 79. One of Sumner's first-class citizens, in mercantile trade, settling here in 1862.

**Courter, David,** Oct. 30, 1871, aged 64.

**Clow, John W.,** March 1, 1889, aged 80.

**Clow, Mrs. Cynthia,** wife of John W. Clow, February 22, 1889, aged 76.

**Clark, Charles,** March 23, 1879, aged 80.

**Clark, Mortimer R.,** June 3, 1897, aged 51.

**Clow, Anna,** Dec. 13, 1891, aged 45.

**Clark, Wm. D.,** March 26, 1899, aged 72.

**Clark, James A.,** July 3, 1899, aged 70.

**Clapper, Martin B.,** at Elm Hall, Nov. 6, 1910, aged 70. A Union soldier; settled in Gratiot in 1866.

**Carothers, Robert,** 1911, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carr, aged 80. He settled in Washington Township in 1854; one of the earliest settlers, brother of Wm. V., Daniel, and of Mrs. Wm. W. Comstock.

**Carothers, Mrs. Hannah,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Carr, February 13, 1912, aged 80; widow of Robert Carothers.

**Dunlap, John,** Dec. 20, 1897. An old resident; his wife preceded him in death about 10 days.

**Douglas, Micajah,** May 6, 1907, aged 78.

**Fowler, Miss Mary,** May 29, 1895, aged 92. It was said of her, "She never married, as she had a great antipathy for all men. An exceedingly wise old lady, as she thus escaped many of the trials and troubles of this life."

**Fowler, Mrs. Benj.,** March 16, 1896, aged 73. One of the pioneers.

**Ferris, Louisa M.,** April 22, 1900, aged 61.

**Follick, Philander,** Sept. 5, 1896, aged 80 years. (See sketch of Edgar Follick.)

**Follick, Mrs. Martha,** wife of Philander Follick, Aug. 25, 1902, aged 76.

**Fullerton, J. W.,** at his home, Nov. 17, 1911. A well-known resident many years.

**Fowler, John,** at his home near Sumner Village, February 4, 1912, aged 70 years. A hustling, energetic and respected old settler.

**Ferris, Henry C.,** February 17, 1912, aged 77 years. A prominent resident many years and well esteemed.

**Fullerton, Mrs. Jane (Bragg),** at the home of her daugpter, Mrs. W. C. Pugsley, at Elwell, March 2, 1913, aged 74 years. With her husband, Joseph W. Fullerton, she came to Gratiot County in 1868, settling in Sumner Township. Mr. Fullerton passed away in 1911.

**Follick, Melvin,** April 28, 1913, resulting from injuries received six years previously. His age was 52 years.

**Giddings, John,** Oct. 6, 1870, aged 78.

**Gee, Isaac,** June 23, 1886, aged 49. He settled in Sumner in 1854, and was an active and enterprising pioneer; supervisor in 1859, and held other positions later.

**Gee, George E.,** January 3, 1893, aged 60. He was one of the early settlers, locating in 1854; an energetic and upright citizen, brother of Isaac and Joseph Gee.

**Gee, Joseph,** Dec. 12, 1894, aged 54. Brother of Isaac and George E. Gee, settling in Sumner in 1854.

**Griffin, Henry,** July 16, 1894. A respected pioneer.

**Graham, Mrs.,** wife of Dr. F. J. Graham, of Sumner Village, Oct. 11, 1903, aged 29. An estimable lady, daughter of Wm. Standish, of New Haven.

**Gee, Eliza,** July 4, 1911, aged 85.

**Graham, Ruth Ann,** Aug. 21, 1911, aged 81.

**Griffin, Mrs. Rosanna (Shaffer),** at Elm Hall, March 1, 1913, aged 76. She came to Gratiot County with her husband, Henry Griffin, in 1863.

**Hawkins, John,** April, 1873, aged 70. He is said to have been the first mercantile dealer in Elm Hall.

**Hultz, Rev. Richard,** April 8, 1883. A retired Baptist clergyman.

**Harvey, Thomas,** Nov. 14, 1908, at an advanced age.

**Holly, John,** January 5, 1909. For 35 years a resident of Elm Hall. His aged wife preceded him about a month.

**Hicks, James,** at the home of his son, Philip, Dec. 20, 1907, aged nearly 87.

**Haines, Mrs. Mary Ann,** Sept. 7, 1910, aged 83; widow of B. W. Haines who settled in Sumner in 1865, passing away in 1900.

**Hawkins, Lydia,** Feb. 19, 1910, aged 81.

**Hewlett, James,** Sept. 30, 1912, aged 86.

**Isham, Almon,** Oct. 23, 1877, aged 68.

**Kinkerter, Mrs. Maria (Mull),** wife of Henry Kinkerter, January 4, 1906, aged 58. She settled in Emerson with her parents in 1860.

**Kelly, Joseph Eugene,** June 20, 1912, aged 54 years. A resident 22 years.

**Lyon, Catharine,** April 28, 1874, aged 51.

**Lott, Elmer,** Sept. 11, 1881, aged 47.

**Lang, John,** Aug. 4, 1884, aged 48.

**Lathrop, W. B.,** Dec. 25, 1895, aged 46. A prominent and popular lumber and mill man.

**Lyon, Orville H.,** April 17, 1890, aged 72.

**Lapaugh, Solomon,** June 16, 1893, aged 63. A pioneer and a leading citizen.

**Lovell, Joseph I.,** Dec. 17, 1900, aged 76. Located in Seville in 1856, but soon moved to Sumner. A Civil War soldier.

**Lang, Mrs. Letta,** wife of Richard Lang, Dec. 29, 1912, aged 40 years, leaving a husband, two children and many other friends.

**Lovell, Joseph I.,** Dec. 17, 1900, aged 76. Located in Seville in 1856, but soon
**Medler, John,** father of Wm. and John Medler, at the residence of his son, William, Oct. 25, 1883, aged 93 years; all first-class early settlers.
**Medler, John,** son of John Medler, Sr., Aug. 23, 1885, aged 50 years.
**Medler, Wm.,** son of John Medler, Sr., March 25, 1896.
**Mangus, Solomon,** in Sumner Village, March 11, 1910, aged 70. A soldier of the Civil War.
**Pratt, Wm. H.,** February, 1909, aged 87. A soldier in the Civil War, settled on section two, Sumner, in 1864. Active in public affairs; elected sheriff in 1872 and '74.
**Pugsley, Mrs. Sarah,** Aug. 9, 1912, aged 87; a respected old settler, widow of Wm. Pugsley.
**Parr, Henry,** Oct. 31, 1912, aged 84 years. He settled on section 28, Sumner in 1868, and was one of the reliable pioneers. Four children survive—Wesley H., of Alma; William, of Ferris, Montcalm County; Mrs. James Fisher and Miss Lucy Parr, of Sumner.
**Quick, Gustavus A.,** April 13, 1913, at his home in Sumner Township, aged 67 years. He became a resident of Sumner in 1871, later serving as supervisor, treasurer, justice of the peace and highway commissioner.
**Race, Calvin,** April 6, 1872, aged 47.
**Ruehle, Adam,** Jan. 3, 1913, aged 60 years. He settled in Sumner Township in 1886. A staunch and reliable farmer with many friends. A wife and six children survive.
**Romine, Henry Clay,** at St. Louis, Nov. 25, 1912, aged 68. He had lived many years in Sumner Township, until his removal to St. Louis in 1908. He was an old soldier.
**Sly, Geo. J.,** Nov. 13, 1882, aged 72. A reliable citizen, postmaster at Elm Hall from 1867 to '75, and justice of the peace several years. Father of Seneca Sly.
**Sly, Mrs. Samantha,** widow of Geo. J. Sly, at Elm Hall, Feb. 26, 1892, aged 79 years.
**Skinner, Mrs. Grace,** March 25, 1892, aged 72.
**Seifreid, Wm.,** Sept. 18, 1902, aged 69.
**Stratton, Wm. T.,** April 14, 1904, aged 80.
**Stratton, Mrs. Mary,** at the home of her son Thomas, Oct. 19, 1913, aged 85 years. An esteemed resident of Sumner more than 40 years.
**Tucker, Francis,** June 24, 1881, aged 75.
**Tucker, Agnes C.,** March 15, 1889, aged 73.
**Toy, James,** in Elm Hall, Aug. 3, 1911, at an advanced age. A soldier in the Civil War.
**Van Leuven, Wm.,** July 17, 1872, aged 64.
**Van Leuven, Wm. L.,** Oct. 29, 1910, aged 77.
**Walker, Peres,** March 28, 1873, aged 67. Township treasurer and justice of the peace.
**Wonders, Mrs.,** wife of C. C. Wonders, February 24, 1883; death resulting from over-exertion and exposure in rescuing her two children from their peril when a shed, overloaded with snow, fell upon them. The children were seriously, though not fatally, injured.
**Wilson, Wm.,** January 9, 1890, aged 56. Mrs. Wilson died in 1886.
**Woodard, Lester C.,** January 19, 1904, aged 61. A prominent and esteemed citizen.
**West, A.,** Oct. 2, 1907, aged 60. Many years a merchant of Sumner Village.
**Wolford, Job C.,** Nov. 2, 1906, aged 63. He came to Gratiot in 1858; was a Civil War soldier.

**Wilson, Mrs. Mary R.**, February 17, 1908, aged 65; wife of Dr. Edward Wilson, of Elm Hall.

**Whitman, Frank**, at the home of Henry Kinkerter, where he resided, March 10, 1912, aged 53 years. He was found dead in bed, a victim of heart disease. He was unmarried and had resided with Mr. K. many years.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1874, Aug. 17—The large barn of George S. Bell, near Sumner Village, burned with all its contents. Loss, $2,500; no insurance. Thought to have been of incendiary origin.

1879, Jan. 21—The farm residence of Solomon Lapaugh was burned, with nearly all the household goods. Loss, $1,500, with some insurance.

1882, March 3—The residence of Mrs. W. A. Edmonson, at Elm Hall, burned. Loss partially covered by $500 insurance.

1883, Feb. 21—The residence of Samuel Story, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire.

1885, May 28—W. B. Lathrop & Co.'s sawmill, planing mill and shingle mill, between Elm Hall and Riverdale, were destroyed by fire, with 50,000 shingles and 200,000 feet of lumber. The flouring mill, located across the road, to the westward, escaped; to be burned about 15 years later—Feb. 17, 1900.

1887, Jan. 2—At about 10 o'clock, a. m., J. C. Ring's building at Elm Hall, in which was located the postoffice, was destroyed by fire, together with Mr. Ring's drug and millinery stocks, Seneca Sly's justice office and the postoffice. The fire was communicated to Blair & Houck's building, consisting of three stores, and it was entirely destroyed with the contents. Dr. Osborn's drug store also burned. Total loss was about $8,000, about half covered by insurance.

1896, July 26—James McNamara's barn was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire, together with the contents, causing a large loss, partly covered by insurance.

1900, Feb. 17—The flouring mill located between Elm Hall and Riverdale, was burned to the ground; a severe loss, especially to the community. It was owned by W. D. Kimball, of Toledo. It was built by C. B. Whitney in the summer of 1875.

1901, March 6—The farm house of Charles Shepherd burned with most of its contents. Insured.

1905, Feb. 3—Thos. Stratton lost his house by fire, and most of its contents, with no insurance.

1907, July 29—On this date Sumner Village had the most serious fire in its history. It occurred in the evening. The fire commenced on the south side of the main street, and took out West & Son's general store, Mrs. Mulford's millinery store, J. D. West's drug store, the G. A. R. building, McGreanor's blacksmith and wagon shop, and the postoffice. Crossing the street, Irett Tucker's hardware store, M. E. Race's general store and Mrs. Pugsley's dwelling house were destroyed. The losers took advantage of their opportunity and soon had the burned-over district well covered with fine cement buildings. So the improved appearance of the business portion of the town goes a long way toward compensating for the losses.

1909, Oct. 29—The farm house of Allen Stafford was burned, with nearly all of the household goods. The origin of the fire was a mystery. Partially insured.

1910, May 7—Fire destroyed the house and barn of Melvin Follick, with the contents of the barn and part of the household goods. There was some insurance.

1910, July 8—Wm. Connor's barn, near Elm Hall, was struck by lightning, setting it on fire and burning it to ashes. Two horses were killed by the electric bolt, and Mr. Connor who was between the horses received a severe though not fatal shock. Loss about $1,000.

1910, Aug. 10—The house of Wm. Parks was burned at 10 o'clock a. m. Supposed to have been set by mice "knawing" matches, according to one published account.

1910, Aug. 15—Arthur Fowler, of Sumner Village, lost his barns by fire, together with the contents, the entire loss aggregating $5,000.

1913, July 6—The house of Thomas Wynne was destroyed by fire. Loss, $2,000, partially insured. The fire was communicated to the log house of Sam. Arnold and that also was destroyed.

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

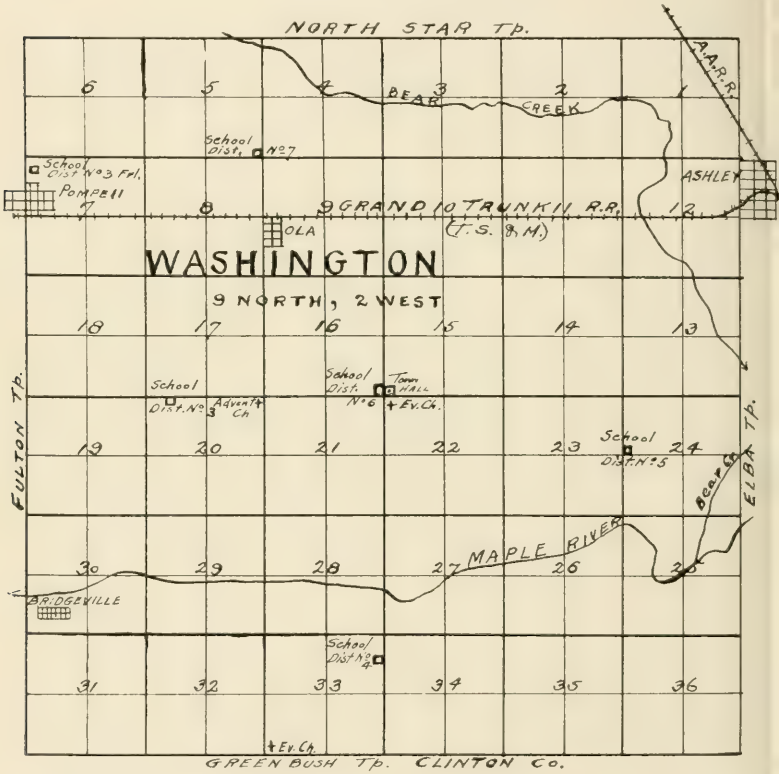
This township, one of the southern tier, is described as town 9 north, range 2 west. Maple River crosses the township from east to west, approximately one and a half miles from the southern border. In the early days and well along up to the beginning of the 20th century the sluggish stream, rendered much more so by the Maple Rapids dam, was a great drawback in one way, on account of its waters spreading over the country on either side and making swamps of what otherwise would have been valuable and productive hard land. That trouble has been practically eliminated in recent years by the removal of the dam, straightening and dredging the channel. The township is now one of the average townships of the county, with very little waste land, and altogether desirable for agricultural purposes.

The first settlers had their full share of the trials and tribulations so common in this county, and which are detailed at considerable length elsewhere. Many of them lived to enjoy the fruits of their persistent labors, and spent their declining years surrounded by conditions that fairly repaid them for their years of arduous labor and their many discouragements. But few of the original settlers are left; and the succeeding generation is being rapidly reduced in numbers by the Grim Reaper.

I have great satisfaction in availing myself of the results of researches into the early history of Washington Township by one competent to perform that task. Mrs. Mary C. Campbell, of Washington, wife of Oscar J. Campbell, and daughter of the late William Long, of the same township, read a paper before the county pioneers at a meeting held at Ithaca in 1903, giving facts of early history, together with her comments and conclusions, and at my request she kindly furnished me a copy, the greater portion of which I am incorporating in this brief history of the township and its people. Mrs. Campbell does not attempt to give a connected history of the early settlement of the township, but gives, rather, some incidents going to illustrate what it means in joys and sorrows to be one of the van-guard in the settlement of such a veritable wilderness as was all north of Maple River in the early '50s. Some interesting musings and some amusing incidents are included in the paper, and all will be enjoyed as an interesting and valuable addition to the other facts and fancies bearing upon Gratiot's pioneer period. Mrs. Campbell knew whereof she wrote, and knew well how to tell it:

"'Tis said that as we near the sunset gate of life, memory loves best to linger on the days long since gone by. So, thinking to give, perchance, a pleasant hour to those who have been longest on the way, we write again the twice-told tales of 'early days in Washington.'

"Back in the dim and misty past when our prosperous county was the home only of the Indians, they found along its southern borders on the banks of a quiet stream, one lovely spot where the river widened to a little bay around its bank, and stretching northward was their favorite




camping grounds. Here the peaceful Chippewa built his wigwam; here, too, he chose a burying place for those who left this land for the happy hunting grounds. The silvery waters of the silvery Maple were parted only by his light canoe, and only the smoke from his wigwam arose at twilight toward the evening sky.

"Someway—we cannot tell just how; sometime—we cannot tell just when, tales of this fair spot were told in distant lands; and soon his 'echoing ax' the settler swung. Ohio and New York furnished most of the

earliest pioneers, a few coming from Southern Michigan. From various walks of life they came; but all with one object in view—to make for themselves and families a home. How well they succeeded, Washington today clearly shows.

"So far as we are able to learn, Philetus Whitford was the first actual settler in the township. Early in 1853 he came, bringing his family with him. He built his house on what is now section 10, and before his cabin door planted some apple seeds. One night last winter, on returning home late, we stopped for a look, by moonlight, at the first home in Washington; the old log cabin abandoned years ago. Its chimney had fallen down, its sides were caving in and the 'leaky roof let in the sunshine and the rain'. And today a mammoth apple tree alone marks the spot.

"The same year—1853—to the Whitford home came Cornelius Campbell. Here he lived during the winter, paying for his board by furnishing the Whitfords with venison, while he chopped, and built a shanty on his land several miles away. To this home he brought his family May 1, 1854. Many stories of these early days he used to tell. One morning that same summer he was startled to hear the sound of an ax in the woods. Taking his gun he started to investigate and found George Mikesell and family preparing to build a shanty. He saluted him with, 'Who are you and what are you doing here?' 'Well, sir,' said Mr. Mikesell, 'I live here; where do you hail from?' 'Right back here on the next section, and I'm mighty glad to see you.'

"During the summer Mr. Campbell would go out to the Benedict plains in Clinton County and work for the farmers, bringing back provisions up the river in a canoe, and then carrying them five or six miles home on his back. The family depended on his trusty gun for venison. Fortunately for them, there were no troublesome game laws. Sometimes, when the meal was gone and the trip to Fish Creek mill took longer than was expected, the children would all take turns at turning the coffee mill till enough corn was ground to make a johnnie cake. Then the mother would burn the corn cobs and use the ashes in place of baking soda.

"In 1855 came W. W. Comstock, Major Worden, Rodney Way, Isaac Henson, Robert Carothers, Joe B. Smith, L. F. Moon and others.

The first white child born in the township was Clarence Comstock, born to W. W. Comstock and wife in 1855. The child died in infancy. About this time the first school was started, with Mary Fox as teacher. The Comstock, Moon and Campbell children, seven in number, were the pupils. The teacher received $1.50 a week and 'boarded around' with the three families. Maria Hoffman was one of the early teachers and her salary was partly paid in maple sugar.

"Social functions were not neglected for we are told of a five o'clock tea given in 1855 by Mrs. Rodney Way. She invited Mrs. Doan to meet Mrs. Comstock. When tea was announced it consisted of a large plate of stewed squash, and that was all. Mrs. Way offered no apology; and none was needed, for she gave them the best she had. We suppose the ladies assured her they had enjoyed a very pleasant visit and that the squash was just lovely.

"In 1855 the township was organized, and April 7, 1856, the first township meeting was held, at which time W. W. Comstock was elected supervisor; James Foot, clerk; Edwin Tripp, treasurer. They were anxious that justice might prevail, for we find that Edwin Tripp, Cyrus Cory, Henry Smith and Franklin Main were elected justices of the peace. Leander Johnson, Robert Carothers, Albert Pierson and Percy Man were chosen constables. The school interests were looked after by Joe B. Smith and Orson

Stoddard. Erastus Kidder and George Mikesell were overseers of the poor, while Philetus Whitford and Cornelius Campbell were elected highway commissioners. There were 37 voters, and 17 of them secured an office. No wonder they tell of good old times. Of course the women were not permitted to vote; but to Mrs. Comstock was given the task of making the first assessment roll." (See Washington elections.)

"L. F. Moon used to tell the story of how he was nearly killed by a bear. Returning home late one night after an unsuccessful search for his cows, he saw that he was being followed on the opposite side of a brush fence by a large bear. He had no gun and had been deserted by his dog, Tragar. He started on a wild run, calling loudly for his dog as he went. Looking back he saw, to his horror, that the bear was gaining at every step. On he ran at his utmost speed, calling widly, 'Here Tragar, here Tragar!' As he neared the end of the brush fence, his foot caught and down he went, where he lay panting and exhausted on the ground. The bear reached the spot in a moment and sprang upon him. 'I thought my last hour had come,' said Mr. Moon, 'but it was only my faithful Tragar, after all.'

"In 1857 came Joseph Vosburg, bringing his family by way of Maple Rapids. They lived in a little log school house in Fulton while their shanty was being built, and when they reached their Washington home their little son Harold was only one week old; no doubt the youngest person who ever made the journey to Washington.

"There are many names that should be mentioned here. Clark, Turner, Horton Smith, John English, Duncan, Miles, Martin, Winklepee, Briggs Bentley, John Underwood and others, all of whom were pioneers of those early days. Joseph B. Smith came in 1855, we believe, and Joe B's tavern was the most celebrated place in town. Here Pompeii's postoffice was established, the mail being carried by the Smith boys on their Indian ponies. Famous harvest dancing parties were held here, though what had been harvested does not appear; but the old log tavern was the scene of many a merry night.

"In 1860 the long bridge at Bridgeville was built and the state road chopped through. Gen. Ely had a traveling store, where leeky butter could be exchanged for tea, tobacco and blue drilling. There were town boomers in those days, and Bridgeville was quickly built up with Peacock's sawmill having David Baney as foreman, Judge Sturgis' store and Pete Gardner's tavern. Byron A. Hicks may well be called the pioneer merchant, having been in business in Washington nearly forty years. James V. Carr was the local preacher. Divine services were usually held in private shanties.

"Washington was patriotic. At the close of the Civil War it was the boast of the inhabitants that their town never suffered a draft: the quota was always filled by voluntary enlistment. Here is an incident: The children at the little log school house on the state road remember one day the teacher spent all the noon hour pacing restlessly up and down the road. The children wondered why, little dreaming of the momentous question that was being settled in the young man's mind. When he called them together he told them there would be no more school. The boys 'hurrahed', for the teacher was going to war; but the little girls cried, as girls always do, for fear he would never come back. Then Charles B. Fraker joined his brother Ansel, and together they answered their country's call. The teacher returned, to die a few years later from the effects of exposure in the service; but Ansel Fraker sleeps in a hero's unknown grave.

"The Washingtonites had a varied experience with physicians in those early days. The first one was Dr. Buchanan, called by most people a 'quack', for he had small right to the honorable title of 'Doctor'. Added to his other accomplishments was that of wife-beating. Several of the citizens objected to this and gave him a coat, or rather a whole suit, of tar and feathers, and, because it was before the days of automobiles, gave him a free ride on a fence rail. A number of persons were arrested for this escapade and brought before W. E. Winton, prosecuting attorney. Frank Miller defended them. One man paid his attorney fee with hens. After Dr. Buchanan, came Dr. Stokes, a man of much ability, but lacking many of the qualifications necessary to a successful physician.

"In August, 1863, there came to Bridgeville a tall, slender boy. His only capital was his well-earned 'M. D.' Patients at first were few, as the people were scarce and healthy, so the 'boy doctor' hunted, fished, trapped muskrats, rowed up and down the river in his little canoe, but always ready for any emergency. Like all young professional men what he most wished for was practice. One day he had an opportunity. From a camp near by came an Indian bringing his squaw to have an aching tooth extracted. She made no objection to having the operation performed in Pete Gardner's bar room, and the Doctor, mindful always of his patient's welfare, ordered some whiskey to bathe the aching face, for the day was cold; but the squaw drank the whiskey. The Indian noticed that part of the program and then he wanted a tooth removed. The Doctor examined his teeth and found them perfectly sound. But here was a chance for the coveted practice, so the Doctor proceeded slowly and carefully to remove a perfectly sound tooth, and then ordered a glass of whiskey for the Indian. In a few minutes the Indian wanted another tooth removed. The Doctor once more made a careful examination and in a most scientific way the second tooth was removed, followed by another glass of whiskey for the Indian. By this time the pain must have 'gone to his head,' for he came back with, 'pull tooth, pull tooth!' Dr. Scott was young and dearly loved a joke; besides, he liked the practice, so the third sound tooth was removed, and the third glass of whiskey drank; but when he came to the fourth, John English and Capt. Danley, who were present, thought it time to call a halt. The Indian left minus three teeth, the Doctor paid for the whiskey; but he had the practice.

"Dr. Scott was an ardent Democrat, while the township was intensely Republican. At one time the name of W. D. Scott appeared on the Democrat ticket for school inspector, his political friends assuring him that enough Republicans would vote for him to assure his election. But alas! Party lines were tightly drawn, and not one Republican vote did he receive. Looking back today his friends are thankful for that defeat, for had he started on the downward road he might have reached the halls of congress instead of the heights enjoyed by the successful physician.

"But life was not all a joke to the young doctor, and the people found in him a friend in deed. Over logs, through woods and swamps he traveled, often on foot where his horse could not go, relieving distress, bringing back hope and health to many a home. One story is told of him, tying his horse to a tree, and wading the Bentley Creek though the water was waist deep and icy cold, relieving the patient, wading back to his horse and then riding ten miles to dry clothing. In rude uncomfortable homes he found his patients lacking all the comforts the sick ones need. Alone and single-handed he fought disease, taking the responsibility of living off shoulders

too weak to bear it. He assumed the battle against pain, and fought the sick man's duel for him. Often with tardy fee, or none at all, and with scanty thanks, he went his way up and down the land doing good. In the hearts of the old settlers of Washington is always a warm place for W. D. Scott, their 'boy physician.'

"William Long, Washington's veteran justice, took an active part in public affairs in those days. Legal matters were settled in his court. He addressed Sunday school picnics and political meetings, performed wedding ceremonies and conducted funerals, sometimes taking the part of both clergyman and undertaker. He tells many amusing wedding stories. One young man said he had no money to pay for the wedding ceremony, but would work it out. Accordingly next day he came, bringing his bride with him. Perhaps he did not value the ceremony very highly, for at noon he left and went to N. B. Fraker's where he mortgaged his wife's cow for money to treat the boys whom he expected would give him and his a charivari. The boys failed to come. The next day, at Bridgeville, he met a traveling preacher. Feeling very generous he presented the preacher's wife with a new gown, using the money he had got by mortgaging his wife's cow to pay for it. What the bride said is not recorded.

"One evening a couple came to be married, but the justice was absent. The bride brought a box containing a most wonderful creation of lace and paper flowers, called a head-dress; also a pair of gaiters. She retired behind a spinning-wheel and was soon arrayed in her bridal finery. The 'squire' arrived home at one o'clock next morning, and soon sent the couple on their way rejoicing. The 'squire' was very popular at weddings on account of his elaborate ceremony. His wife had taken great pains to teach him to deliver it in a properly impressive manner. The wedding of Giles Coon and Lavina Lovewell was to be 'very swell' indeed. Alas, the squire's best shoes were much too shabby; in fact, he practically had no shoes at all. But that was a mere trifle in those days. He borrowed a pair from Gaylord Helms and was promptly on hand, arrayed in the borrowed shoes, with his elegant ceremony. He was called upon to marry over 150 couples.

"The Washington mothers experienced all the hardships known to new country life. One lady was taken ill and there was no doctor. But the neighbors came to her relief. One brought a box containing two pills, and a bottle of liniment. Some powders that had been brought from Ohio were produced. What they were for no one knew; but they were all given to the sick woman, and the liniment was duly applied; and she is alive today.

"One great trial was unexpected company. It was a common thing to be out of tea; and it was a fortunate circumstance if some could be borrowed. On one of those occasions a little boy was sent a mile and a half one morning to borrow some tea; and when he reached the place he was too frightened to tell what he had come for. He said it was because a little black-eyed girl with a red dress on stood and looked at him. After he had grown older—and bolder—he went there again and persuaded the little girl to go and live at his house. Among the wedding presents they found a pound of tea.

"The old pioneers, as we call them—but they were not old in those days, but young and happy in spite of their trials—rose above the difficulties and discouragements, and made for themselves and us, homes that are to them lasting monuments. But a land more bright than this awaits them,

and on their way to it they'll soon again be pioneers. Many have gone; others soon will follow. But in that far land they'll find the rough paths all made smooth, and there they will rest from their labors. So we will not say to them 'good night'; but, in a fairer land will bid them 'good morning.'"

## WASHINGTON ELECTIONS.

The records show that the first election in Washington Township was held April 7, 1856; and the record of the proceedings and the results are herewith given verbatim; not with the purpose of poking fun at the literary struggles of the pioneers, but more to show that they were ready to tackle any job that seemed to come along in the line of duty. There were 37 votes cast; and here goes the record: "At the first annel meeting of the township of washington gratiot county michigan the following resolutions was past resolved that james M Foot was chosen to act as clerk for the day and orson stoddad to act as moderator and edwin Tripp and A Squire to act as inspectors of the township meeting and the following votes was taken for Supervisor their was therty seven votes poled for william W Comstock and for cyrus corry nineteen and for township clerk their was thirty Eight votes Pold for james M foot and for treasuer their was thirty five votes poled for Edwin Tripp and for james M foot one and for justice of the Peace their was one hundread and fifty nine for Edwin Tripp twenty six and for franklin Main thirty six and for cyrus cory twenty six and for Henry Smith thirty eight and cornelieus Campbell two and joseph Smith one and for A A Squire one and for jotham L. parker one orson Stoddard eleven and for william v Corothers two for School inspectors their was Seventy one votes poled for joseph B Smith thirty five and for orson Stoddard twenty three and for A A Squire thirteen and for highway commissioners their was one hundread and Seventeen votes poled for cornelieus campbeell their was thirty seven and for russel done their was thirty nine and for philetus Whitford twenty six and for William Miles thirteen and for leander johnson two and for constables their was one hundread and fifty one votes poled for A P Main thirty nine and for robert B carothers thirty fore and for Abbert Peirson their was thirty eight and for Leander johnson twenty fore and for Abbert deline one and for C parkinson eleven and for Albert carothers one and for moses renals two And for rodna way one and for overseers of the poor their was eighty three votes for erastus Kidder twenty five and for george mikesell twenty and for william v Corothers twelve and for Jotham L. parker thirteen and for edwin tripp thirteen."

At first view this looks like a hodge-podge of words, but a little close application brings out the facts fairly well. In the case of the vote on supervisor, a literal reading of the record would make it appear that for that office W. W. Comstock got 37 votes and Cyrus Cory 19. But that would make the total vote 56. The scribe's punctuation is horribly deficient, in the first place, and in other ways his writing is not strictly up to standard, as almost anyone can readily see. Then he evidently left out the word "eighteen" after the name of W. W. Comstock. Thus it should read, "for supervisor their was therty seven votes poled—for william W. Comstock **eighteen**, and for cyrus corry nineteen"; etc. In its recapitulation of the vote and the result, the inspectors straighten the matter out thus:

**April, 1856:** Sup.—Cyrus Cory; Clk.—Jas. M. Foot; Treas.—Edwin Tripp; H. C.—Cornelius Campbell, Philetus Whitford, Russell Done (probably Doan); J. P.—Edwin Tripp, Franklin Main, Cyrus Cory, Henry Smith;

Sch. Insp.—Joseph B. Smith, Orson Stoddard; Overseers of Poor—Erastus Kidder, Geo. Mikesell; Const.—A. P. Main, Robert Carothers, Albert Pierson, Leander Johnson.

April 17, '56, Cyrus Cory resigned as supervisor, and on April 21, '56, Wm. W. Comstock took the oath of office as supervisor. The records fail to say that he was appointed to the vacancy by the township board, but the record being clear that he was sworn in as stated, there can be no other reasonable inference than that he was so appointed. Mr. Comstock removed to Ithaca during the summer of the same year, thus leaving a vacancy in the office of supervisor.

Sept. 25, 1856, a special township meeting was held to elect a supervisor and a justice of the peace to fill vacancies. The number of votes cast was 23. For supervisor Alonzo A. Squire received 23; for justice of the peace Lysander F. Moon received 23.

Oct. 1, 1856, Alonzo A. Squire took the oath of office as supervisor.

Oct. 6, 1856, the board appointed Briggs J. Bentley clerk and Robert B. Carothers treasurer in place of Jas. M. Foot and Edwin Tripp, respectively, both having removed from the township.

In addition to those mentioned above in the election returns, the following voted at the first election in the township: Wm. M. Mikesell; John Clark, Benj. Woodman, John Winklepee, John Collins, Jas. V. Carr, Major Wordin, John Whitford, John Underwood, Jacob Ream, Nathan C. Hastings, Wm. Shaffer, John Myer, Andrew Deline.

At the November election, 1856, there were 33 votes cast—Republican, 30; Democrat 3. The Democratic county ticket ran ahead, getting four votes, to 29 for the Republican ticket.

**April, 1857:** Sup.—Jas. M. Foot; Clk.—B. J. Bentley; Treas.—Orson Stoddard; H. C.—Rodney Way; J. P.—Alonzo A. Squire, Peter Keen; Sch. Insp.—Joseph B. Smith; Overseers of Poor—Jas. V. Carr, Erastus Kidder; Const.—Benjamin Woodman, Orson Kenicut, Chas. Fuller, Jas. V. Carr.

Feb. 20, 1858, the board appointed Orson Stoddard supervisor vice Jas. M. Foot, resigned.

**April, 1858:** Sup.—Jo. B. Smith; Clk.—B. J. Bentley; Treas.—Orson Stoddard; H. C.—Leander Johnson; J. P.—Wilber Coon; Sch. Insp.—Wilber Coon.

A committee was appointed to report to the board of supervisors that the dam at Maple Rapids overflows the township and causes sickness, etc.

**April, 1859:** The number of votes was 49.

Sup.—Jo. B. Smith; Clk.—B. J. Bentley; Treas.—Orson Stoddard; H. C.—Andrew Deline; vacancy, Cornelius Campbell; J. P.—Orson Stoddard; Sch. Insp.—A. A. Squire.

**April, 1860:** Sup.—Jo. B. Smith; Clk.—B. J. Bentley; Treas.—O. Stoddard; H. C.—C. Campbell 21, L. F. Moon 19, Joseph Vosburg 18, Albert Bovee 17, D. D. Stoddard 14, H. Smith 10; J. P.—Peter Keen; Sch. Insp.—D. Douglas.

Nov. 18, 1860, the vote was 34 Rep., 14 Dem.

**April, 1861:** Number of votes cast was 40.

Sup.—Jo. B. Smith; Clk.—B. J. Bentley; Treas.—Samuel D. Douglas; H. C.—Albert Bovee; J. P.—Wm. Long; vacancy, Edwin Clark; Sch. Insp.—A. A. Squire.

**April, 1862:** Sup.—Napoleon B. Fraker; Clk.—D. D. Stoddard; Treas.—Geo. O. Dowd; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—Horton Smith; Sch. Insp.—Giles Coon.

Sept. 3, '62, Walter S. Howd was appointed supervisor, to act during the disability of Supervisor N. B. Fraker.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Edwin Clark; Clk.—N. B. Fraker; Treas.—Geo. O. Dowd; H. C.—Albert Pierson; vacancy, D. D. Stoddard; J. P.—Orson Stoddard; vacancy, Edwin Clark; Sch. Insp.—Ansel J. Fraker; vacancy, Orin W. Barnes.

A special election was held Dec. 24, 1863 to vote on the proposition to pay a bounty of $200 to each volunteer or drafted man. Yes, 21; no, 1.

**April, 1864:** Sup.—Edwin Clark; Clk.—N. B. Fraker; Treas.—Geo. O. Dowd; H. C.—Isaac Henson; vacancy, Benj. Woodman; J. P.—Peter Keen; vacancy, Stephen McPherson; Sch. Insp.—Merritt Randolph; vacancy, Horton Smith.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Alex. Pulfrey; Clk.—Horton Smith; Treas.—Geo. O. Dowd; Sch. Insp.—E. G. Bement.

**April, 1866:** Sup.—N. B. Fraker; Clk.—Chas. B. Fraker; Treas.—Geo. O. Dowd; H. C.—Albert Bovee; J. P.—Edward Y. Kelley; vacancy, L. F. Moon; Sch. Insp.—Henry A. Shaw.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—Silas W. Everest; Treas.—Solomon Wyman; H. C.—Thos. Campbell; J. P.—Wm. Martin; Sch. Insp.—Chas. B. Fraker.

Sept. 14, '67, the board appointed Wm. P. Bolds clerk vice S. W. Everest.

A special election was held Nov. 22, '67, to vote aid to the extent of three per cent. of the assessed valuation, for a plank and gravel road from St. Johns to St. Louis. Yes, 39; no, 34.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—E. Y. Kelley; Treas.—Sol Wyman; H. C.—L. F. Moon; vacancy, Thos. Campbell; J. P.—Elisha Whitney; Sch. Insp.—John Mikesell.

At the Nov. election, 1868, Rep., 59; Dem., 48.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—Edwin Clark; Clk.—John C. Heslin; Treas.—Sol. Wyman; H. C.—Michael D. Britten; J. P.—N. B. Fraker; Sch. Insp.—Addison Fraker.

Sept. 29, '69, Orin J. Sprague was appointed school inspector by the board.

A special election was held Oct. 19, '69, to vote on aid of $8,000 to the proposed Lansing, St. Johns & Mackinaw Railroad. Yes, 84; no, 23.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—Solomon Wyman; Clk.—Samuel H. Griffith; Treas.—Geo. English; H. C.—Thos. Campbell; vacancy, Jas. E. Rhynard; J. P.—E. Y. Kelley; Sch. Insp.—Orin J. Sprague; vacancy, Eben Climer.

Early in April S. H. Griffith resigned as clerk, and the board appointed Elijah Bovee to the office.

**April, 1871:** Sup.—N. B. Fraker; Clk.—Elijah Bovee; Treas.—Albert Bovee; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—H. A. Shaw; Dr. Com.—Geo. O. Dowd.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—John C. Heslin; Treas.—Jas. Sturgis; H. C.—Chas. S. Douglas; J. P.—Wm. Martin; Sch. Insp.—Samuel H. Wellings; Dr. Com.—A. K. Dodge.

At the election of Nov., 1872—Rep., 54; Dem., 24.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—J. C. Heslin; Treas.—Horton Smith; H. C.—Thos. Campbell; J. P.—Edwin Clark; Sch. Insp.—O. J. Sprague 52, Martin W. Coon 52.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—N. B. Fraker; Clk.—J. C. Heslin; Treas.—Geo. English; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—E. Y. Kelley; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Foster.

**April, 1875:** Sup.—John C. Heslin; Clk.—Byron A. Hicks; Treas.—Albert Bovee; H. C.—Alonzo K. Dodge; J. P.—Wm. Long; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—Martin W. Coon; Dr. Com.—Joseph Vosburg.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—J. C. Heslin; Clk.—Geo. English; Treas.—Albert Bovee; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—Thompson Kirby; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—M. W. Coon; Dr. Com.—Benj. P. Kellogg.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—J. C. Heslin; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—T. Kirby; H. C.—Jacob Grubaugh; J. P.—Samuel H. Keiser; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—Curtis Burdette Willoughby.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—David Duncan; Treas.—T. Kirby; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—E. Y. Kelley; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—M. W. Coon; Dr. Com.—Henry Edden.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—J. C. Heslin; Clk.—D. Duncan; Treas.—B. A. Hicks; H. C.—Wm. V. Carothers; J. P.—N. B. Fraker; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—Samuel N. French.

**April, 1880:** Sup.—J. C. Heslin; Clk.—L. F. Moon; Treas.—B. A. Hicks; H. C.—Thos. Campbell; J. P.—T. Kirby; Supt. Sch.—O. J. Sprague; Sch. Insp.—M. W. Coon; Dr. Com.—John Shults.

**April, 1881:** Sup.—Byron A. Hicks; Clk.—M. W. Coon; Treas.—Addison Fraker; H. C.—John Bowen; J. P.—Wm. Long; vacancy, S. H. Keiser; Supt. Sch.—S. N. French; Sch. Insp.—Geo. A. Allington; Dr. Com.—John A. Cook.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—O. J. Sprague; Clk.—M. W. Coon; Treas.—Addison Fraker; H. C.—Henry J. Dodge; J .P.—Albert H. Parker; Sch. Insp.—Edwin Clark, S. N. French; Dr. Com.—D. Duncan.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—Wm. Long; Clk.—M .W. Coon 110, Stephen A. Douglas 110; Treas.—B. A. Hicks; H. C.—Jas. B. Crook; J. P.—Sam. H. Keiser; vacancy, Jas. Lindley; Sch. Insp.—Fremont Bovee.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—Thompson Kirby; Clk.—Chauncey N. Curren; Treas.—B. A. Hicks; H. C.—Jas. B. Crook; J. P.—Fremont Bovee; vacancy, Chas. Bannister; Sch. Insp.—S. N. French; Dr. Com.—John T. Sutton.

The meeting voted a 10-cent crow bounty.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—Benj. B. McEnderfer; Clk.—C. N. Curren; Treas.—Napoleon B. Bowker; H. C.—David Stevenson; J. P.—Wm. Long; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Martin.

Meeting voted a 25-cent crow bounty.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—B. B. McEnderfer; Clk.—M. W. Coon; Treas.—N. B. Bowker; H. C.—Ephraim S. Reist; J. P.—L. F. Moon; vacancy, B. A. Hicks; Sch. Insp.—Virgil Bovee, Oliver McEnderfer; Dr. Com.—Frank McNitt.

The meeting voted to appropriate $100 to fight the Maple River drain assessment, and 25 cents a head to fight crows.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—B. B. McEnderfer; Clk.—M. W. Coon; Treas.—Wm. H. Brown; H. C.—Richard W. Foster; J. P.—Sam. H. Keiser; Sch. Insp.—Freeman O. Stoddard.

Prohibition amendment—yes, 149; no, 53.

Local option—yes, 124; no, 124.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—B. B. McEnderfer; Clk.—M. W. Coon; Treas.—Wm. H. Brown; H. C.—Richard W. Foster; J. P.—Chas. A. Bannister; Sch. Insp.—Fremont Bovee; Dr. Com.—O. J. Sprague.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—Fred E. Smith; Clk.—Frank McNitt; Treas.—Wm. B. Foster; H. C.—Richard W. Foster; Sch. Insp.—Freeman O. Stoddard.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—Martin W. Coon; Clk.—Frank Mc Nitt; Treas.—Wm. B. Foster; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—Wm. Long; Sch. Insp.—Perry I. Barnaby; Review—Fremont Bovee, Elijah Bovee; Dr. Com.—Albert Remaley

**April, 1891:** Sup.—Fremont Bovee; Clk.—Horace E. Langley; Treas.—C. A. Bannister; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—Sam. H. Keiser; Sch. Insp.—Jas. B. Crook; vacancy, Geo. Whittaker; Dr. Com.—Daniel Clark; Review—O. J. Sprague, Wm. Williams, Jr.

Special election on local option, Jan. 25, 1892—yes, 62; no, 38.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Martin W. Coon; Clk.—H. E. Langely; Treas.—C. A. Bannister; H. C.—John Rhines; J. P.—Perry I. Barnaby; Sch. Insp.—T. F. Amspoker, S. N. French; Dr. Com.—D. Duncan; Review—Fred E. Smith, Jacob Grubaugh.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—Frank McNitt; Treas.—Fred E. Smith; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—F. M. Brown; Sch. Insp.—Perry I. Barnaby; Review—O. J. Sprague.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—Horace E. Langley; Treas.—Fred E. Smith; H. C.—W. H. Brown; J. P.—Willard Lockwood; Sch. Insp.—T. F. Amspoker; Dr. Com.—R. Geo. Stoneman; Review—Elijah Bovee, John Bowen.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—M. W. Coon; Clk.—H. E. Langley; Treas.—Jacob Henson; H. C.—W. H. Brown; J. P.—Wm. L. Remaley; Sch. Insp.—Wm. H. Smith; Review—John Bowen.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Fred E. Smith; Clk.—Wm. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Jacob Henson; H. C.—Jas. E. Ladd; J. P.—Perry I. Barnaby; Sch. Insp.—T. F. Amspoker; Dr. Com.—Jas. E. Demott; Review—W. L. Remaley.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—Fred E. Smith; Clk.—Wm. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Jas. W. Payne; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—Simon S. Munson; Sch. Insp.—T. J. Hoxie, Jr., T. F. Amspoker; Review—Willis W. Williams.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Addison Fraker; Clk.—W. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Jas. W. Payne; H. C.—John Rhines; J. P.—Wm. B. Foster; Sch. Insp.—H. C. Fraker; Review—W. W. Williams.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—Addison Fraker; Clk.—W. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Riley C. Rhines; H. C.—W. H. Smith; J. P.—Theodore Amspoker; Sch. Insp.—Francis M. Brown; Review—Jas. W. Payne.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—Addison Fraker; Clk.—Wm. H. Smith; Treas.—Riley C. Rhines; H. C.—Frank Kidder; J. P.—F. Keiser; Sch. Insp.—W. H. Smith, J. E. Demott; Review—John Bowen.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Oliver McEnderfer; Clk.—W. H. Smith; Treas.—Henry L. Whitford; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—S. S. Munson; Sch. Insp.—Jas. E. Ladd; Review—R. W. Foster.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—F. E. Smith; Clk.—W. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Henry L. Whitford; H. C.—E. A. Davis; J. P.—Jas. E. Ladd; Sch. Insp.—P. I. Barnaby; Review—Riley C. Rhines, John Bowen.

W. W. Williams was appointed supervisor Dec., 1902, vice Fred. Smith, elected county treasurer.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—Willis W. Williams; Clk.—W. H. Stoneman; Treas.—Chas. C. Clark; H. C.—E. A. Davis; J. P.—John T. Sutton; Sch. Insp.—Jas. E. Ladd.

**April, 1904:** Sup.—W. W. Williams; Clk.—Wm. H. Smith; Treas.—Chas. C. Clark; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—Herbert N. Williams; Sch. Insp.—P. I. Barnaby; vacancy, C. E. Richard; Review—Peter Wolf.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—W .H. Stoneman; Clk.—C. E. Richard; Treas.—Frank L. Davis; H. C.—Michael Reeb; Sch. Insp.—J. E. Demott, Jas. E. Ladd; Review—John Bowen, Chas. C. Clark.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Wm. H. Stoneman; Clk.—C. E. Richard; Treas.—Frank L. Davis; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—Jas. E. Ladd; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Crowell; Review—Foshen P. Hoffman.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—W. H. Stoneman; Clk.—F. P. Hoffman; Treas.—Henry English; H. C.—E. S. Reist; J. P.—J. T. Sutton; Sch. Insp.—Frank J. Brattin; Review—Frank L. Davis.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—Oliver McEnderfer; Clk.—Frank J. Brattin; Treas.—Henry English; H. C.—E. S. Reist; Overseer—Chas. B. Gilbert; J. P.—Theo. Amspoker; vacancy, C. N. Curran; Sch. Insp.—W. H. Ackley; Review—F. P. Hoffman.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Henry English; Clk.—F. J. Brattin; Treas.—Herbert W. Williams; Overseer—Chas. B. Gilbert; H. C.—Wm. H. Brown; J. P.—S. S. Munson; Review—John T. Sutton.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Henry English; Clk.—John T. Sutton; Treas.—Jacob Henson; H. C.—Henry Businger; Overseer—Wm. Kindel; J. P.—F. M. Browne; Review—W. H. Brown.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—John T. Sutton; Clk—Oscar H. Moon; Treas.—Jacob Henson; J. P.—Chauncey Curren; Review—Henry English; H. C.—Henry Businger.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—Oscar H. Moon; Clk.—Joseph Potter; Treas.—Wm. Crowell; J. P.—Jas. DeMott; vacancy, Jas. E. Ladd; Review—Wm. H. Brown; H. C.—J. M. Freeman; O. of H.—Ed. Crowell.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Henry English; Clk.—B. S. Gilman; Treas.—Wm. Crowell; H. C.—E. Newton; O. of H.—Clarence Bair; J. P.—Theo. Amspoker; Review—Frank Brown.

Woman suffrage amendment: Yes, 84; no, 114.

County road system: Yes, 170; no, 180.

### Supervisors.

Cyrus Cory, 1856.
Wm. W. Comstock, ap. April 17, 1856.
Alonzo A. Squire elected at a special election Sept. 25, 1856.
Jas. M. Foot, 1857.
Orson Stoddard, ap. Feb. 20, 1858.
Jo. B. Smith, 1858, '59, '60, '61.
Nap. B. Fraker, 1862, '66, '71, '74
Walter S. Howd, ap. Sept. 3, 1862.
Edwin Clark, 1863, '64, '69.
Alex. Pulfrey, 1865.
Wm. Long, 1867, '68, '72, '73, '78, '83.
Solomon Wyman, 1870.
John C. Heslin, 1875, '76, '77, '79, '80.
Byron A. Hicks, 1881.
Orin J. Sprague, 1882.
Thompson Kirby, 1884.
B. B. McEnderfer, 1885, '86, '87, '88.
Fred E. Smith, 1889, '96, '97, '02.
Martin W. Coon, 1890, '92, '93, '94, '95.
Fremont Bovee, 1891.
Addison Fraker, 1898, '99, '00.
Willis W. Williams, ap. Dec., '02; 1903, '04.
W. H. Stoneman, 1905, '06, '07.
Oliver McEnderfer, 1901, '08.
Henry English, 1909, '10, '13.
John T. Sutton, 1911.
Oscar H. Moon, 1912.

### Township Clerks.

Jas. M. Foot, 1856.
Briggs J. Bentley, ap. Oct. 6, 1856; '57, '58, '59, '60, '61.
D. D. Stoddard, 1862.
Nap. B. Fraker, 1863, '64.
Horton Smith, 1865.
Chas. B. Fraker, 1866.
Silas W. Everest, 1867.
Wm. P. Bolds, ap. Sept. 14, 1867.
E. Y. Kelley, 1868.
John C. Heslin, 1869, '72, '73, '74.
Samuel H. Griffith, 1870.
Elijah Bovee, ap. 1870; '71.
Byron A. Hicks, 1875.
Geo. English, 1876.
David Duncan, 1877, '78, '79.

L. F. Moon, 1880.
M. W. Coon, 1881, '82, '83, '86, '87, '88.
Chauncey N. Curren, 1884, '85.
Frank McNitt, 1889, '90, '93.
Horace E. Langley, 1891, '92, '94, '95.
Wm. H. Stoneman, 1896, '97, '98, '99, '02, '03.
Wm. H. Smith, 1900, '01, '04.
C. E. Richard, 1905, '06.
F. P. Hoffman, 1907.
Frank J. Brattin, 1908, '09.
John T. Sutton, 1910.
Oscar H. Moon, 1911.
Joseph Potter, 1912.
B. S. Gilman, 1913.

**Treasurers.**

Edwin Tripp, 1856.
Robert B. Carothers, ap. Oct. 6, 1856.
Orson Stoddard, 1857, '58, '59, 60.
Sam. D. Douglas, 1861.
Geo. O. Dowd, 1862, '63, '64, '65, '66.
Solomon Wyman, 1867, '68, '69.
Geo. English, 1870, '74.
Albert Bovee, 1871, '75, '76.
Jas. Sturgis, 1872.
Horton Smith, 1873.
Thompson Kirby, 1877, '78.
Byron A. Hicks, 1879, '80, '83, '84.
Addison Fraker, 1881, '82.
Nap. B. Bowker, 1885, '86.
Wm. H. Brown, 1887, '88.
Wm. B. Foster, 1889, '90.
C. A. Bannister, 1891, '92.
Fred. E. Smith, 1893, '94.
Jacob Henson, 1895, '96, '10, '11.
Jas. W. Payne, 1897, '98.
Riley C. Rhines, 1899, '00.
Henry L. Whitford, 1901, '02.
Chas. C. Clark, 1903, '04.
Frank L. Davis, 1905, '06.
Henry English, 1907, '08.
Herbert W. Williams, 1909.
Wm. Crowell, 1912, '13.

## WASHINGTON BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### SMITH.

Joseph B. Smith died at his home at Old Pompeii, March 13, 1891, at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. Smith was familiarly known to all Gratiot County people as "Jo. B.", and his tavern, six miles south of Ithaca, a famous stopping place in the pioneer days, was known far and wide as "Jo. B.'s". He settled there in 1854. Jo. B. was prominent in other ways besides as a landlord. He served his township as supervisor four years consecutively, beginning in 1858, and held other official positions. In 1858 he was the Democratic candidate for sheriff and was defeated only by the error of some of his friends who wrote in his name as "J. B. Smith" instead of Joseph B. Smith.



JOSEPH B. SMITH.

His eighty-first anniversary occurred on Tuesday, February 3rd, only about five weeks before his death. To celebrate that occasion, a lot of relatives and friends went from Ithaca and other parts, and made merry with the old couple, little thinking that "Jo. B." would so soon be called to the other side. Mrs. Alzina Smith, the aged wife, passed over on March 6, 1896, at the age of 80 years. She was an energetic and faithful helpmeet to her husband.



OLIVER McENDERFER'S FARM RESIDENCE.

## McENDERFER.

Oliver McEnderfer, the subject of this sketch is one of the prominent farmers of Washington Township, and is well known throughout the county. His farm consists of 280 acres on section 17. It is well located, only two miles from a good market—either Pompeii or Ola — has good, substantial buildings, and, under the intelligent management and by the hard work of Mr. McEnderfer, is rapidly becoming one of the best farms in the county. Especial mention should be made of his fine farm barn; a structure 36 by 124 feet in size, with 20-foot posts and a self-supporting roof rising to a height of over 50 feet at the peak; and not a purline plate, beam or post, and not a cross-beam or timber of any description above a point eight feet below the plates. It is unique in construction and seems to be a model of convenience. And, what is an important item and fact, considering the wide departure from ordinary barn construction, it seems to be exceptionally r i g i d, firm and unshakable in the strongest winds.

Mr. McEnderfer came to Gratiot August 25, 1877. His experiences may well be told in his own words: "I was in attendance at the Indiana State Fair at Ft. Wayne in 1877, and there got hold of some circulars issued by the A. P. Cook Company advertising cheap lands in Michigan. I became interested and soon determined to see for myself. I landed in St. Johns on the 23rd day of August with a 30-cent grip, about 30 cents' worth of 'duds' and 30 cents in cash. At the Mandigo House where I stopped they refused to give me a check for my grip, so I threw it on the floor with a lot of others. Pretty soon I saw a 'coon' parading around the bar room with my grip, to the great amusement of the 'toughs' collected there. That is, all but me were amused. I was not amused but was interested. So, without stopping to draw the color line, I waded into that 'coon', and, after mussing him up somewhat, got possession of my grip. But the incident made it too hot for me at the Mandigo and I had to change my quarters.

"In those days St. Johns was the stock and grain market for Gratiot, and it was an easy matter to get a ride any day. So on the 25th day of August, 1877, I first saw Gratiot. Chopping, logging and burning was the principal business of the inhabitants. I formed a good opinion of the county right away; and up to this date I hold the same opinion. Washington Township then had a valuation of $200,000. Now she is rated at over $800,000, and still coming.

"The first five years of my life in Gratiot were occupied in various ways. In the summer time I worked at carpenter work. I bought logs two winters for a Grand Haven firm, under the late Chas. S. Douglas, of Washington Township. With unimportant exceptions the balance of my time has been put in on the farm. Have never been in jail, and was never sued, but once; and the debt was collected all right."

Oliver McEnderfer was born in Indiana, October 12, 1858, son of Timothy McEnderfer who was born July 2, 1829, in Columbiana County, Ohio. The father received an injury December 6, 1860, resulting in his death five days later. He was married in 1852 to Miss Lovina Eichelberger, who was born July 4, 1833, in Adams County, Pennsylvania. Five children resulted from this marriage. Belle, the oldest, lies buried at Cedar Lake, Indiana. Lorinda, the next child is buried in Washington Township. B. B. McEnderfer owns and resides upon the old homestead, near Waterloo, Indiana. Olive, the twin-sister of Oliver, resides in Washington Township, the wife of Jacob Henson. After the father's death the mother was married again—in 1866—to H. W. Myers, of Waterloo, Indiana, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, October 3, 1840.

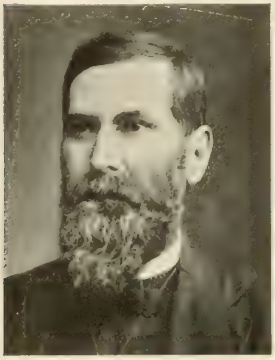
Mr. McEnderfer says that there was no incident in his life of much importance up to March 19, 1887. On that date occurred his marriage to Mrs. Mattie McMannis, of Fulton Township, Gratiot County. Her maiden name was Mattie Walker, daughter of Nathaniel Walker, a pioneer of Fulton. She was born February 24, 1864, in Fulton. Besides himself and wife, Mr. McEnderfer's family consists of Harry E. McMannis, a step-son, born August 26, 1883; son Tim, born February 26, 1892, and daughter Muriel, born May 19, 1894.

Tim is his father's efficient associate in his extensive farming operations. Muriel, after finishing with the district school, took the high school course at Ithaca, graduating with the class of 1912. Harry is engaged in railroading and in other lines of activity.

Mr. McEnderfer has had considerable to do in political affairs both in his township and in the county. He says that he "has run for office 15 times and been defeated 13 times. So," says he, "I have been allowed to look after my own business interests most of the time." He is a Democrat, and to that fact may be attributed his many defeats. It is but justice to say, however, that he has invariably received much more than his party vote, and has twice been elected supervisor notwithstanding the large Republican majority in the township. His candidacy for county treasurer and for judge of probate received splendid support at the polls, but his party being in a hopeless minority, his defeat was but the lot of the entire ticket. He does not look upon his several defeats as unmixed evils, for the campaigns have given him much valuable experience, and a thorough acquaintance with the county and its people, such as he could hardly have acquired in any other way.

## LONG.

William Long whose name was for about fifty years a household word in Gratiot County, particularly in the southern half of the county, settled on section 18, Washington Township, in the year 1860, coming from Ionia County, Mich., where he had resided four years, and previously to that having lived from childhood in Lorain County, Ohio. He was born in Cumberland County, Penn., July 14, 1827, son of Samuel and Catharine (Goodman) Long, and was the third in a family of ten children.



WM. LONG.

William Long was married March 7, 1855, to Mary Ellen Crawford, of Seneca County, N. Y., daughter of James and Mary (Garner) Crawford, born March 4, 1831. Children were born to them as follows: William C., Mary C., Arthur, George and Florence. William C. is married and resides on the old homestead. Mary C. is the wife of Oscar J. Campbell and resides on the old homestead of Mr. Campbell's father—the late Cornelius Campbell, section 8, Washington. Arthur is unmarried and resides at Harrison, Mich., having been elected judge of probate of Clare County in the fall of 1912. George is married and resides at Pompeii. Florence is the wife of Ezra E. Eggleston and resides in Batavia, Branch County, Mich.

William Long was a man of recognized ability. In recognition of his worth he was called to occupy many positions of trust and responsibility in his township. He was first elected justice of the peace in 1861, and thereafter it is difficult to find a time when he was not an incumbent of that office. He was supervisor in the years 1867, '68, '72, '73, '78 and '83, and always and very properly took a leading part in the doings of the board of supervisors. He was the candidate of his party, (Democrat) for county treasurer in 1868, and for representative in 1872 and 1876. He was a man whose abilities and true worth were recognized and valued by all classes and all parties. He died at his home in Washington Township, February 21, 1910. His estimable wife passed away February 25, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Long celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the spring of 1905; an occasion long to be remembered by the many relatives and friends who were present.

## STONEMAN.

William H. Stoneman, whose residence is located on section 9, Washington Township, is conceded to be one of the leading farmers of the township. He owns 160 acres all told—eighty acres where he lives, forty acres on section 16 and forty on 23. It is all productive, much of it being well tiled, a condition which adds greatly to the productiveness of land of level surface.

Mr. Stoneman has been a resident of Washington Township since 1877. He was born in Devonshire, England, July 7, 1868. His parents also were natives of the same county, his father, George Stoneman, born September, 1830, his mother, Agnes (Williams) Stoneman, born May, 1828.

They came to America in 1873, first settling in Ottawa County, Ohio, remaining there four years and then coming to this county, and settling on the eighty acres now the home of our subject. The land was pretty much in a state of nature and it was necessary to clear a place for their first house. A brief record of the children of George and Agnes Stoneman follows: R. George Married Sadie Moseley. They are now residents of Elba Township. William H. is the next in order. Laura, the youngest, is married to Ezra D. Ladd. They, also, are residents of Elba. The father, George Stoneman, died at the home of his son William H., September 4, 1912. The mother died March 9, 1909, at the home of her son George.

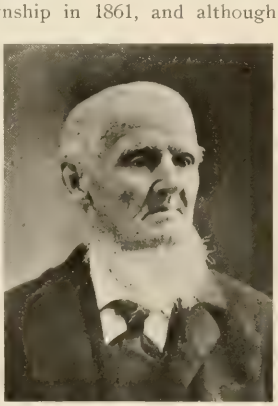
William H. Stoneman was married July 3, 1891, to Marietta Rhynard, daughter of James and Martha (Lattimore) Rhynard, of Washington. She was born in Washington December 28, 1868. Both of her parents were born in Ohio, the father in Darke County, the mother in Paulding County. They came to Gratiot in an early day. Mr. Rhynard served as a soldier in the Civil War.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoneman have children as follows, all born in Washington: Rolland H., born December 10, 1892; Grant W., October 9, 1898; Fred J., April 1, 1900.

Mr. Stoneman has served his township six years as clerk, and three years as supervisor; facts that show his excellent standing in the community. He has also served as a school officer many years. Both he and Mrs. Stoneman are devoted members of the Evangelical Church at Washington Center.

## FRAKER.

Among the leading citizens of early Gratiot should be mentioned the name of Napoleon B. Fraker; particularly well known in southern Gratiot. He settled on section 8 of Washington Township in 1861, and although there had been settlers there since 1855, the township had hardly emerged from the condition that could plausibly be designated as a "state of nature." Mr. Fraker tackled the situation with energy and perserverence, and lived to see a condition of improvement throughout the township that could hardly have been imagined at the time of his coming.



NAP. B. FRAKER.

In the new township Mr. Fraker was soon recognized as a good man to tie to when good judgment and sterling qualities of energy and integrity were demanded. In an official way he served his townsmen in many ways. He was elected supervisor in the spring of 1862, before he was fairly settled, and was elected to the same position in '66, '71 and '74; was clerk in '63 and '64; treasurer in '85 and '86; justice in '69 and '79.

Mr. Fraker was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., June 25, 1815, of New England parentage and English ancestry. He was brought up to agricultural pursuits. In 1838 he was married to Rebecca Merrill who was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., September 4, 1817. They remained in that county until their migration to Gratiot County in 1861. Their

children were Addison and Ransom, both still residents of Gratiot County. Ansel and Charles are deceased, the former losing his life in the Civil War, the latter from the effects of hardships endured in the same service. N. B. Fraker retired from the farm in 1880, removing to Ithaca where he lived several years, returning to the farm where he died March 13, 1903. Mrs. Rebecca Fraker departed this life August 14, 1901.

## STEVENSON.

The illustration on this page gives an idea of one of Washington's most important manufacturing institutions—the tile works of David Stevenson & Sons, located on section 16. Three sons are associated with their father in this industry—Robert B., Thomas Franklin and James B. The factory was established in 1907 and has been of great importance to the people for many miles around. An average of about sixteen large kilns are produced each year and the output has had to be increased from year to year to supply the growing demand.

David Stevenson is the head of one of the largest families in Gratiot County; perhaps the very largest—fourteen children, and thirteen of them still living, the oldest forty-three and the youngest twenty-three.



TILE WORKS DAVID STEVENSON & SONS.

David Stevenson was born in Scotland, January 8, 1842, and the same year was brought by his parents to America. They settled at Ray, Macomb County, Mich. The father was Thomas Stevenson, born in Scotland. He died at Metamora, Lapeer County, Mich., in 1905, aged 84 years. The mother, Agnes (Grant) Stevenson was born in Scotland and died at Ray, Macomb County, Mich., June 19, 1849, aged 29 years. Besides David, who was the oldest, their children were James, Thomas and Jeannette, the last two being twins. James died at Annapolis, Maryland, a soldier in the army. Thomas died at Bay City, Mich. Jeannette at Metamora, Mich.

July 4, 1869, David Stevenson was married to Lelia E. Hersey, of Dryden, Lapeer County, Mich., who was born near Pontiac, Mich., January 12, 1851. Her parents were J. B. and Sarah Elizabeth (Pridden) Hersey, the father born near Rochester, N. Y., April 12, 1822, and died in Dryden, Mich., May 11, 1904; the mother, born September 13, 1822, in Kingston, England, died January 2, 1872, in Lapeer County, Mich. Their children were—Amelia, born January 18, 1845, now deceased; John F., born April 12, 1848; Lelia E.; George, September 13, 1854; Fremont D., June 30, 1856; Victor C., October 29, 1859; Vorilla, April 20, 1863; Anna, June 28, 1868.

The list of children born to David and Lelia E. Stevenson, together with brief details, is as follows:

Mary E., born September 6, 1870, married Edward Twomley. They live in Saginaw County, and have children—Irving, deceased; Earl, Robert, Maro, D H, Frances, Violet.

Agnes G., born March 29, 1872, married Freeman Harris. Their children are Florence and John.

Robert B., born September 7, 1873, married Bertie Wood. They live in Washington Township and have children—Muriel and Harry.

David C., born January 2, 1875, is single.

Meretta, born August 9, 1876, is single.

Lelia E., born April 15, 1878, is single.

Susan Cordelia, born July 15, 1879, married Edward Hankey. They live in Eureka, Mich.

Emma Ann, born October 9, 1880, is single.

Thomas Franklin, born November 22, 1882, married Ethel Collier. Their children are, Harold, R G, Luella, May Belle, Cecil.

James B., born August 29, 1884, married Myrtle Campbell. They have a son—Forest.

Norman H., born January 18, 1886, married Lottie Shropp. They live in St. Charles, Mich., and have a son—Edward.

Olive Belle, born September 26, 1888, is single.

Nettie, born August 1, 1890, married Cecil Waller. They reside at Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Fremont H., died in infancy.

Mr. Stevenson came to Gratiot County in 1866 and secured the land —the southeast quarter of section 16, Washington—where he settled permanently in 1871 and which has ever since been his home. It is now a well-improved farm, with good buildings and all of the auxiliaries for carrying on agricultural operations successfully; and the evidence is clear that he and his sons are not only good tile makers, but are good farmers as well. Mr. and Mrs. Sevenson, though advanced in years toward the shady period of life, are still as hale and sprightly as many people in middle life. That their happy and prosperous days may continue indefinitely is the wish of their many friends.

## CURREN.

Chauncey N. Curren, who resides on section 20, Washington Township, was born May 13, 1854. He is a son of Nehemiah and Sarah (Willey) Curren. The father was born in Jackson County, Tennessee, May 20, 1805, and removed with his parents to Morrow County, Ohio, when three years old. He died in 1885. The mother was born February 12, 1819, in Licken

County, Ohio. She died in 1864. They were the parents of eleven children —six daughters and five sons.

Our subject, Chauncey N. Curren, came to Gratiot County in April, 1875, and settled on section 20, of the Township of Washington. September 4, 1878, he was married to Miss Jennie Cook, daughter of John A. and Philena D. (Beam) Cook. John A. Cook was born in Monroe County, N. Y., June 22, 1822, and came to Michigan in 1853, settling in Hillsdale County. In 1878 he removed with his family to this county locating on section 20, Washington, where he lived until his death, August 15, 1903. His wife, Philena (Beam) Cook, was born in Hillsdale County, June 7, 1837, and died there May 16, 1877.

To the union of Chauncey N. and Jennie (Cook) Curren, four children have been born, as follows: Louis C. Curren was born July 18, 1879, and was married to Flora Monroe, September 9, 1902. They live on the paternal homestead, and have three children—Glen, born December 4, 1903; Golden, born March 15, 1906, and Dorothy Imo, born June 26, 1913. Belle W. Curren was born April 19, 1881, and was married October 9, 1900, to Wm. H. Smith. One child—Claribelle—was born March 30, 1902. The husband, Wm. H. Smith, died August 23, 1908. Mrs. Belle W. Smith was married to Milan Morton, of Clinton County, January 1, 1911. Cora Curren, born June 1, 1882, was married to John Keiser, December 5, 1905. They live on a farm near Pompeii. Dessie P. Curren was born February 3, 1888, and was married to Ray Avery, June 17, 1907. They live at Orchard Lake, Mich.

Chauncey N. Curren and his wife have been active and respected members of the E. V. Church at Washington Center for several years. Mr. Curren has been entrusted with positions of honor and responsibility by his fellow-townsmen. In 1882 he was elected township clerk, and was re-elected in 1883. He has also held the office of justice of the peace since the spring of 1908.

## REIST.

Ephraim S. Reist, a resident of Washington Township for the past 30 years, was born in Waterloo County, Ontario, November 18, 1860, son of Henry S. and Susannah R. (Schiedel) Reist. The father was born in Waterloo County, Ontario, July 18, 1831. The mother also was a native of Waterloo County, Ontario, born January 7, 1830. To their union four children were born. Angelina was born in Waterloo County, Ontario, December 19, 1858. She is married to Clayton Kirby, and resides in Marion, Mich., but they own a farm near that town. The next was Ephraim S., principal subject of this sketch. Nancy was born in Waterloo County, Ontario, January 6, 1863, died June 12, 1883. Sarah, born March 3, 1865, in Waterloo County, Ontario, died March 1, 1892.

After the mother's death, which occurred in Muskegon County, Mich., to which place the family removed April 5, 1865, the father, Henry S. Reist, was married to Sarah Ann Davenport, of Ottawa County, Mich. To this latter union there were two children born. Vinnie was born in Gratiot County, May 12, 1876, and Emma was born February 22, 1878, in the same county.

Henry S. Reist moved from Ontario to Muskegon County, Mich., April 5, 1865, as stated, and engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of 160

acres of heavily timbered land. In April, 1874, he moved with his family to Gratiot County, settling on 160 acres of wild land, on section 14, Washington Township. There they resided until May 10, 1883, when they removed to Mason County where they still reside.

Ephraim S. Reist, the principal subject of this sketch, was married February 4, 1881, in Washington Township to Elizabeth Martin, who was born October 28, 1861, daughter of William and Harriet (Miles) Martin, who settled in Washington Township in 1856.

Mr. Reist started out in life for himself with not much to depend upon but his hands and a determined ambition. He worked at day labor for two or three years, and then—February 24, 1884—he bought of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw R. R. Company 20 acres of land on section 13, Washington Township, paying $12.50 per acre. It was known as State Swamp Land, and was donated to the railroad company by the state to aid in the construction of the railroad. It was heavily timbered with elm and black ash. In May, 1889, Mr. Reist bought 40 acres more of this swamp land at the same price per acre. Still other additions have been made to the farm till it now consists of 147 acres. By hard and persistent work on the part of the owner and his family the wild tract has been transformed into a fine farm, under a good state of cultivation and much of it under-drained with tile. Fine farm buildings have been erected and everything indicates a good and comfortable degree of thrift and prosperity. One special feature that may be mentioned is a valuable flowing well, the best in the township. Though the struggle has been long and arduous, Mr. and Mrs. Reist may well feel satisfied with the result of their nearly 30 years of strenuous effort.

Children have come to cheer the home as follows: C. Erving Reist was born November 9, 1881; now resides in Maple Rapids, owning and operating the Maple Rapids cheese factory. He also owns 40 acres of land in Washington Township—the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 13. He was married June 3, 1911, to Miss Nina Webster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Webster, of Maple Rapids. Darcy Reist was born September 4, 1886; now lives on section 12 of Washington Township. He married Miss Laura Butler, of Lansing, August 26, 1908. Hilda Reist was born September 6, 1888; married May 4, 1910, to Sherman Sturtevant, of Ravenna, Mich., where they now reside. They have a daughter, Isabelle, born July 29, 1911. Jennie Reist was born May 24, 1891; died June 7, 1891; buried in North Star cemetery. Henry Evan Reist, born April 26, 1892. Willie J. Reist, born July 23, 1894. Dewey Ivan Reist, born December 15, 1896, and Rollie T. Reist, born June 6, 1903, reside at home with their parents.

Ephraim S. Reist has been a life-long Democrat and takes a lively and intelligent interest in the affairs of his township and county. He has served his township in an official capacity at various times, holding the important office of highway commissioner eleven years, several times being the only man elected on his ticket; conclusive evidence of his fitness, and of his popularity, among his townsmen. He also served his school district nine years as treasurer and is now on his sixth year as director. He was a charter member of Ashley Lodge No. 105 K. of P. and passed all the chairs, taking an active part in the business of the order.

In the fall of 1912, Mr. Reist was the Democratic candidate for county surveyor, and though making an excellent run, went down to defeat with the rest of the county ticket.

## BUSINGER.

Henry Businger, residing on section 14, Washington township, was born in Wood County, Ohio, November 25, 1859. His father was J. J. Businger, born in Switzerland November 2, 1825. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Ballmer, was also a native of Switzerland, born August 27, 1824. They were married June 15, 1847. Besides Henry, our subjcet, their children were William and Aaron. J. J. Businger came to America when twenty years of age, and, after his marriage, settled in Wood County, Ohio, a section of the country which at that time was mainly a dense forest. He was one of the earliest settlers there, and remained a resident on the same farm until his death in December, 1898.

Henry Businger passed his youth and early manhood in Wood County as a farmer. In the spring of 1906 he removed to Gratiot County, purchasing and settling upon the farm where he still resides, two and one-half miles southwest of Ashley.

Mr. Businger was married in Weston, Wood County, Ohio, March 15, 1881, to Carrie M. Miley, who was born in Wood County, Ohio, September 12, 1861. She is daughter of Christopher Miley and Mary C. (Hafle) Miley, the former born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 1, 1831, the latter also born in Wurtemberg. Christopher Miley came to America with his parents in 1847, locating at Marion, Ohio. In 1853 he met Miss Mary C. Hafle and they were united in marriage, July 20, 1853. They then settled in Wood County, being among the earliest settlers in their section of the county, remaining there until 1901, when they removed to Weston where they still reside. Besides Carrie M., there were seven children born to them—Sophia, Alphena, Christena, Lizzie, Barbara, Sarah and Isaiah.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Businger are the parents of three daughters and two sons. They were all born at Weston, Wood County, Ohio. Clara was born August 19, 1883. She was married to J. M. Koch in January, 1904, and resides at Weston. Mabel, born August 3, 1886, was married to James McBeth in June, 1907. They reside at Lima, Ohio. Edith, born April 19, 1890; William, born October 29, 1894, and Harold, born October 24, 1897, all reside at the home of their parents.

During their comparatively short residence in the county, Mr. Businger and his family have won the esteem of their neighbors and of the community generally. Mr. Businger served as highway commissioner of his township in 1910 and '11; a fact which forcibly attests his standing as a man of ability and integrity, particularly when it is remembered that he is a Democrat in a Republican township.

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## BROWNE.

Francis M. Browne, of Washington Township, was born in Potter County, Penn., August 7, 1855. His father was Henry Browne, who was born in Maryland, Otsego County, N. Y., April 9, 1800, son of Cyrus Browne who was the son of Armit Browne. Cyrus Browne married Esther Culver, whose father was a Tory. He disinherited his daughter because she married a gallant young officer in the Revolutionary Army.

Cyrus and Esther (Culver) Browne were the parents of eight children—Stephen, Esther, Betsey, Amos, Lida, Cyrus, Hannah and Henry. Stephen was a soldier in the War of 1812. Henry, the youngest, married Emma Whiteman. They had six children—Hannah, Alvira, Joseph L., Mary, Jane and Viola. About 1845 they moved to Ohio, settling near Bowling Green,

where he lost his wife. He then moved back to New York State and after two years married Phebe Nash, of Milford, Otsego County, and then moved to Potter County, Penn. Seven children were born — Henry E., Alice Theressa, Eva Lando, Francis Marion, James Jasper, Annette and Harvey Bezaleel. Alice T. died at two years; Harvey B. was killed by a falling tree at the age of seven years. In 1862 Henry Browne moved with his family to Kansas but the country not agreeing with their health, they soon moved back to Pennsylvania. Henry E. Browne, the oldest son, went into the Union Army in 1864, at the age of 15.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. Browne came to Michigan, buying 80 acres in Washington Township, Gratiot County; all solid woods for miles around. He made several trips back and forth, and in 1876 settled permanently in Washington Township.

In 1886, Francis M. Browne, the principal subject of this sketch, was married to Miss Floy E. Smith, daughter of George W. and Frances Smith, of Bath, Clinton County, Mich. Four children resulted from this union—Mary E., Henry E., Ois A. and Floyanna. Mary E. married Edwin Clark, of Washington Township; Henry E. married Bessie Salter, daughter of Mark Salter, of Washington; Ois A. and Floyanna reside at home with their parents. Mrs. Browne's father—Geo. W. Smith—was born in Dover, Lenawee County in 1845. His father came from New York State, and his mother, whose maiden name was Frances Smith, was born in Lenawee County in 1849. She was of English descent. She was a daughter of John Smith, a Methodist minister. Geo. W. Smith, father of Mrs. Francis M. Browne, moved to Gratiot in 1875, first settling in Fulton. In 1883 he moved to Washington Township where he resided till his health failed and he retired from farming.

Henry Browne, father of our principal subject, lived to see the forest farm converted into a beautiful home with good farm buildings. He died February 8, 1896, aged nearly 97. He is buried in North Star cemetery. The mother, Phebe (Nash) Browne, was of Scotch and Spanish ancestry. Her mother died while she and her brother William were young. The brother was killed in the Civil War and her father re-married and removed to South Bend, Ind. She died in Pennsylvania at the age of 82 years, and is buried in Brookfield cemetery, Tioga County, Penn.

Francis M. Browne lives on the farm bought by his father in 1866, and is one of the substantial farmers of the township, regarded with high respect by his many friends. Though not yet old people, he and his estimable wife have seen many strenuous years, and are justly entitled to all the ease and comfort that may come to them in their future lives.

## HESLIN.

Clayton Heslin, a farmer on section one, Essex Township, Clinton County, on the Gratiot County line, is the son of John C. and Freedom D. (Hutchinson) Heslin. He was born in Madison County, N. Y., November 29, 1861, and removed with his parents to Michigan in 1867, settling in Washington Township, Gratiot County, where the family was for many years prominent and respected citizens. John C. Heslin, the father was born September 27, 1841, in the Township of Fenner, Madison County, N. Y. He served nearly throughout the War for the Union, enlisting June 14, 1862, being discharged in June, 1865. He was twice wounded—at Bristow Station, October 14, 1863, and again at Spottsylvania in May, 1864. Re-

covering from his wounds he was placed on detached service where he remained till discharged at the close of the war. His father and mother—Edward and Ellen (Clark) Heslin, were natives of the Province of Connaught, Ireland. They came to America in 1820, settling in Fenner, Madison County, N. Y.

John C. Heslin, father of Clayton Heslin, was married to Freedom D. Hutchinson, daughter of David and Amy (Bailey) Hutchinson, natives of Connecticut. Her grandfather, Col. Loren Hutchinson, commanded a regiment in the War of 1812. Following are the names and birth-dates of the children of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Heslin: Clayton, subject of this sketch, born November 29, 1861; William N., born April 15, 1863; Charles L., born June 5, 1866, died December 27, 1896, at Chicago, Illinois. John C. Heslin, the father, was placed in many positions of honor and trust by his fellow-citizens of Washington Township where he so long resided, and it is but just to say that their faith and confidence were fully justified. He was for five years township clerk, five years supervisor and two years county bridge commissioner. He also held other offices of minor importance.

Clayton Heslin, the subject of this sketch, was married in the Township of Washington, Gratiot County, in 1885, to Miss Carrie L. Phillips. She was born in Essex, Clinton County, Michigan, in 1862. Her father, Aaron H. Phillips, was born in New Jersey in 1820. Her mother, Caroline M. Phillips was a native of Connecticut, born May 4, 1837. Mrs. Heslin had one sister, Frances A., born in Clinton County, June 25, 1858, died October 26, 1865.

Clayton Heslin and wife, though now living in Clinton County, just over the county line from Fulton Township, are, properly speaking, old residents of Gratiot. But wherever they live, and wherever they are known, they are classed among the most respected and the most valued citizens. They are active members of the Evangelical Church.

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## BOOTS.

Henry Milton Boots, section 31, Washington Township, was born in Tompkins township, Jackson County, Mich., October 17, 1860, son of Charles H. and Diana Torrence (Rhines) Boots, the former born in Royalton Township, Niagara County, N. Y., June 5, 1827, the latter born January 21, 1834, in Newsted, Erie County, N. Y., daughter of Christopher T. Rhines—German—born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in 1807, and Harriet (Gillett) Rhines—Irish and Welch—born in Vermont in 1814; married in 1833 and settled in Newsted, Erie County, N. Y. They came to Michigan in 1855, settling in Jackson County. Christopher T. Rhines enlisted in the Union Army in 1864, entering the 1st Mich. Sharpshooters, being honorably discharged at the close of the war.

The paternal grandfather of Henry M. Boots was born in Suffolk, England, November 7, 1796; the grandmother being born in Sussex, England, May 30, 1804. Crossing the ocean in 1816, they were married in 1824, settling in Royalton, Niagara County, N. Y.; farmers by occupation.

The parents of our subject were married August 22, 1853, and moved to Jackson County, Mich., in 1859. They returned to New York State in 1862, the father entering the military service as a member of the 151st N. Y. Infantry, 3rd division, 6th army corps. He took part in no less than twenty-three engagements, among them being the important battles of Winchester, Hanover Court House, Appomattox, the Wilderness, Spottsyl-

vania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. He remained in the service until the close of the war, being discharged June 22, 1865.

In 1868, Charles H. Boots removed to the Township of Riley, Clinton County, Mich., buying 80 acres of woodland for a farm. Here he resided till 1874 when he moved to Gratiot County, settling on another new farm, where he resided until his death, April 26, 1912. The mother is still living, a resident of Fulton Township. Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Boots as follows: Henry M., October 17, 1860; Harriet Amanda, born in 1868, died at the age of two years, seven months and sixteen days; Riley, born in 1872, died at the age of twenty years, caught under a tree while engaged in sawing logs with his brother Joseph; Joseph Christopher Boots was born October 12, 1869. His children are Ethel and Estella.

Henry Milton Boots was married October 8, 1887, at Eureka, Clinton County, to Emma Jane Grubaugh, Elder Spither officiating. She was born in Washington Township, this county, January 21, 1863. She is the daughter of Jacob and Harriet (Brewbaker) Grubaugh, the former born March 5, 1823, the latter March 4, 1826, both natives of Pennsylvania. They were married October 12, 1844, and moved to Michigan in 1853. They are the parents of nine children—Jacob, Jeremiah, James, John, Samuel, Joseph, Elzy, Millard and Emma Jane. The father was a corporal in the Union Army. He was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville prison. Harriet Grubaugh, the wife and mother, died October 17, 1894.

Four children have been born to Henry M. Boots and wife: Mary A., born February 28, 1891, died March 7, 1891; Charles Henry, born December 11, 1892; Diana Elizabeth, born February 16, 1896; Arthur, born April 13, 1898, died October 25, 1898. Charles and Elizabeth are still unmarried.

It is gratifying to be able to include the sketch of this estimable family in our list of the substantial citizens of Gratiot County.

## ENGLISH.

The subject of this sketch, George English, farmer, whose fine farm is located on section 18, Washington Township, was born in Cumberland County, England, May 3, 1842. An energetic and progressive farmer and an active man of affairs in Gratiot County for the past 40 years, it is hoped that his demise may not have to be reported for many years to come. He is the son of John English, who was born January 29, 1811, in Cumberland, England, and who died in Gratiot County, October 11, 1881. His mother, Elizabeth Ann English, was born in Cumberland County, England, and died May 13, 1864. George English had one brother, Henry English, born in Cumberland County, England, August 9, 1840, dying in Gratiot County, February 14, 1870. A sister, Eleanor English, was born in the same county in England April 12, 1846, and died February 25, 1910.

George English came to this country with his parents in the fall of 1859, settling in Washington Township, Gratiot County, where he has been variously engaged as farmer, lumberman, proprietor and operator of sawmills and in other avocations calling for the exercise of energy, perseverance and sound judgment. He was married November 9, 1861, to Christina Duncan in Gratiot County. She is a daughter of David and Christina Duncan, both of whom were born in Scotland. She was born March 1, 1849, in Aberdeen, Scotland. Her brothers and sisters are as follows: David Duncan, born June 3, 1844; Peter Duncan, born February 4, 1847, died in the spring of 1864; Margaret, born September 23, 1851, died May 1, 1909, in

California; George Duncan, born August 21, 1855; Elizabeth, born April 14, 1857; James A. and Mary I., twins, born April 26, 1861; George died December 6, 1868.

David Duncan, the father, died October 11, 1860; the mother, Christina Duncan, survived until March 10, 1890, when she, too, passed to the other world.

Coming to Gratiot County in 1859, as previously stated, John English purchased and settled upon the farm now owned by George English, the son, being the southwest fractional quarter of section 18, Washington Township. The wife's parents, David and Christina Duncan, settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 17, Washington.

The names and birth-dates of Mr. and Mrs. English's children are as follows: Elizabeth Ann, born May 29, 1868, died November 19, 1892; Henry, born October 30, 1869; Mary, born April 14, 1871; Martha I., born August 14, 1873; John, born August 4, 1875; Agnes G., born March 15, 1877; Samuel J. T., born July 27, 1879; William and Willard, born September 11, 1881, the latter died August 9, 1886; Irving, born September 26, 1884; Homer, born August 26, 1886; Lottie, born October 15, 1888; Nancy, born October 12, 1891; Leon, born July 27, 1894.

The married children are as follows: Henry, Mary, Martha, John, Agnes, Irving, Homer, Nancy and William.

Mr. English has been too busy to bother much with office-holding, but he took time some years ago to hold the offices of township treasurer and township clerk two terms each. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

In conclusion it is but just to remark that this sketch deals with one of the prominent and respected families of southern Gratiot, and as such it is presented with pleasure to the readers of this volume, in the confident hope that its perusal will be a source of gratification to many.

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**Cornelius Campbell** settled on section 8, Washington Township, in the year 1854. He helped to organize the township, and at the first election—1856—he was elected a commissioner of highways. Just how many miles of highway were chopped out and logged off by him is not stated in the record, but doubtless there was something doing along that line. It seems a safe guess, however, that in the matter of graveling the highways there was but little interest manifested for many years thereafter. Mr. Campbell pursued an active life as an agriculturist, and was an influential factor in all projects and measures for the improvement of his township and for the well-being of his townsmen. He died October 24, 1890, aged 80 years. He is credited with having suggested the name that was given the township at its organization. His wife, Mrs. Permelia (Amadon) Campbell, passed away January 4, 1895, aged 80 years. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were parents of eight children, seven of whom survived their parents. Perhaps the best known to Gratiot County people are Oscar J. Campbell, on the old homestead, and Mrs. Chas. E. Webster, of Ithaca. J. Henry Campbell, who died in Ashley, March 11, 1901, also was well known and was a popular citizen.

**Lysander F. Moon** was one of Washington's leading citizens for nearly forty years. He came to the township in 1856. That he stood well in the esteem of his townsmen is shown by the fact that for many years he was entrusted with positions of importance—treasurer, highway commissioner and justice of the peace, holding the latter office several years. He died October 25, 1893, at the age of 68 years.

The names of some of the prominent and influential men not specially mentioned elsewhere, perhaps, in this volume, who have aided in making Washington Township what it is today, may be found in the following list: Alonzo A. Squire; Briggs J. Bentley; Orson Stoddard; Edwin Clark; Solomon Wyman; Horton Smith; John C. Heslin, supervisor five years; Benjamin B. McEnderfer, supervisor four years; Martin W. Coon, supervisor five years; William H. Stoneman; Thompson Kirby; Chauncey N. Curren; Frank McNitt; Albert and Elijah Bovee; Jacob Henson; Addison Fraker; Orin J. Sprague; Byron A. Hicks; William Carothers; Ed. Y. Kelley; William B., Richard W. and Jo. Foster; John T. Sutton; S. N. French; Oscar H. Moon; Henry English. The list could be largely extended, but many others may be found mentioned in sundry other connections.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Armstrong, W. W.,** April 27, 1887, aged 70; a resident from 1857.

**Allen, John J.,** Sept. 21, 1887, aged 70.

**Amspoker, Mrs. Barbara,** April 12, 1901, aged nearly 82.

**Anstey, Mrs. John B.,** July 3, 1908, aged 34.

**Anstey, Thos.,** at his home in Pompeii, April 9, 1912, aged 68. A leading citizen of Washington 28 years.

**Bannister, Mrs. Charlotte,** at the home of her son, C. A. Bannister, July 20, 1894, aged 79 years.

**Bowen, Mrs. Melissa A.,** February 13, 1908, aged 54; wife of John Bowen who settled here in 1877.

**Carothers, Wm.,** July 23, 1876, aged 81. An 1854 pioneer, father of Mrs. Wm. W. Comstock, of Ithaca, and of Wm. V., Daniel and Robert Carothers, all leading citizens.

**Carpenter, John M.,** April 9, 1881, aged 77.

**Clark, Edwin,** May 27, 1882, aged 54; supervisor in 1863, '64 and 69.

**Coon, Mrs. Julia A.,** Nov. 28, 1884, aged 70; mother of Martin W. Coon, former supervisor of Washington and Elba, now postmaster at Ashley.

**Carothers, Wm. V.,** Nov. 7, 1901, aged 75. He held various township offices in the early history of the township.

**Clark, Mrs. Elizabeth, ("Aunt Betty"),** February 22, 1900, aged 80; an early settler.

**Cook, John A.,** at the home of his son-in-law, Chauncey N. Curren, Aug. 15, 1903, aged 81. A resident since 1878.

**Clark, Chas. C.,** February 11, 1907. A leading citizen, township treasurer in 1903 and '04.

**Cordray, Milford,** July 26, 1908, aged 75 years.

**Cordray, Mary Ann,** May 25, 1912, aged 62 years.

**Daggett, "Uncle",** May 25, 1887, aged 85. A pioneer, father of Geo. W. Daggett.

**Daggett, Geo. W.,** Sept. 7, 1906, aged 63.

**Dodge, Alonzo K.,** January 26, 1902, aged 75. An early and well-known settler, father of Henry J. Dodge, of Ithaca, present superintendent of the poor.

**English, John,** Oct. 13, 1881, aged 70. A resident 22 years, father of George English, still a resident of Washington.

**Fritz, John,** Oct. 13, 1906, aged 49; son of Philip Fritz, of Newark.

**Foster, Richard, Sr.,** May 14, 1909, aged 86. One of the sturdy and reliable early settlers.

**Graves, J. W.**, Oct. 27, 1883, aged 87.
**Grubaugh, Benj.**, a respected pioneer, died Sept. 11, 1911, aged 71.
**Henson, Isaac**, July 9, 1886, aged 63.
**Henson, John H.**, June 6, 1887, aged 37.
**Henson, Mary Ann**, Sept. 8, 1887, aged 61.
**Halterman, D. E.**, Aug. 14, 1888, aged 84.
**Hathaway, James**, April 21, 1895, aged 42.
**Heinlen, Jacob**, July 29, 1906, aged 72. A pioneer of 1856.
**Kidder, Erastus**, Sept. 17, 1873, aged 46. At the first election—1850—he was elected one of the overseers of the poor.
**Kochensparger, Martha**, wife of Fred. Kochensparger, Aug. 21, 1883, aged 51.
**Kochensparger, Fred.**, Sept. 10, 1899.
**Kellogg, Mrs. Rebecca**, widow of the late John Kellogg, July 21, 1913, aged 67 years.
**Luce, Mrs. Mary A.**, February 3, 1906, aged 58; wife of Orlando Luce.
**Mills, Thomas**, at the residence of his son, M. T. Mills, Nov. 25, 1875, aged 85. A soldier of the War of 1812, and a resident of Gratiot from 1857.
**Martin, Mrs. Harriet**, wife of Wm. Martin, May 18, 1883, aged 43.
**Martin, Wm.**, June 6, 1909, aged 85. Came to Washington in 1854, settling on section 13.
**Martin, Mrs. Nancy**, June 12, 1883; wife of Edward Martin, daughter of Henry S. Reist, and sister of Ephraim S. Reist.
**Myers, John**, May 2, 1887, aged 73. Settled in Gratiot in 1857.
**Miles, Mrs. Lucinda**, wife of Wm. Miles, Aug. 12, 1892, aged 78. Among the first and best settlers.
**Myers, Mrs. Harriet C.**, February 9, 1892, aged 72.
**Mikesell, Elizabeth**, widow of Geo. Mikesell, March 31, 1892, aged 85. An 1854 pioneer.
**Moon, Lysander F.**, Oct. 25, 1903, at the age of 68. Settled in Washington in 1856; was treasurer, justice of the peace and highway commissioner.
**Martin, John**, Aug. 29, 1903, aged 55.
**Miller, Bishop**, June 7, 1907. An old soldier and energetic citizen.
**Pulfrey, Alex.**, about February 10, 1900, at his home in St. Johns. He settled in Washington in 1863, remaining five years; was supervisor in 1865. Father of Geo. W. Pulfrey, of Alma.
**Rhines, Harriet**, Nov. 12, 1885, aged 72.
**Rhynard, James E.**, Oct. 30, 1905, aged 75.
**Remaley, Wm. L.**, April 21, 1909, aged 59.
**Stoddard, Orson**, January 15, 1870, aged 67. He was supervisor by appointment in Feb., 1858.
**Stoddard, Mrs.**, wife of Orson Stoddard, Feb. 17, 1870, aged 64.
**Smith, Mrs. Harriet J.**, wife of Timothy Smith, May 31, 1883, aged 46.
**Sherman, Joseph**, April 10, 1890, aged 33.
**Stoddard, Mrs. David**, June 6, 1892, aged about 56.
**Sutfin, Mrs. Loren**, April 3, 1895.
**Smith, Mrs.**, wife of Horton Smith, Oct. 22, 1910. Were among the pioneers of 1857.
**Smith, Mrs. Mary J.**, widow of Wm. H. Smith, Sept. 27, 1909, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Jacob Martin, of Washington, who is said to have been the first white girl born in the county.
**Stoneman, George**, Sept. 4, 1912, aged 82.
**Smith, Horton**, May 19, 1912, aged 86.
**Towsle, M. B.**, May 11, 1884, aged 73.

**Vosburg, Mrs. Joseph,** January 6, 1892, aged 60. They came to Gratiot in 1857; esteemed pioneers.

**Vosburg, Mrs.,** wife of Joseph Vosburg, died Feb. 4, 1913, aged 80 years. She was an esteemed pioneer of Washington Township.

**Williams, Wm.,** Aug. 11, 1881, at the age of 71.

**Williams, Mrs. Martha,** June, 1886, aged 81.

**Woodman, Benj. F.,** February 21, 1887, aged 75. A pioneer of 1855.

**Woodman, Sarah J.,** February 22, 1907, aged 76. Widow of Franklin Woodman who died in 1904.

**Whitney, Joshua,** July 7, 1883, aged nearly 70. Father of Mrs. David Duncan, of Ashley.

**Whitman, Geo. A.,** Dec. 7, 1889, at the age of 43.

**Williams, Jacob,** February 21, 1912, aged 66. A resident about 22 years.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1874, Jan. 25—The steam sawmill at Bridgeville, owned by Henry Griffith, was burned with the contents; no insurance.

1895, July 4—Fire at Ola burned two stores and two stocks of goods, one owned by Mr. Kinney, the other by Mr. Scofield. Partially insured.

1898, March 11—Fire destroyed the sawmill of Geo. English at Pompeii. There was a feed mill in connection, and a hub-turning department was ready to commence business. The fire was thought to have been of incendiary origin. There was no insurance; loss, $3,000.

1903, Oct. 22—The house of Dan. W. Miles was burned about noon; caught in the ceiling, from the cook stove. From the house the fire soon attacked the barn and that was soon reduced to ashes. Loss about $1,000, with no insurance.

1908, July 15—Two buildings were burned in Pompeii in the northeast part of the business section, and only strenuous exertions prevented further destruction. Jay Grubaugh's blacksmith shop, with dwelling over head, and the adjoining millinery store building were burned, with some of the contents. The fine bank building now occupies the site.

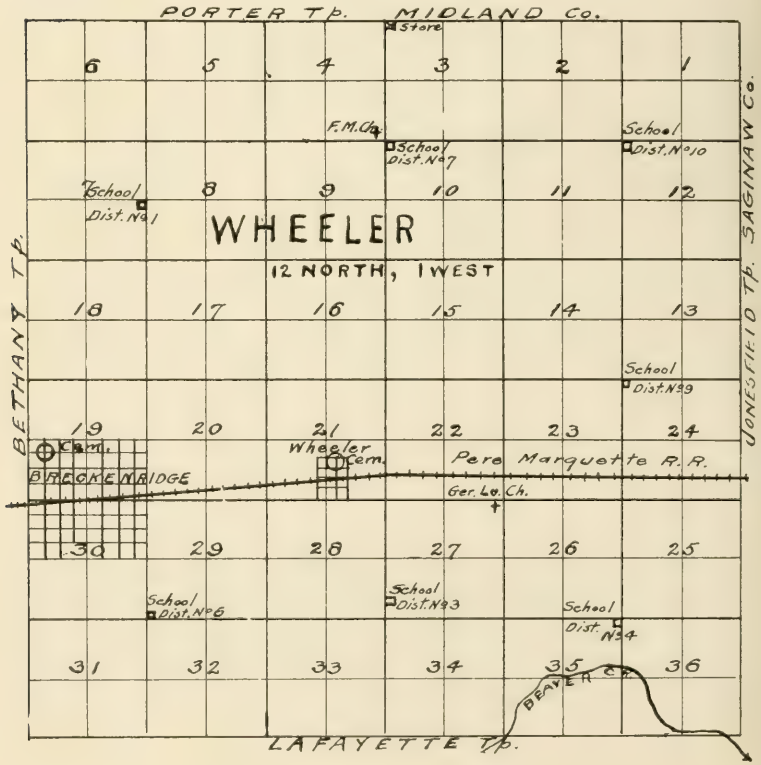
1913, July 4—The house of E. P. Barnhart, occupied by Mr. Chapman, section 13, Washington, was destroyed by fire, with part of the contents. There was some insurance.

1913, July 4—A barn belonging to David Stevenson, near the tile works of David Stevenson & Sons, was struck by lightning and destroyed with its contents, including a valuable horse. Partially insured.



## WHEELER TOWNSHIP.

Wheeler, the northeast corner township of Gratiot County was the last one of the sixteen to be set up in business for itself. From the organization of the county until the year 1862 the township was attached to Lafayette for taxation and other purposes. The surface is generally quite level, consequently in the early days water was very much in evidence, a fact that did not add to the attractions of the township as a place to pitch tent and build a home, so long as there were locations more suitable for the purpose. Another reason for the township's tardy settlement was easily discernible in the fact that it was far removed from the little village settlements of the county; and there was nothing beyond but a continuation of the same discouragements of woods and water. Prospectors, pushing out from St. Louis, could get woods and water enough in the intervening six miles before they struck the first side of Wheeler Township. But gradually the higher spots were occupied, and then gradually came the opening of roads; and so Wheeler, in the course of time, became the abode of civilized men and



women. My first recollections of Wheeler date back to the fall of 1866, when Ben Slough used to wade out of the township and on to St. Louis, to work at his trade, that of a carpenter. Twelve miles, I think it was; maybe it was fourteen. But it didn't kill Ben. Nothing has killed him. He is still a resident of the township; but he don't farm it any more nor do much carpenter work.

The Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad which found its way into the county from the east, in 1872, did much to help Wheeler out of the wilderness, and its progress in improvement has since been rapid. Drainage has



A WHEELER TOWNSHIP PRODUCT.

disposed of the surplus water, and Wheeler is now a fine and rich agricultural township, ranking well up among the best in the county. With the thriving villages of Breckenridge and Wheeler within its borders, and Merrill not far outside, a seven-mile haul is the worst that confronts any farmer.

John Yager is credited with being the earliest settler, coming to the township from Jackson County in 1859. The biographical sketches, the official records of the elections, together with the date of deaths of prominent people, all following in their order, give the names of a great number of the early settlers of the township.

## WHEELER ELECTIONS.

From the organization of the county until the spring of 1862, Wheeler Township was attached to Lafayette for taxation and other official purposes. It is inferred that the Lafayette yoke became galling, for it is recorded that at the meeting of the supervisors in January, 1861, a petition was received from Wheeler citizens asking to be detached from Lafayette and attached to Bethany. The idea, however, didn't seem to strike the board favorably, for the petition was laid on the table, and there it has remained to the present day. At a session of the supervisors in June of that same year a petition of Wheeler citizens asked for a separate organization, the township

to be named "Gratiot." After lying on the table a day or two the petition was withdrawn. At the October session following, another petition asked that the township be organized and given the name of "Wheeler", after James B. Wheeler, a prominent citizen of the township. The supervisors agreed to this, and fixed the date of the first election for April 7, 1862, with David Milligan, James B. Wheeler and Ham. Allen as the inspectors of election.

The first election was held April 7, 1862, and twenty voters cast their ballots, with the following result:

**April, 1862:** Sup.—James B. Wheeler 13, Edson Packard 7; Clk.—David Milligan 20; Treas.—Chas. H. Howd 13, Jas. B. Wheeler 7; H. C.—Chas. H. Howd 20, John Yager 20, Richard Ellsworth 13, Hiram Tubbs 7; J. P.—Stephen Wood 20, Joshua Stevens 20, Jas. B. Wheeler 20, Hamilton Allen 7—all declared elected; Sch. Insp.—Jas. B. Wheeler 20, Hamilton Allen 13, Chas. H. Howd 7; Const.—Edson Packard 20, Isaac Underhill 20, Geo. Cady 15, John Ellsworth 13, John Yager 7.

The entire township constituted one road district, and John Yager was elected pathmaster.

By vote it was directed that the next township meeting be held "at the present school house."

At a joint meeting of the boards of Lafayette and Wheeler it was found that Wheeler had $16 coming. The Lafayette board consisted of Sam. Wheeler, Jesse Willis, S. G. Roe and Jas. Darcus, while Wheeler was represented by Jas. B. Wheeler, Hiram Tubbs and David Milligan.

**April, 1863:** Sup.—Jas. B. Wheeler; Clk.—David Milligan; Treas.—Hiram Tubbs; H. C.—Ham. Allen; vacancy, John H. Smith; J. P.—Zenas Andrews; vacancy, Edson Packard; Sch. Insp.—Edson Packard, Jas. B. Wheeler.

Nov. 12, '63, on the theory that Supervisor Wheeler had removed from the township, and that the office of supervisor was thus made vacant, the township board appointed Edson Packard to the alleged vacancy. But it seems that Mr. Wheeler had only been away temporarily and returned in time to appear at the January session of the board of supervisors. Edson Packard appeared also, and claimed the right to represent the township by virtue of his appointment by the township board. The board of supervisors listened to the arguments and proofs presented by the two claimants, and came to the conclusion that Mr. Wheeler was entitled to retain his seat, and settled the matter accordingly, by a vote of 11 to 2.

At a special township meeting February 29, '64, it was voted to raise a tax to pay $100 bounty to each soldier whose enlistment is credited to Wheeler Township. The 16 voters were unanimous for the tax.

**April, 1864:** There were 16 votes polled, and the following were chosen: Sup.—Daniel W. Breckenridge; Clk.—D. Milligan; Treas.—John H. Smith; H. C.—Wm. Weed; Sch. Insp.—D. W. Breckenridge.

July 29, '64, board appointed Stephen Wood supervisor vice Breckenridge, resigned.

Oct. 14, '64, "Wm. Parrish was appointed highway commissioner in place of Wm. Weed, gone to the war."

At a special session of the supervisors held February 23, 1865, Edson Packard represented Wheeler.

**April, 1865:** Sup.—Barney Swope; Clk.—Romanzo E. Goodenough; Treas.—Wm. Parrish; H. C.—John Yager; J. P.—R. E. Goodenough; vacancy, Richard Ellsworth; Sch. Insp.—Ornan Andrews; vacancy, Barney Swope.

**April, 1866:** There were 20 votes cast.

Sup.—Barney Swope; Clk.—R. E. Goodenough; Treas.—Hiram Tubbs; H. C.—W. H. Weed; J. P.—Stephen Wood; vacancy, Isaac H. Post; Sch. Insp.—Jas. B. Wheeler, B. Swope.

**April, 1867:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—R. E. Goodenough; Treas.—David Milligan; H. C.—R. E. Goodenough; J. P.—Lorenzo Blackman; vacancy, Jas. B. Wheeler; Sch. Insp.—D. Milligan.

The meeting voted that "delegates from said township sent to county conventions to represent any political party, shall be paid on their account being audited and allowed by the township board, and an order issued on the contingent fund." If that was a graft it at least had the merit of being impartial to the different parties. It is not stated how many of those accounts were audited and paid.

The meeting next showed its liberal proclivities by voting to let hogs run at large.

**April, 1868:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—Milo A. Pomeroy; Treas.—Lorenzo Blackman ; H. C.—Joseph Brumby; J. P.—Elbert Weeks; Sch. Insp.—R. E. Goodenough.

A resolution offered by D. Milligan read, "Resolved, that the library funds be appropriated for the purchase of books"; which seemed to meet the views of the meeting, and it was adopted.

Nov. 6, '68, Treasurer Blackman resigned and Hiram Tubbs was appointed to the office.

March 30, '69, M. A. Pomeroy resigned as clerk and R. E. Goodenough was appointed to fill the vacancy.

**April, 1869:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—Erastus B. Wilson; Treas.—H. Tubbs; H. C.—L. Blackman; J. P.—Samuel Wilson; Sch. Insp.—H. Tubbs.

**April, 1870:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—L. Blackman; Treas.—H. Tubbs; H. C.—R. E. Goodenough; J. P.—D. W. Breckenridge; vacancy, Joseph King; Sch. Insp.—R. E. Goodenough.

**April, 1871:** There were 35 votes cast this spring. Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—L. Blackman; Treas.—Elbert T. Weeks; H. C.—Henry Allen; J. P.—Sam. Wilson; vacancy, R. E. Goodenough; Sch. Insp.—H. Tubbs.

**April, 1872:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—M. A. Pomeroy; Treas.—E. T. Weeks; H. C.—Sam. Wilson; J. P.—Joseph Brumby; vacancy, Wm. H. Weed; Dr. Com.—R. E. Goodenough.

At this meeting a resolution was presented by R. E. Goodenough, and adopted, making Swope, Blackman and Pomeroy the township committee for the ensuing year. It is left to the imagination to figure out the duties of such a committee. Probably it was just as harmless as it was useless.

**April, 1873:** Sup.—Lorenzo Blackman; Clk.—M. A. Pomeroy; Treas.—Sam. Wilson; H. C.—R. E. Goodenough; J. P.—Barney Swope; Sch. Insp.—Joseph Brumby; vacancy, Wm. H. Weed; Dr. Com.—R. E. Goodenough.

A resolution was adopted, "authorizing the supervisor to disregard the dog law so far as it relates to dog tax, and we will defend him if prosecuted."

Oct. 4, '73, the board appointed Barney Swope to act as supervisor, and he represented the township at the October session of the board of supervisors. Supervisor Blackman was present at the January, 1874, session.

**April, 1874:** Sup.—Milo A. Pomeroy; Clk.—Chas. H. Howd; Treas.—Sam. Wilson; H. C.—J. W. Smith; J. P.—Hiram Sexton; Sch. Insp.—L. Blackman; Dr. Com.—John Schmidt.

**April, 1875:** At this time the township was casting 88 votes.

Sup.—Jas. B. Wheeler; Clk.—Leverett H. Town; Treas.—Sam. Wilson; H. C.—R. E. Goodenough; J. P.—Newel Smith; Supt. Sch.—Joseph Cross; Sch. Insp.—L. Blackman; Dr. Com.—R. E. Goodenough.

It was resolved to hold the next township meeting at Howd's Hall, Breckenridge.

**April, 1876:** Sup.—Newel Smith; Clk.—M. A. Pomeroy; Treas.—L. Blackman; J. P.—D. Milligan; Supt. Sch.—Wm. Flannigan; Sch. Insp.—John W. Smith; Dr. Com.—Jas. K. Wellman.

**April, 1877:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—M. A .Pomeroy; Treas.—L. Blackman; H. C.—Jas. M. Weed; J. P.—R. E. Goodenough; Supt. Sch.—Joseph Cross; Sch. Insp.—J. W. Smith.

**April, 1878:** Sup.—M. A. Pomeroy; Clk.—L. H. Town; Treas.—Jas. K. Wellman; H. C.—Jas. M. Weed; J. P.—Andrew J. Clark; Supt. Sch.—Jo. Cross; Sch. Insp.—J. W. Smith; Dr. Com.—J. A. Breckenridge.

**April, 1879:** Sup.—M. A. Pomeroy; Clk.—Gibson Douglas; Treas.—L. Blackman; H. C.—J. W. Smith; J. P.—N. Smith; Supt. Sch.—Chas. S. Watson; Sch. Insp.—Oliver Darlington.

The meeting voted "to tax $500 for license for anyone engaging in selling liquor in the township."

**April, 1880:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—Barney Swope; Treas.—L. Blackmore; H. C.—Jacob Lewis; J. P.—B. Swope; vacancy, John L. Thedgar; Supt. Sch.—H. Tubbs; Sch. Insp.—Jas. E. Gress; Dr. Com.—Frank Perry.

**April, 1881:** The vote had increased to 218 at this time.

Sup.—Barney Swope; Clk.—Jas. Ellsworth; Treas.—M. A. Pomeroy; H. C.—N. Smith; J. P.—D. Milligan; Supt. Sch.—O. Darlington; Sch. Insp.—A. J. Ervey.

**April, 1882:** Sup.—Wm. Gary; Clk.—Jas. Ellsworth; Treas.—L. Blackman; H. C.—Chas. Wolverton; J. P.—J. L. Thedgar; Sch. Insp.—J. W. Smith, L. M. Ball; Dr. Com.—Silas D. Hoard.

Supervisor Gary resigned early in the season and Newel Smith was appointed to the vacancy.

**April, 1883:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—Edwin Hasbrook; Treas.—M. A. Pomeroy; H. C.—John H. Parrish; J. P.—Oliver Darlington; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp.

**April, 1884:** Sup.—M. A. Pomeroy; Clk.—Wm. Kipp; Treas.—Jo. Brumby; H. C.—John H. Parrish; J. P.—N. Smith; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Curtis; Dr. Com.—Arthur Davis.

**April, 1885:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—Geo. P. Young; Treas.—Jo. Brumby; H. C.—John H. Parrish; J. P.—D. Milligan; vacancy, Geo. W. Torbert; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp.

**April, 1886:** Sup.—John H. Parrish; Clk.—G. W. Curtis; Treas.—Wm. Kipp; H. C.—Jo. Brumby; J. P.—Geo. W. Torbert; Sch. Insp.—Orin Bailey; Dr. Com.—Arthur Davis.

G. W. Curtis resigned as clerk and the board appointed B. Swope to the vacancy.

Wm. Kipp failed to qualify as treasurer, and the board appointed Wm. O. Watson to the position.

The office of drain commissioner seemed to have gone begging. Arthur Davis who was elected declined the honor, and the board appointed Frank Welling (declined), Chas. Terry (refused), W. J. Tippin, who consented to tackle the job.

**April, 1887:** Sup.—John H. Parrish; Clk.—Lemuel Waggoner; Treas.—Jo. Brumby; H. C.—Frank Welling; J. P.—Thos. Murphy; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp.

**April, 1888:** Sup.—J. H. Parrish; Clk.—Grant Wheeler; Treas.—L. Blackman; H. C.—Jas. Wilson; J. P.—Jacob Lewis; Sch. Insp.—Orin H. Bailey; Dr. Com.—Wm. Shaw.

**April, 1889:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—Adam Johnstone; Treas.—L. Blackman; H. C.—Jas. Wilson; J. P.—D. Milligan; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp.

Aug. 24, 1889, a special election was held to decide the question of raising $165 to increase the capacity of the town hall by putting on a second story. Lost by a vote of 119 to 83.

**April, 1890:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—L. Waggoner; H. C.—Oscar Oakes; J. P.—Geo. W. Torbert, Sch. Insp.—Geo. S. Young; Dr. Com.—Jay Sexton; Review—Jacob Lewis, D. Milligan.

**April, 1891:** Sup.—N. Smith; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Oscar Oakes; J. P.—M. A. Pomeroy; vacancy, Samuel F. Sibley; Sch. Insp.—Frank Rosa; Review—Lemuel Waggoner.

**April, 1892:** Sup.—Barney Swope; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—Herbert Stone; H. C.—Jas. E. Rosa; J. P.—Chas. H. Howd; Sch. Insp.—John E. Hill; Dr. Com.—Jas. Wilson; Review—Jo. Brumby, Ham. Allen.

**April, 1893:** Sup.—J. H. Parrish; Clk.—B. Swope; Treas.—Herbert Stone; H. C.—Jas. E. Rosa; J. P.—S. F. Sibley; Sch. Insp.—Edward B. Becker; Review—Oscar Oakes.

**April, 1894:** Sup.—Oscar Oakes; Clk.—B. Swope; Treas.—Wm. O. Watson; H. C.—Arthur Stone; J. P.—Cornelius Peterman; vacancy, Phil. Vanorman; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp; Dr. Com.—Chas. A. Scholtz; Review—Herbert Stone.

April 21, '94, J. H. Parrish was appointed census enumerator.

**April, 1895:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—Joseph Cross; Treas.—W. O. Watson; H. C.—Chas. A. Zubler; J. P.—Wm. H. Weed; vacancy, H. C. Parks; Sch. Insp.—Edward Becker; Review—Jacob Lewis, Robert Allen.

**April, 1896:** Sup.—Oscar Oakes; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—John W. Smith; H. C.—Chas. A. Zubler; J. P.—B. Swope; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp; Dr. Com.—Chas. A. Scholtz; Review—Robert Allen.

**April, 1897:** Sup.—B. Swope; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—L. Waggoner; H. C.—Geo. W. Milligan; J. P.—Geo. W. Torbert; Sch. Insp.—Clark Loomis; Review—Jas. Gunsaulus.

**April, 1898:** Sup.—Oscar Oakes; Clk.—A. Johnstone; Treas.—L. Waggoner; H. C.—S. F. Sibley; J. P.—Henry C. Parks; Sch. Insp.—Jas. P. Wireman; Review—Frank Welling.

**April, 1899:** Sup.—J. H. Parrish; Clk.—Clark Loomis; Treas.—A. Johnstone; H. C.—Fred G. Stevens; J. P.—Arthur H. Stone; Sch. Insp.—Fred H. Stone; vacancy, Geo. W. Thompson; Review—L. Waggoner.

Nov. 1, '99, board appointed L. Waggoner, clerk, vice Loomis, resigned.

**April, 1900:** Sup.—J. H. Parrish; Clk.—Walter E. Swope; Treas.—Jay Sexton; H. C.—Jas. Wilson; J. P.—B. Swope; Sch. Insp.—Chas. Bradford and Earl Barnes, tie—Bradford wins; Review—Robert Allen.

**April, 1901:** Sup.—Adam Johnstone; Clk.—Walter E. Swope; Treas.—B. Swope; H. C.—Jas. Wilson; J. P.—Geo. W. Torbert; vacancy, Thos. Crawford; Sch. Insp.—Wilbur U. Barnes; Review—Wm. Bradford.

**April, 1902:** Sup.—A. Johnstone; Clk.—W. E. Swope; Treas.—Bert T. Muscott; H. C.—Jas. Wilson; J. P.—S. F. Sibley; Sch. Insp.—C. E. Watson; Review—J. P. Sexton.

**April, 1903:** Sup.—A. Johnstone; Clk.—Wm. F. Bradford; Treas.—Bert T. Muscott; H. C.—Oscar Oakes; J. P.—R. J. Lowery; Sch. Insp.—Leroy D. Allen; Review—J. W. Smith.

Clerk Bradford resigned Aug. 25, and Ebenezer Hill was appointed in his place. Oscar Oakes resigned as highway commissioner, and the board appointed H. C. Parks to the vacancy.

**April, 1904:** The township polled 466 votes.

Sup.—A. Johnstone; Clk.—Arthur H. Stone; Treas.—J. P. Sexton; H. C.—H. C. Parks; J. P.—M. A. Pomeroy; Sch. Insp.—Geo. Kipp; Review—Bert T. Muscott.

**April, 1905:** Sup.—Wm. L. Reid; Clk.—Arthur H. Stone; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Newell M. Bradford; J. P.—Grant Steele; vacancy, B. Swope; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp; vacancy, Cas. E. Watson; Review—Chas. Merrill.

**April, 1906:** Sup.—Wm. L. Reid; Clk.—Arthur H. Stone; Treas.—J. W. Smith; H. C.—Newell M. Bradford; J. P.—S. F. Sibley; Sch. Insp.—Willard Folkert; Review—Robert Allen.

**April, 1907:** Sup.—Wm. L. Reid; Clk.—Herman J. Zubler; Treas.—Bert T. Muscott; H. C.—Newell M. Bradford; J. P.—R. J. Lowery; vacancy, Geo. A. Ford; Sch. Insp.—Wm. Kipp; vacancy, Byron S. Watson; Review—Chas. Merrill.

**April, 1908:** Sup.—A. Johnstone; Clk.—Hugh L. Torbert; Treas.—Bert T. Muscott; H. C.—Newell M. Bradford; O. of H.—John A. Clark; J. P.—Geo. W. Torbert; Sch. Insp.—Leslie A. Howe; Review—Robert Allen.

On the adoption of local option—Yes, 285; no, 151.

**April, 1909:** Sup.—Eugene S. Owen; Clk.—H. L. Torbert; Treas.—Willard C. Folkert; H. C.—Myron Hypolite; O. of H.—O. Kyne; J. P.—B. Swope; vacancy, Phil. Vanorman; Review—J. W. Smith.

**April, 1910:** Sup.—Eugene S. Owen; Clk.—H. L. Torbert; Treas.—W. C. Folkert; H. C.—N. M. Bradford; O. of H.—Fred M. Maurer; Review—Chas. A. Scholtz.

**April, 1911:** Sup.—Eugene S. Owen; Clk.—Willard C. Folkert; Treas.—Jesse E. Hodge; J. P.—R. J. Lowrey; Review—Chas. Merrill, J. P. Sexton; H. C.—N. M. Bradford; O. of H.—John Youngs.

**April, 1912:** Sup.—E. S. Owen; Clk.—W. C. Folkert; Treas.—Chas. Merrill; J. P.—Chas. E. Watson; vacancy, E. E. Stone; Review—Bert Muscott; H. C.—John Youngs; O. of H.—Robert Allen.

**April, 1913:** Sup.—Newell Bradford; Clk.—W. C. Folkert; Treas.—Chas. Merrill; H. C.—John Youngs; O. of H.—Robert Allen; J. P.—Barney Swope; Review—Geo. Lewis.

Woman Suffrage: Yes, 145; no, 179.

County Road System: Yes, 152; no, 78.

### Supervisors.

Jas. B. Wheeler, 1862, '63, '75.
Daniel W. Breckenridge, 1864.
Stephen Wood, ap. July 29, 1864.
Edson Packard, ap. Feb., 1865.
Barney Swope, 1865, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, ap. Oct. 4, 1873; '81, '85, '92, '95, '97.
Lorenzo Blackman, 1873.
Milo. A. Pomeroy, 1874, '78, '79, '84.
Newel Smith, 1876, '77, '80, ap. in summer of '82; '83, '89, '90, '91.
Wm. Gary, 1882.
John H. Parrish, 1886, '87, '88, '93, '99, '00.
Oscar Oakes, 1894, '96, '98.
Adam Johnstone, 1901, '02, '03, '04, '08.
Wm. L. Reid, 1905, '06, '07.
Eugene S. Owen, 1909, '10, '11, 12.
Newell Bradford, '13.

**Township Clerks.**

David Milligan, 1862, '63, '64.
Romanzo E. Goodenough, 1865, '66, '67, ap. March 30, '69.
Milo A. Pomeroy, 1868, '72, '73, '76, '77.
Erastus B. Wilson, 1869.
Lorenzo Blackman, 1870, '71.
Chas. H. Howd, 1874.
Leverett H. Town, 1875, '78.
Gibson Douglas, 1879.
Barney Swope, 1880, ap. '86; '93, '94.
Jas. Ellsworth, 1881, '82.
Edwin Hasbrook, 1883.
Wm. Kipp, 1884.
Geo. P. Young, 1885.
G. W. Curtis, 1886.
Lemuel Waggoner, 1887, ap. Nov. 1, '99.
Grant Wheeler, 1888.
Adam Johnstone, 1889, '90, '91, '92, '96, '97, '98.
Joseph Cross, 1895.
Clark Loomis, 1899.
Walter E. Swope, 1900, '01, '02.
Wm. F. Bradford, 1903.
Ebenezer Hill, ap. Aug. 25, '03.
Arthur H. Stone, 1904, '05, '06.
Herman J. Zubler, 1907.
Hugh J. Torbert, 1908, '09, '10.
Willard C. Folkert, 1911, '12, '13.

**Treasurers.**

Chas. H. Howd, 1862.
Hiram Tubbs, 1863, '66, ap. Nov., '68; '69, '70.
John H. Smith, 1864.
Wm. Parrish, 1865.
David Milligan, 1867.
Lorenzo Blackman, 1868, '76, '77, '79, '80, '82, '88, '89.
Elbert T. Weeks, 1871, '72.
Samuel Wilson, 1873, '74, '75.
Jas. K. Wellman, 1878.
Milo A. Pomeroy, 1881, '83.
Jo. Brumby, 1884, '85, '87.
Wm. Kipp, 1886.
Wm. O. Watson, ap. 1886; '94, '95.
L. Waggoner, 1880, '97, '98.
J. W. Smith, 1891, '96, '05, '06.
Herbert Stone, 1892, '93.
Adam Johnstone, 1879.
Jay Sexton, 1900, '04.
Barney Swope, 1901.
Bert F. Muscott, 1902, '03, '07, '08.
Willard C. Folkert, 1909, '10.
Jesse E. Hodge, 1911.
Chas. Merrill, 1912, '13.

## WHEELER BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### KIPP.

William Kipp, druggist, located and doing business for many years in the Village of Wheeler, and a resident of Gratiot County for over 43 years, was born in Frederic County, Maryland, March 4, 1844. His father, John Kipp, was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., July 26, 1807. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Ann Deaming. She was a native of Frederic County, Maryland, born May 12, 1812. Her marriage to John Kipp took place in Maryland, May 4, 1834. Their children were Thomas M., William, Mary Ellen and Charles A.

John Kipp removed with his family to Genesee County, Mich., in the year 1860, remaining there until the year 1870, when they became residents of Gratiot County, locating on section 35, Pine River, on the angling road between St. Louis and Alma. Here the father, John Kipp, died October 3, 1892. His wife, Elizabeth Ann Kipp, died November 28, 1901.

William Kipp came to Gratiot County, May 20, 1870, taking up his residence at St. Louis, where he engaged in general merchandising for a period of eight years, after which he removed to Breckenridge where he continued in mercantile trade, dealing in groceries and drugs. He was also interested in lumbering on lands purchased lying in the vicinity of Breckenridge. After a residence in the last named place about twelve years, he

removed to Wheeler Village, where he still resides, engaged in the drug trade, with notions and sundries in connection. He is also quite extensively engaged in the improvement and cultivation of his farm possessions, of which he now owns 320 acres, partly in Wheeler and partly in Lafayette Township.

William Kipp was united in marriage, February 13, 1870, in Oakland County, Mich., to Sarah Margaret Swayze who was born in that county May 17, 1846. She is a daughter of Philip T. and Rachel Ann (Hunt) Swayze, the former born in Warren County, New Jersey in 1795, the latter born in the same county, Jan. 1, 1806. They were married in 1841, and besides Sarah M. they were the parents of Christopher M., George S. and Charles A.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. William Kipp are Edith, born April 5, 1871; George, born June 10, 1873; T. charles, born April 27, 1877; Albert, May 17, 1879. They are all residents of Wheeler excepting Albert who is a citizen of Saginaw.

Mr. Kipp has acceptably filled the offices of township clerk and school inspector of Wheeler Township. While a resident of Breckenridge he was a member of the school board, and in Wheeler Village he is serving his fifteenth year as school director. He is a member of the K. O. T. M. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Kipp are justly classed among the substantial residents, deserving and holding the esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

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## WHEELER.

James B. Wheeler, after whom the Township of Wheeler was named, was born in Bath, N. Y., August 6, 1829, son of Joseph and Sarah (Kennedy) Wheeler. In 1845 he enlisted in the regular army expecting to fight in the war with Mexico, but was stationed at Fortress Monroe and got no nearer the scene of conflict. In April, 1861, he came to Gratiot County, settling on section 28, Wheeler Township, at that time an appendage of Lafayette Township and known as "12—1." At the session of the board of supervisors in October, 1861, a petition for the organization of 12—1 as a separate township was acted upon favorably, the resolution ordering the first election to be held in April, 1862, and giving the township the name of Wheeler. At the first election Mr. Wheeler was elected supervisor and he was re-elected in 1863 and again in 1875. He also served as justice of the peace. In the fall of 1862 he was the Democratic candidate for county surveyor and was defeated by only 29 votes. He served as a soldier in the Civil War a member of the 14th Mich. Infantry.



JAS. B. WHEELER AND WIFE.

James B. Wheeler was married in 1864 to Ida L. Smith who was born in New Jersey, November 28, 1848, daughter of John H. and Jane (Castimore) Smith, and a sister of Gratiot's present representative in the state legislature. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler—Newell Grant, John H., Joseph B., Nattie and Francis C.

Mr. Wheeler was highly regarded by his townsmen and was a man of proved worth. He died in St. Louis, November 14, 1892. Mrs. Wheeler resides with her son, John H. Wheeler, in Detroit.

## OAKES.

Oscar Oakes, residing on section 33 of Wheeler Township, was born in Aurelius Township, Ingham County, Mich., September 30, 1841. He is the son of Darius and Maria P. (Royston) Oakes, the former born in Vermont, the latter born in New Jersey. They were married at Seneca Falls, N. Y., afterward removing to Michigan, and settling on a tract of wild land in Ingham County. There the father died in October 1860, at the comparatively early age of about forty-six years. The mother lived to reach her eighty-first year, passing away at the home of her son Oscar in Wheeler Township, February 21, 1894.



OSCAR OAKES.

Oscar Oakes is one of four children born to Darius and Maria P. Oakes. He is the oldest of the children, the others being Robert W., now deceased; George A., now residing in Porter Township, Midland County, Mich.; Sarah E. who married George Battley, and is now deceased.

Our principal subject, Oscar Oakes, passed his youthful days on his father's farm, in Ingham County, receiving a good, common school education. He responded early to his country's call for troops, enlisting September 20, 1861, as a member of Company B, 2nd Mich., Infantry (Berdan's Sharpshooters). After a little more than six months' service he was honorably discharged for disability. In 1863 he removed to Minnesota, and in August, 1864, he again enlisted in his country's service, becoming a member of Company K, 11th Minnesota Infantry, and serving until the close of the war. Returning to Minnesota he remained there engaged in farming for a period of four years, at the end of which time he returned to Michigan and purchased the family homestead in Ingham County, the farm on which he was born. In 1876 he sold the old farm and removed to Mitchell County, Kansas, where he purchased a farm and was engaged in agricultural pursuits between four and five years. Selling his farm he then returned to Michigan, and in June, 1885, found his way to Gratiot County, purchasing and settling upon a forest farm on section 33, Wheeler Township, the place which he still occupies, and which he has brought to a high state of productiveness.



MRS. OSCAR OAKES.

Mr. Oakes was married September 24, 1861, to Maretta Sifert, of Eaton Rapids, Mich. To this union there was born a son—Frank E.—December 27, 1864. He is now a resident of Utah.

December 17, 1874, Mr. Oakes was married a second time, Miss Emma E. Springer, of Aurelius, becoming his wife. She was born in that town-

ship August 4, 1859, daughter of Abraham and Lura (Collins) Springer, natives of the State of New York. Their deaths occurred in Ingham County.

To the union of Oscar and Emma E. Oakes two children were born—Olive I. and D. Martin. Olive I. is married to W. Fred Smith. They reside in Fairfield Township, Shiawassee County, and have four children—Zelma E., Elmer O., Clarence W. and Dee. D. Martin Oakes married Della M. Eastman. Oscar D. and Thelma are their two children.

Oscar Oakes occupies an enviable position in the esteem of his townsmen, who have frequently shown their appreciation of his worth by calling him to positions of honor and responsibility. In 1890, '91 and '03 he served as highway commissioner, and was supervisor of his township in 1894, '96 and '98. In earlier years he was a Democrat, but in 1892 he transferred his allegiance to the Republican party. At the time of this writing, however, (March, 1912) he is enrolled as a Democrat, and says that he will be found voting that way when it comes to the test in November.

Mr. Oakes is an active member of the Masonic Order.

## SWOPE.

Barney Swope, of Wheeler, is one of the pioneer landmarks of Gratiot County, and more especially of the Township of Wheeler where he has resided for the past 49 years. During nearly all that time he has been prominently identified with the business, social and official interests of the township, and has done his full share in the arduous labors of transforming that wilderness township into a well-improved and fertile section of the county and state.

Barney Swope was born in Washington County, Maryland, June 12, 1840. He is the son of Barnhart Swope and Elizabeth (Neff) Swope, the former born in Maryland, June, 1790, the latter born December 15, 1816. She also was a native of Maryland. Barnhart and Elizabeth Swope were parents of other children with names and birth-dates as follows: Lanah M., born August 20, 1842; William J., born June 13, 1845; Jacob, born August 18, 1851. The family removed from Maryland to Ohio in 1847, remaining there till 1852, when they came to Michigan, settling in Jackson County, where the father died in 1855. The mother afterward married John Yager and later removed to Gratiot County where she died May 14, 1899. Mr. Yager died August 16, 1896.

Barney Swope enlisted in his country's service August 20, 1861, entering Co. I, 6th Mich. Vol. Infantry. After doing garrison duty in Baltimore until March, 1862, his command was transferred to Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico. He was actively engaged in several battles, including that of Baton Rouge, Vickesburg and Port Hudson, and was wounded in the shoulder at the last named battle, May 27, 1863. He carries a reminder of that wound through life, in the form of a shortened right arm made so by the removal of four and a half inches of the bone. He was discharged from the service on account of his wound, September 7, 1863.

Mr. Swope came to Gratiot in May, 1864, and in 1865 settled permanently on section 21, Wheeler Township, where he has ever since resided. He was married August 20, 1865 to Margarite L. Parrish, born in Jackson County, Mich., October 3, 1845, daughter of William and Harriet (Tompkins) Parrish, both natives of New York State, who removed to Jackson County, Mich., and later to Gratiot County, settling on section 7, Wheeler Township.

Children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Swope as follows: William J., born June 13, 1866, lives at home; John H., born May 14, 1868, married to May Gunsolus, May 11, 1898. They live on section 31, Wheeler. Agnes E. was born January 14, 1870, married December 21, 1897, to Thomas Crawford and resides in Breckenridge. They have one child, Margurite, born November 17, 1898. Edgar W. was born April 28, 1872, lived at the paternal home until his death which occurred April 28, 1907. Walter E. was born July 24, 1874, and was married to Helen Roosa October 17, 1900. They live at Riverdale and have—Dorothea E., born September 8, 1901, and Burton, born January 8, 1912. Bessie M. was born January 11, 1879, married to Charles Hynes September 18, 1907. One child, Lana M., was born to them February 11, 1910. They are farmers on section 16, Wheeler. Francis R., born January 11, 1881, married to Jennie Partee February 17, 1909. They live on section 21, Wheeler, and have a son, Merlin E., born January 31, 1910.

Recognizing his worth, Mr. Swope's townsmen have kept him in various official positions almost continuously from the time when memory is lost in the dim and misty past. He has been justice of the peace for 36 years, still holds it, and it is hoped that he is good for many more years. He was township clerk six years. In April 1865, he was elected supervisor, since which time he has held the office 17 years. These statistics, gleaned from the records, tell an unmistakable story that needs no additional word from the historian.

Barney Swope's paternal grandfather first saw the light on the Atlantic ocean while his parents were on the way from Germany to America. When a young man he became an Indian fighter and was taken prisoner by them three times, escaping from them each time. He afterward joined the army that was fighting for our independence, and was engaged in several battles.

Our subject's own father fought in the War of 1812. He was present at Baltimore when the English general—Rosan—rode up on a hill in sight of the city and, turning to his men said that he would "eat his breakfast in Baltimore or in hell." Whether or not he actually kept his word will never positively be known. Certain it is, however, he did not eat in Baltimore, for he was killed and never got into the city.

## JOHNSTONE.

Adam Johnstone, dealer in general merchandise at Wheeler Village, is one of the prominent and well-known citizens of Gratiot County. As such it is not only appropriate but it is also a pleasure to give him a biographical sketch in this volume. He was born in Leeds County, Ontario, Canada, May 22, 1862. His father, Adam Johnstone, was a native of Scotland; his mother, Ann (Moran) Johnstone was of Scotch-Irish descent and was born in Canada. The subject of this sketch was one of a family of five children—James; John; Grace, who married Robert Oliver and died at the age of thirty years; Adam; Marguerita, who married Frank B. Ransford. The father died in Caro, Tuscola County, Mich., in the year 1881, at the age of seventy-one years. The mother resides in Caro, aged 80 years.

In 1864, when our subject was two years old, the family came to Michigan locating in Tuscola County, where Adam passed his youthful days, and where he received a common-school education, and also learning the blacksmith trade, the occupation followed by his father. At the age of eighteen he left the paternal home and went to Kansas City, Missouri, where he

worked at his trade a year, and then returned to Michigan, and for six years was employed in a stave mill at Wheeler, this county. In the year 1887 he embarked in mercantile trade at the Village of Wheeler, a business which he still follows. By fair dealing, coupled with energy and enterprise, he has built up a prosperous and lucrative trade, and is justly ranked as one of the solid business men of the county. In addition to his mercantile pursuits he is actively interested in farming, being the owner of two farms near Wheeler Village and one in Porter Township, Midland County. He also finds time to look after the interests of the Wheeler Bank as its president, and is one of the vice-presidents of the First State Savings Bank of Breckenridge.

Mr. Johnstone was married in Wheeler Township, January 1, 1888, to Mrs. Lois J. Blackman, widow of Orin Blackman. She is daughter of Alvin Orlando and Harriet Elnora (Stanton) Allen, and was born in Litchfield, Mich., May 6, 1855. They have one son, Harold A. Johnstone, born in Wheeler, April 22, 1901.

Recognizing his ability and his reliability, the people of Wheeler Township have many times called Mr. Johnstone to official positions of responsibility. He served seven years as township clerk—1889, '90, '91, '92, '96, '97, '98. In 1899 he was township treasurer. In 1901 his constituents elected him supervisor, and he was re-elected three times and again elected in 1908. It seems appropriate to say, in this connection, that the township generally goes Republican by a large majority. Consequently, the election of Mr. Johnstone, who is a Democrat, may plausibly be looked upon as conclusive evidence that he enjoys the confidence of his townsmen in an unusual degree.

Mr. Johnstone is an active and influential member of the Masonic order, having reached the 32nd degree, and also of the Knights of the Modern Maccabees, and the Gleaners. Mrs. Johnstone is a member of the M. E. Church and of the order of Gleaners.

**George W. Torbert** was born in Milford, Delaware, June 29, 1847, son of Nathaniel P. and Mary A. (Johnson) Torbert. As a youth and young man he served on water-craft as steward both on the Atlantic and on the Great Lakes. Leaving that occupation he was for some years in business at Fremont and Evart, Mich., coming to Breckenridge in 1881. Since that time he has been engaged in operating planing mills and in building at Breckenridge. Recently he sold his business at Breckenridge and has removed to Wheeler Village to engage in the same business. As a citizen of Breckenridge and of Wheeler Township Mr. Torbert has always been fully alive to the interests of his community, and has taken an active part in all enterprises for the betterment of conditions. He has been entrusted with official responsibilities and has always enjoyed the fullest confidence of his fellowmen. He has been a justice of the peace almost constantly, and was postmaster during both administrations of President Cleveland; all of which reveals the fact that he is a Democrat of the active, progressive sort. Mr. Torbert was married in Fremont, Mich., January 25, 1878, to Mary L., daughter of Hugh and Mary M. (Callighan) Miller. They have one son, Hugh L., now connected with a large banking institution in Detroit. Hugh was clerk of Wheeler Township three years, and in 1908 was the Democratic candidate for county treasurer.

**Lorenzo Blackman** located on 17, Wheeler Township in the fall of 1865, soon after his discharge from the army in which he served as a member of Company G, 72nd Ohio Infantry. He was son of Ansel and Sarah

(Higgins) Blackman and was born in Erie County, Ohio, April 29, 1830. As a citizen of this county he was justly rated as a man of strict integrity, and gave excellent satisfaction in his township in various positions of trust—supervisor in 1873, clerk in '70 and '71 and treasurer various and sundry years—eight in all—from 1868 to '89. He was married in 1850 to Mary Furman, and seven children were born to the union—Mary J., Lovina E., Sabra D., Evaline, Juliet, Nora M. and Wilbur. By Mr. Blackman's death, which occurred January 28, 1911, Gratiot County lost an exceptionally good and conscientious citizen. Mrs. Blackman died December 16, 1884, aged 52 years.

The following list gives a share of those citizens who, during the past fifty years have been more or less conspicuous in the business and official life of Wheeler Township. Perhaps about half of those named are still spared to read these lines. The others have gone to their reward: David Milligan; Romanzo E. Goodnough; Hiram Tubbs; Samuel Wilson; Hamilton Allen; Joseph Brumby; Leverett H. Town, John H. Parrish, (former sheriff of Gratiot County); Daniel W., Justin A. and H. C. Breckenridge; William H. Weed; John Yager; William R. Bradford; Silas D. Hoard; William L. Reid; Eugene S. Owen; William O. Watson; Albert P. Foland; Chas. H. Howd; Hugh L. Torbert, Democratic candidate for county clerk in 1908; Alf. F. Crawford; Thomas Crawford; Charles Merrill; Lemuel Waggoner; Fred Chapin; D. L. Wilson; W. C. Folkert; H. J. and C. A. Zubler; Newell Bradford; H. M. Boneman; Leslie A. Howe; Jesse E. Hodge.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Beach, Amos,** near Breckenridge, Dec. 25, 1892, aged 70. A pioneer in good standing.

**Bonesteel, Mrs. Eleanor,** March 31, 1891, at the age of 83 years.

**Bradford, Wm. R.,** July 7, 1903. A valued and popular citizen.

**Breckenridge, Justin A.,** June, 1903, aged 60. Early on the scene, and a prominent man in his township and village—Breckenridge.

**Bonesteel, Thirza E.,** March 19, 1908, aged 56.

**Buswell, John,** at his home in Breckenridge, February 1, 1912, aged about 73. An esteemed resident of Bethany for years and an old soldier.

**Bradford, Harrison,** Oct. 5, 1912, aged 74 years.

**Cruson, Floyd L.,** Sept. 23, 1879, aged 7.

**Cruson, Martha B.,** Oct. 7, 1879, aged 4.

**Cruson, Lewis J.,** Oct. 28, 1879, aged 2. Children of Charles and Belle D. Cruson.

**Cross, Arthur,** Oct. 6, 1879, aged 10.

**Cross, William H.,** Oct. 11, 1879, aged 3.

**Cross, Bessie,** Oct. 13, 1879, aged 12.

**Cross, George A.,** Oct. 20, 1879, aged 7.

**Cross, Willis H.,** Oct. 21, 1879, aged 3. Children of Joseph and Alice Cross, of Wheeler Village.

**Cross, Mrs. Alice,** wife of Joseph Cross, March 19, 1884, at her home in Wheeler Village.

**Curtis, Mrs. Rebecca (Picket),** at the residence of her daughter and son-in-law, J. Wesley, and Charlotte (Picket) Smith, February 2, 1902. Widow of Elijah Curtis, of Hamilton.

**Coleman, James,** January 23, 1904. A pioneer of the early '60s.

**Coleman, Ulysses L.,** Dec. 12, 1902, aged 62. A respected early settler.

**Caswell, Mrs. Frank,** Sept. 21, 1910.

**Clemens, Isaac,** at his home near Breckenridge, February 24, 1911, aged 65.

**Chapin, Frank W.,** at his home near Breckenridge, May 8, 1912, aged 54. Son of the late D. W. C. Chapin, and a popular citizen.

**Cross, Joseph,** May 9, 1913. An upright citizen of Wheeler Village, long in mercantile business.

**Daniels, Content,** Dec. 3, 1874, aged 89.

**Deeter, Mrs. Hannah,** wife of John Deeter, March 23, 1890, aged 68.

**Ellsworth, Richard E.,** Aug. 25, 1887, aged 32.

**Ellsworth, James,** Sept. 8, 1887, aged 37. Was township clerk two terms.

**Ellsworth, Richard,** father of Richard E. and James, Aug. 7, 1888, aged 76.

**Eaton, Geo. B.,** Jan. 29, 1905. Proprietor of a large stock farm in eastern Wheeler.

**Ellsworth, Mrs. Julia Ann (Smith),** May 18, 1913, at her home in Wheeler Village, aged 56 years. She was an esteemed old settler, widow of James Ellsworth. She had been postmaster for several years, and was such at the time of her death.

**Fletcher, Robert C.,** at the home of his son Stephen, Aug. 20, 1895, aged 71. Came to the county in 1862, first settling in Sumner. An old soldier.

**Foland, Albert P.,** Dec. 22, 1901. An early settler in St. Louis, later in trade at Wheeler Village.

**Falor, Geo. Wm.,** at Maple Rapids, Oct. 18, 1912, aged 83. He came to Wheeler Township in 1877; was an upright citizen, leaving seven children, 31 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

**Gary, Wm. R.,** March 2, 1909, aged 80. Located in Wheeler in 1868, and was an upright citizen.

**Goodenough, Romanzo E.,** Dec. 1, 1910, aged 79. Came in 1865, and was entrusted with many honorable positions. An energetic, argumentative and upright citizen whose last days were embittered by adverse circumstances.

**House, James,** January 23, 1886, aged 77.

**Howd, Mrs. Cynthia R. (Putnam),** July 25, 1883, aged 30; esteemed wife of Chas. H. Howd.

**Hill, Mrs. Lottie (Ostrander),** wife of Ed. Hill, of Breckenridge, at Lansing, Dec. 22, 1910, leaving many friends.

**Holmes, Mrs. Betsey (Beam),** at Long Beach, California, Jan. 22, 1911. Daughter of Asa P. Beam, of Lafayette.

**Hohe, Laden,** Oct. 6, 1912, at St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw, of cancer. Popular landlord of the Wheeler Hotel. His age was 56 years.

**Harding, Rev. Brent,** suddenly Nov. 30, 1912, aged 71 years. He was pastor of the Breckenridge Baptist Church and was very highly regarded in the community. His wife died about a year prior to his own death.

**Hogle, Franklin,** May 27, 1912, aged 76. A soldier in the Civil War.

**Himebaugh, Mrs. Clementine,** at her home in Edmore, Mich., May 29, 1913, aged 60 years. She was a daughter of Jonas Davis, of Springport, Mich.; was married (first) to James Weed, and was for many years a respected resident of Breckenridge.

**Lewis, Jacob,** July 13, 1910, aged 67.

**Milligan, David,** April 30, 1890, aged about 65 years. A pioneer.

**McCallum, Mrs.** wife of Neil McCallum, and daughter of Lorenzo Blackman, March 10, 1888.

**Maxson, Daniel,** Dec. 30, 1892, aged 58.

**Myers, M. B.,** June 14, 1913, aged 85 years. He was a soldier in the Civil war, and was much respected.

**Newman, Mary A.**, wife of Job Newman, at Breckenridge, Oct. 16, 1891, aged 55.

**Oakes, Sarah J.**, Nov. 28, 1888, aged 50.

**Oakes, Maria P.**, Feb. 21, 1894, aged 84. Mother of Oscar Oakes, former supervisor.

**Owens, James S.**, May 20, 1894, aged 39.

**Parrish, Wm.**, Sept. 12, 1893. A valued pioneer.

**Parrish, Betsey**, Jan. 18, 1893, aged 65.

**Pomeroy, Milo A.**, Aug. 4, 1909, aged 64. A first-class citizen, supervisor in 1882 and '84.

**Porter, Aaron R.**, Sept. 26, 1904, aged 61. Son of Elijah Porter, one of the first settlers in Pine River.

**Reid, Wm. L.**, Aug. 2, 1912, aged 73. Was several years supervisor of Wheeler.

**Smith, John H.**, March 6, 1872, aged 52. Father of Newel Smith. Mrs. Jane Smith, the wife of John H. Smith died February 14, 1882.

**Sexton, Mrs. Adaline M.**, wife of Hiram Sexton, Aug. 2, 1879, aged 44.

**Stevens, Joshua**, May 28, 1874, aged 64.

**Sexton, Mrs. Adelia**, Dec. 18, 1888, aged 82.

**Swope, Edgar Udell**, April 28, 1907, aged 35; son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Swope.

**Stone, Warren H.**, February 29, 1908, aged 83, at Breckenridge; retired from an active life as a farmer, manufacturer, doctor, preacher, lawyer.

**Scholtz, Wilhelmina**, March 25, 1908, aged 42; wife of Chas. A. Scholtz, former county drain commissioner.

**Scholtz, Charles A.**, Nov. 16, 1912, aged 54 years; at his home in St. Louis, where he had lived a few years. He held the office of city surveyor, and had served a term as county drain commissioner. He was for several years a resident of Wheeler Township. Mrs. Scholtz died in 1908.

**Sexton, Hiram**, at his home in Breckenridge, June 28, 1913, aged 78 years. He was an old soldier and settled in Breckenridge in 1871. He was an energetic and popular citizen.

**Sexton, Edwin**, March 1, 1910, aged 78.

**Selleck, Bradley H.**, at his home in Breckenridge, March 27, 1911, aged 78.

**Smith, John Wesley**, April 28, 1913, aged 67 years. He was an old soldier and came to Wheeler Township in 1866. He was a prominent and respected citizen; served as postmaster at Wheeler about 12 years, his sister, Mrs. Ellsworth, succeeding him.

**Thissell, Mrs. Betsey**, July 13, 1902, aged 81; widow of John M. Thissell. They settled in Lafayette in 1862.

**Thissell, John F.**, died at his home in Breckenridge, Dec. 1, 1912.

**Tubbs, Hiram**, at his home in New Mexico, March, 1913, aged 80 years. A pioneer of Wheeler Township.

**Watson, Miss Belle A.**, at Ithaca, Dec. 20, 1879, aged 24. Sister of W. O. and Dr. C. S. Watson, of Breckenridge.

**Weed, James M.** April 23, 1885, aged 41.

**Wilcox, James**, April 19, 1888, aged 74.

**Watson, Mrs. Harriet**, widow of John T. Watson, and mother of W. O. and Dr. C. S. Watson, April 24, 1894, aged 67. John T. Watson died in Oakland County, Mich., July 15, 1864.

**Wood, Stephen**, Oct. 10, 1894.

**Wolverton, Wm.**, Sept. 15, 1891, aged 49.

**Wierman, Fred.,** Sept. 28, 1909, aged 72. Settled here in 1871.

**Weed, Mrs. Amanda,** June 18, 1884, aged 60. Wife of Wm. Weed, whose service as a soldier in the Civil War resulted in his death not long after his discharge.

**Waggoner, Norman W.,** at his home in Breckenridge, Sept. 1, 1895, aged 73.

**Wood, Mrs. Stephen,** at the home of her son Irving, in Breckenridge, Nov. 9, 1912, aged 82.

**Weed, Mrs. W. H.,** at her home in Breckenridge, August 30, 1913. An esteemed pioneer, leaving many friends.

**Yager, John,** Aug. 16, 1895, aged 79. He had the distinction of being the first settler in Wheeler Township. He was a genial citizen, with many friends.

**Yager, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of John Yager and mother of Barney Swope, died May 14, 1899, aged 82.

**Zimmerman, Frank J.,** in Breckenridge, Oct. 20, 1910, aged 25; son of Wm. Zimmerman.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1879, March 16—The sawmill and oar factory of Sexton & Braddock was destroyed by fire this morning, with a loss of $3,000; insurance, nothing.

1880, April 22—Ring & Rust's sawmill, two and a half miles east of Wheeler Village, was destroyed by fire.

1881, Nov. 24—The barn of Hiram Tubbs burned with all its contents.

1881, Dec. 4—Breckenridge had a fire that destroyed Dutcher & Sons' general store; building owned by D. W. Breckenridge. Parmatier's meat market adjoining also burned.

1883, Dec. 3—Wm. Bradford lost his barn by fire, contents included, excepting live stock, which was saved with difficulty.

1884, Dec. 5—Wheeler Village lost the Commercial Hotel by fire in the evening of Dec. 5th, with most of its contents. Loss, $2,500; insurance, $1,500.

1885, March 17—The Andrus House, Breckenridge, Geo. B. Andrus, proprietor, was burned with its contents. Loss, $1,400; insurance, $650.

1885, April 16—A serious fire in Breckenridge at 2 o'clock a. m., burned the sawmill and oar factory. An account of the fire, picked up, says: "The stave and heading factory adjoined the mill on the east and would inevitably have been destroyed had the wind been in the west. The village has no fire protection appliances, excepting such as have been supplied by nature, with a few pails and dippers thrown in; consequently when a fire gets started the chances are that it will burn about as it and the wind listeth. Fortunately the wind was favorable this time, as at the last fire; so the afflictions of the Village seem to be tempered with mercy—a mighty good thing where there are no water works."

1886, Nov. 24—Fire destroyed Oberlin's blacksmith shop, Wheelock's wagon shop and a residence building belonging to Mr. Lockwood. Weed's livery barn and the railroad depot were saved by hard work.

1889, Jan. 19—The stave mill of Morris & Moore at Breckenridge, was burned with all its contents early in the morning. Loss, $6,000 and no insurance; a severe loss also to the village and the surrounding country.

1902, Jan. 9—The depot building at Breckenridge went up in smoke at 10 p. m. Everybody was glad that the freight and express matters were saved—also that the old depot building was burned.

1902, April 24—Chauncey Morris lost his barn by fire, also 10 head of cattle, three horses, hay, grain and farm implements.

1912, April 17—A building owned by Wm. Kipp, in Wheeler Village, and occupied by D. N. Wilson with a hardware stock, was destroyed by fire, part of the stock being saved.

1913, Jan. 17—The residence and millinery store of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Robinson, Breckenridge, were burned this morning.

1913, April 28—A fire in the rear portion of Charles Merrill's general store, Breckenridge, at about 9 o'clock p. m., made fast work necessary by the firemen and other citizens, but their efforts were effectual. Though the fire was fierce for a time the loss was not great; fully insured.

1913, May 25—Fire destroyed a barn for Will Watson about five o'clock p. m. A valuable span of horses and much other property, contents of the barn, were destroyed. There was some insurance.



# CITIES AND VILLAGES OF GRATIOT.

## Settlement—Elections—Biographies, etc.

### ALMA—VILLAGE AND CITY.

#### Location and Subdivisions.

Alma, for the last few years, and at the present time, the metropolis of Gratiot County, is located on the line between the Townships of Arcada and Pine River. That fine stream—Pine River—traverses the town from southwest to northeast, furnishing power and drainage, besides other advantages and attractions. Two railroads form a junction here—the Ann Arbor and the Pere Marquette. The former furnishing transportation facilities to the northward and southward; the latter to the east and west.

The original settlement, by Ralph Ely and others, called Elyton, was located in Arcada Township, being composed of territory lying west of State Street, and, of course, south of Superior Street. This was platted by Ralph Ely, April 28, 1858; S. S. Hastings, surveyor. It was a part of the northwest quarter of section 3, Arcada, and was the present four blocks bounded by State and Forest Streets on the east and west, respectively, and by Superior on the north and Mechanic on the south.

In 1859 Alma's largest subdivision was platted. It covered territory of about 180 acres, and was located on section 3 of Arcada and 34 of Pine River; Walnut Street on the north, Ely Street on the south, State Street on the west and Elm Street on the east. James Gargett was the proprietor and S. S. Hastings was the surveyor.

Wm. Case's addition comprises 40 acres, being the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, Arcada Township, with Superior Street on the north, Lincoln on the east, Mill on the south and Cedar on the west. The plat was recorded September 16, 1870.

Mary E. Ely platted a block in October, 1883, adjoining Elyton on the west and between Center Street on the north and Mechanic on the south.

James Kress, in June, 1884, had recorded a small plat north of Superior Street and east of Wright Street.

December, 1886, Jas. A. Stuttz platted an addition on the north side of Superior Street and west of the Kress addition. Alma College occupies grounds on this subdivision.

In May, 1887, J. Henry Lancashire platted a small tract on the south side of Superior Street, adjoining Case's addition on the west.

In June, 1887, Lyman C. Cohoon had recorded a plat on the west side of State Street, north, containing about 15 acres.

Geo. W. Pulfrey platted a small tract on the south of Ely Street, in the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 3, Arcada, June, 1887.

Jas. Gargett's addition, recorded November 29, 1890, is located in the northeast part of town and contains about 40 acres.

Park Place East and Park Place West were platted by Jas. T. Hall and G. S. Ward, October, 1899, and July, 1900, respectively, and are in the north part of town, the tract formerly constituting the Ann Arbor Railroad grounds.

Bert Woodward, May, 1902, platted and recorded a tract lying east of Western Avenue, in the east part of town, north of the Pere Marquette Railroad and south of the angling state road; S. F. Anderson, surveyor; A. H. Lowry, register.

A. J. Hall and Geo. E. Sharrar, June, 1903, platted a tract of about 15 acres south of Ely Street and east of the Ann Arbor Railroad.

Hall and Sharrar, January, 1905, platted a tract in the northeast part of town, north of the angling state road.

Buckingham Place is a tract platted by Jotham Allen, August, 1907. It lies south of the river and the Ann Arbor Railroad, and between Grafton Avenue on the east and Woodworth on the west. Marshall Street is its southern boundary line.

### Early History.

Much of interest and value bearing upon the early history of Alma, has been presented, either directly or indirectly in what has already been given in these pages—in the divisions detailing the early events in Arcada and Pine River history, the supervisors' doings, etc. Much more comes along naturally, plausibly, and unavoidably in the sections which follow, having to do with Alma's local interests. So, to save repetition, and at the same time to give a good send-off to early Alma and to her pioneer people and pioneer events, I take pleasure in presenting a compilation of interesting and valuable facts bearing upon the subject, gathered in the year 1894 by Miss Bertha Struble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Struble. Miss Struble, who is now the esteemed wife of Attorney D. L. Johnson, procured her data, mainly, at first hand from the local pioneers who still remained upon the scene at that time. And while the use of this article is a distinct aid to me in meeting the requirements of the occasion, readers are equally fortunate; a statement to be verified only by a perusal of the paper. It follows:

"We can hardly realize that forty years ago" (now sixty years) "where our cosey Village of Alma now nestles, there stood a wild and unbroken wilderness. The only roads were Indian trails; the only homes the nests of birds and beasts and the wigwams of a fast disappearing race.

"In the fall of 1853, Ralph Ely, accompanied by three other men, carrying their provisions, walked 30 miles through the woods, and having followed Pine River 12 miles down stream, finally selected this spot for his home. That winter he cleared about two acres of land and built a log house 12 by 14 feet in size. In April, 1854, his family came, they having to cut their way through the forests. No houses were passed on their way here from Ionia; and on the north there were no houses between here and Mackinaw.

"A cabin 12 by 14 feet seems very small to us now, but 19 persons slept in it at the same time. It is said that after each meal the person who sat nearest the door took his chair and went out door, then the next nearest followed and so on till all were out, thus leaving the room for more. In 1855 they were able to do but little but clear the land. In the following year, however, Mr. Ely built a sawmill, and six families moved here. The family of Derwin Ely came all the way from Detroit with a

lumber wagon. They were compelled to walk over the roughest parts of the roads, and they walked nearly all the way from Lansing. Garrett Weaver moved here about this time from Jackson and had great difficulty in getting teams to transport his goods. The roads were so bad and the horses so worthless that it was almost impossible to get a person to use his team any more than was absolutely necessary. One man brought them a few mile and left them; then another brought them a few miles further, and so on until they finally arrived within eight miles of Alma and were left in the woods. Mr. Weaver then walked the rest of the way to Alma and secured a team to bring them on. They settled within half a mile of Mr. Ely's, but so difficult was it to get through the woods that Mrs. Weaver did not see a white woman for four weeks.

"All of the provisions for the settlement had to be brought up the river from Saginaw by boats. They could go down in about a day and a half, but it took about six days to return, as there were a great many rapids and they had to pull the boat up the rapids with ropes. Sometimes the boat would capsize and the provisions would be spoiled, or would float away.

"In the year 1856, February 9th and 10th, S. S. Hastings surveyed the land of the settlement and it was called 'Elyton', or 'Ely's Mills'. Two years after this the village was platted and named Alma. This was really an addition to Elyton, but as the growth of Alma was greater than that of Elyton, the name of Alma predominated, and that became the name of the whole settlement.

"The reduction of the price of government lands by what was called the graduation act brought a great rush of settlers into the county, and then the failure of crops by drouth and frosts caused great suffering, which had to be relieved by donations and by appropriations by the board of supervisors. Everybody was in a state of anxiety, with no money to buy provisions with and what was as bad there were no provisions to buy. Some lived on fish, turnips and leeks. One family lived for a while on potatoes which they had once planted but had to dig up again for food. Another family lived from Tuesday until Saturday on leeks and milk. A man and his wife walked 18 miles to Alma to get provisions. But these troubles finally came to an end and prosperity followed.

"The first educational advantages of Alma were meager in the extreme. Miss Rachel Kress (now Mrs. Geo. Gee) had a few pupils and taught them half days at her father's house, receiving a dollar a week for her services. The first school that was taught all day, before a district was organized, was taught by a Miss Fox, who lived at Lansing, and who walked the greater part of the distance from there to Alma at the beginning of each term. The school house was a little shanty that Mr. Ely built, the boards for which were taken green directly from the saw. The school term lasted four months and there were six pupils, four of whom were furnished by Mrs. Ely. The teacher was boarded and paid by Mr. Ely.

"The next school house was situated near the present site of the College. It was built of logs, and had neither doors or windows. There were 11 pupils in the first school in this building and they were taught by Miss Martha Cole, who received $2.50 a week.

"The first frame school house in Alma occupied a location where the Wright House now stands. The building is now used as a blacksmith shop, and stands just west of the Arcada Hotel. The first school in that building was taught by Miss Martha Woodin, afterward Mrs. Elias W. Smith, of St. Louis.

"The next school house was the so-called 'old school house', which was situated just east and one block south of the Church block. It was a large square building with four rooms. School was taught in this building until 1885, when the present fine edifice was finished, and the old school house was used for a storeroom until 1887, when it was destroyed by fire. The first of the College buildings was erected in 1885.



ALMA'S CITY BUILDING—1902.

"The first church services were held around at private houses, as there were no church buildings. Rev. Schlappi, a United Brethren minister, conducted the first services in Alma, which were held at the residence of Jas. Kress.

"During the summer of 1873 the Baptist and Methodist Churches were both built, the first church buildings to be erected in Alma. There had been a class of Methodists here for some time, but as many of the leaders had moved away, no permanent organization was formed until 1871. During this year revival meetings were held by Rev. Wells and Rev. T. J. Hill, resulting in a great many conversions. The membership of the M. E. Church continued to increase and the church building was erected, Rev. Noah Fassett preaching at the laying of the corner stone. A number of the pioneers of Alma were Baptists, and as it was the desire of many to have a permanent organization, a meeting was called in 1866 at which Rev. W. S. Everest was moderator and S. S. Hastings was clerk. An organization was perfected and Rev. Lafayette Church was chosen as the first minister. The church building was erected in 1873 at a cost of $1,800. The dedicatory services were by Rev. C. Beals, assisted by Rev. Theo. Nelson, at that time the pastor. During the year 1864 a class of Adventists was organized. The meetings were held at the residence of Jas. Gargett for some time, and afterward they were held in the Baptist Church. During the year 1880 they completed their church building and services have since been held there.

"During the year 1872, thirteen persons organized themselves into a society which was known as the First Congregational Church of Alma. Its membership increased wonderfully and during the year 1884 they erected a beautiful brick church, the cost of which was $4,000. Soon after the

College was established here, the Presbyterians bought the Congregational Church, and have since continued to occupy it. The Episcopal Church was erected at a cost of $4,000. Before they built they held their services in the Baptist Church.

"Alma has always taken a decided interest in politics, and has almost uniformly been Republican. The first term of circuit court in the county was held in the school house which was located where the Wright House now stands. The first political speech was made by Gilbert E. Pratt, representative in the state legislature. Everybody in Alma came to hear this speech, as a privilege of that kind was a rare thing.

"The first railroad in Alma was the C. S. & C. It was built in 1874, extending from St. Louis, through Alma to Cedar Lake, and bearing the modest name of the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad. The next year it was extended to Lakeview, and finally to Howard City. Some of the ladies of Alma offered to give $300 toward the railroad if it would run through Alma. The money was raised by entertainments and dances given at the Hulbert House, and the money was used to help build the station, which was of brick, and quite an ornament to the town. Soon afterward the building was burned, and the brick which the ladies paid for were taken to St. Louis and used in the erection of the Episcopal Church.

"A great many will remember the day when the railroad was finished, as there was a picnic given in honor of the occasion. The men who were working on the railroad were invited to participate, and the dinner was pronounced **the** dinner of the season. After dinner a number of people boarded a flat car and rode over to St. Louis, so as to be able to say that they had the first ride on the first railroad coming into Alma.

"In the year 1878 the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad was brought to Alma and joined to the C. S. & C. The Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Mich. R. R. was completed during the year 1884.

"The first hotel in Alma was situated a block south and a block east of the dam, and was known as the Moyer House. Soon afterward the Hulbert House was built and was in a flourishing condition for many years. It was in this building that Mr. Delavan first began to sell goods. We now (1894) have four hotels in Alma—the Milliken House, the Angell House, the Hotel Arcada and the Wright House. For many years the place where the Arcada stands was the only dry place this side of the College. The Arcada was built in 1889 by Geo. W. Pulfrey who is still the proprietor. The Wright House was built in 1883, commencing business in October of that year.

"The Sanitarium, which is one of the most complete institutions of its kind in Michigan was built by A. W. Wright in 1886. In connection with the sanitarium is a very beautiful park. It covers an area of ten acres, and, with its fountain, swings, hammocks, croquet grounds and lawn tennis courts, it affords ample means for recreation.

"The first mill in Alma was a saw mill built by Ralph Ely in 1856. It was located at the south end of State Street. In 1857 a grist mill was added, in connection with the sawmill. This mill was probably appreciated more by the people than anything else ever built in Alma. Before it was built the people had to grind their wheat and corn by hand or go a great distance to mill. About 50 families lived on meal ground by hand until this mill was built. One family ground all of their wheat for a year by

hand rather than go 40 miles to mill. In the year 1867 Jas. Gargett built a flouring mill which was located where the present mill stands. The dam was built at the same time. In the year 1869 Mr. Gargett erected a woolen mill. These two mills had a flourishing business until 1880, when both were burned. Mr. Gargett met with many losses by fire. During the year he constructed an elegant dwelling at a cost of $18,000, and this was destroyed by fire, June 6, 1876. The grist mill was rebuilt, but this was burned in 1884. Afterward the present brick mill was erected.

"The first postoffice was kept in Ralph Ely's store near where Tinker & Lancashire's office now stands. Afterward it was moved over to the Holiday building. Before there was any postoffice Townsend A. Ely carried the mail on a little Indian pony to and from Hubbardston. It sometimes took him five or six days to make the trip.

"January 1, 1859, Jas. Gargett came to Alma, and on the same day he purchased Mr. Ely's stock of goods. The next morning, before breakfast, Mr. Gargett opened his store and commenced business, which he continued until 1869, when the store burned. He had the first boot and shoe store in Alma, and Mrs. Gargett opened the first millinery store.

"H. A. Delavan sold goods in 1870 in the Hulbert House. In 1874 he built his present store, the first brick building in Alma. In 1880 he erected the first brick dwelling in Alma, in which he still resides.

"Michael Pollasky moved to Alma in 1863. Sometime after he established himself in mercantile trade, selling goods from his own house, afterward moving into the old store which was opposite the Wright House, and where their present fine block is located. The Wright Opera House block was built in 1880. The Church block was built in 1886.

"The first frame house built in Alma was built by Flavius Ely, and is known as the Bamborough house, on State Street.

"An elopement once took place in Alma. It was on the Fourth of July, many years ago. The happy couple left town with an ox team and lumber wagon and were married in St. Louis, always the haven of iniquity (?). The bride was 13 and the groom was several years older.

"The first cemetery was situated at the corner of Lincoln and Superior Streets. This land was sold, and the Ladies' Aid Society bought the ground where the present cemetery is located.

"The first newspaper in Alma was started in 1876 and was called the 'Alma Index'.

"The first white child born in Alma was Lucy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ely. She was born in 1856, and is now the wife of Chas. H. Coates, of Findlay, Ohio.

"The first death was that of a woman. Derwin Ely made a coffin from boards taken from his house.

"The first marriage in Alma was that of Geo. Gee and Rachel Kress, the first school teacher, heretofore mentioned.

"The first liquor sold in Alma was sold by a Mrs. Curtis, who afterward was arrested and tried for murder. She lived in the Bamborough house. A niece living with her inherited $80,000. This the woman coveted. The girl was taken sick and finally died. Suspicion at once arose in regard to the death, and Mrs. Curtis was arrested, but was acquitted. Soon afterward she became ill, and before her death she confessed that she murdered the child.

"The people of Alma enjoyed their first Fourth of July celebration at St. Louis; the celebration of 1857. They all went down the river in a

large boat. They had a fife and drum, and also an anvil which they intended to fire along the way, but the boat was so crowded and everyone was so frightened, they did not dare to fire it till after they had landed in St. Louis. Before they returned it began to rain, and they got home with spirits somewhat dampened.

"The first blacksmith shop in Alma was that of Wm. C. Rogers, and it was over his shop that the first grand ball was held. It was declared to be the most swell affair of the season.

"The first physician in town was Dr. J. W. Barnes.

"The first attorney was Isaac Marston, afterward a justice of the supreme court and of state-wide prominence.

"In conclusion: This glimpse of the past reminds us that Alma, like Rome, 'was not built in a day', and that the comforts and luxuries which surround us have been dearly bought at the expense of toil, privation and suffering; and though the heroic souls who planted this little village are passing away, we trust that much of their fire lives in the sons and daughters, who will protect its interests and promote its welfare through all its future history."

### More of Early Alma.

Further reminiscences of Alma's early life are furnished as follows: The family of Ralph Ely came from Ionia to Alma in April, 1854, and was the first family to settle permanently in Alma, locating on the north side of the river. There were settlers at Ithaca and St. Louis, but there was no road cut through between the places. After Mr. Ely's family had been here two or three weeks, land-lookers began to come. A man named Alanson Todd was the second settler here, locating, and building a log house on the spot where the union school building now stands. Jas. Kress settled here that summer and also Emery Adams who located a farm where his son, Ed. Adams, now resides.

The first winter a saw mill was built, owned by Bird and Wilkinson. Ralph Ely built the mill, afterward taking a half interest for his pay. During the first winter so many came looking land that it was impossible, at times, to provide accommodations for them. As many as 30 or 40 have slept on carpets or on the floor of Mr. Ely's house in one night, with blankets and furs for covering

During the summer and fall of 1854 this part of the country settled rapidly. John Glover, Samuel Keefer, Lafayette Church, Oscar Morse, Dr. Gifford, Geo. Spicer, the Courters, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Runyan located on farms. Other early residents of Alma and vicinity were Derwin Ely, Wm. Moyer, Geo. Chandler, Almon Rogers, Frank Gilkins, Wm. Howe, Wm. Yerington, Wm. W. Clark, H. B. Hulbert, W. S. Turck, M. Pollasky.

Rev. Jonas Denton was sent as a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, to Alma in 1865, to establish churches and Sunday schools. He made his home with S. F. Anderson who had come to Alma in 1864. Church societies were organized at Pompeii, Lafayette and St. Louis. The last named was organized at a meeting held at Alma, January 10, 1866. The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a society at Alma, but members from St. Louis and vicinity were in the majority and so voted to locate the church at St. Louis. The Alma people, however, got together February 8th, following, and organized a Church society for Alma. S. F. Anderson was chosen a long-term trustee.

When a Good Templar's lodge was organized, March 20, 1866, Almon Yerington and wife were made Worthy Chief Templar and Worthy Vice-Templar, respectively, and S. F. Anderson was assigned the duty of looking after the devotional exercises and the spiritual interests of the lodge.

A singing school was organized in April, 1866. Miss Maggie Chapin (afterward Mrs. T. A. Ely) was the leader, and Miss Ella Chapin (afterward Mrs. W. O. Watson) was her assistant.

Some idea of the high cost of living along in the '60s may be gathered from a few entries in Sam. F. Anderson's memorandum book, date of June 20, 1865: One barrel of flour, $10; in September of the same year another barrel cost, $13.50; kerosene oil, $1.50 a gallon; butter ranged from 25 to 50 cents; tea, $2.00 a pound; potatoes, 75 cents; 5 pounds crackers, 80 cents; eggs, 15 to 25 cents; half-gallon syrup, $1.00; three pounds cheese, 90 cents; four pounds sugar, $1.00."

Quotations: "Rev. Lafayette Church was the first ordained minister to hold services in Alma. He preached in the school house where the Wright House now stands. His congregation was made up of the settlers not only of Alma, but from Ithaca and St. Louis, who came by boat and by lonely forest path to listen to the gospel story as told by this earnest and talented man.

"The first resident physician, Dr. Barnes, lived in a log house which stood where the roller mills now stand. That is, his family lived there; but the doctor may be said to have lived in his 'gig', for his rides covered many miles, and when he was not on the road going to some distant and lonely log cabin, he was standing by the bedside of the sick and the dying.

"Jas. Gargett and H. B. Hulbert established a general store in a log building almost exactly where Tinker & Hannah's factory now stands (1894). This store was the 'Mecca' to which the settlers came, not only to exchange the farm products for groceries, dry goods and farming implements, but to meet the neighbors for miles around, and exchange news and experiences. Here too, came the Indians, friendly Chippewas from below St. Louis, to exchange furs and game for blankets, tobacco, and occasionally a little 'fire-water'. Soon after Gargett and Hulbert's store was started, Wm. Moyer came and started a boot and shoe business, and afterward opened a hotel on the south side of the river. Their goods were brought up the river from Saginaw, taking a week for the round trip. The nearest grist mill was at Hubbardston. The nearest railroad point was Linden, Genesee County, at that time the terminus of the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad. Machinery and boilers for the mill were brought from there.

"Dan. Sullivan was one of the early settlers who located near Alma, on the west. He came from St. Johns on foot. Coming to the Ely settlement after dark, he called across the river for help and transportation, and young Town. Ely paddled him over in a canoe. Sullivan entered his land at that time, but for several seasons afterward he worked on boats on the Mississippi, coming to Gratiot winters to work at clearing his land. He became one of the most prominent farmers of the county.

"Wm. O. Johnson walked from Lansing to Alma when the walking was not good, and bought 160 acres of land, which is now in the suburbs of Alma. He built a shack 12 feet square and kept house by himself. He used to 'change works' with Dan. Sullivan, and as a result both got along well with their clearing. 'Billy' is yet living to tell all about his adventures in the early days."

"A select school for young ladies was conducted in Alma, along about in 1860, taught by the Misses Jennie and Frances Barnard of Ionia County.



TO RAID ELM HALL, JULY 4, 1870 CORNER STATE AND SUPERIOR, LOOKING WEST.

It was held in a house which stood where later stood the fine Gargett residence, afterward destroyed by fire. Some of the young ladies who attended were Josie Ely (afterward Mrs. Gerritt S. Ward), Electa Ely (Mrs. Henry Brewbaker), Laura Cheesman (Mrs. Theo. Nelson), Minnie Gargett (Mrs. W. B. Humbert), Rhoda Glover (Mrs. David Castor), Susan Church (Mrs. D. G. Hall), Cenah Pettit (Mrs. C. H. Crandall), Sarah McHenry (Mrs. A. P. Foland), and some others who have long since crossed the border into 'the land that lieth beyond'."

"Alma's first cornet band was organized in 1871. In 1881 the Alma Orchestra was organized. Some of those who were connected with the town's musical organizations in the '70s and '80s were G. S. Ward, Geo. H. Yerington, Almon Yerington, Perley M. Smith, Byron S. Webb, Seely Amsbury, W. Latimer, C. W. Yerington, Frank Webb, S. W. Peck, N. G. Davidson, A. S. Moyer, J. W. Brown, Will Amsbury, F. D. Ely, H. J. Ward, Fred Amsbury, J. Van Sice, J. Dibble, J. Amsbury, F. J. Dibble, Will Axtell, Chas. Ward, Bert Milliken."

### Changes Noted by Rev. Stark.

In the very early '70s Rev. J. K. Stark was the M. E. minister at St. Louis and also gave part of his time and attention to Alma's needs. Visiting Alma again after 23 years' absence he reminiscently referred to the many and great changes in the village as chronicled in the Record of March, '96: "At that time the population of Alma was between 250 and 300. There was not a brick building in the place, and there were only two dry goods stores—those kept by M. Pollasky and H. A. Delavan. 'Whit' Ellison kept the leading grocery store, and Dr. Webb was the only physician. During his first year in Alma the M. E. Society was the only one in the place. During the second year the Baptists and Methodists erected houses of worship. A Mr. DeLand built the Baptist Church. There was quite a rivalry between the two church organizations to see which building would first be completed. That the work was hurried may be seen from the statement of one fact. Mr. DeLand took a pine log from the river one morning and in the evening of the same day that log had been worked up into sash and door timber. The Baptist Church was commenced on a Saturday, and four weeks later it was dedicated. Rev. Theo. Nelson was the pastor at that time. About that time the Congregationalists organized a society.

"Gen. Ely was at that time the most prominent and influential citizen of the town. Al. Yerington was postmaster, and the postoffice was kept in the building now (1896) occupied by Mrs. Whitesell's millinery store. That there has been a decided change in the moral sentiment of Alma may be known from the fact that during Mr. Stark's pastorate the town was noted as a gambling town, and it is said that more money passed over the gambling tables in a hotel situated on the north side of Superior Street than changed hands in many larger towns.

"The manufacturing industries of the place were few in number. There was a saw mill owned by Pierce, Ward & Hall, and a woolen mill and a grist mill owned by Jas. Gargett. About 100,000,000 feet of pine annually went down Pine River, and when the head of the drive reached Alma the lumbermen took possession of this town and St. Louis, and both places assumed a lurid hue for several days; sometimes for several weeks.

"Alma's schools had not attained that high standard of excellence as seen now. But two teachers were employed—Dr. Jackson, a German, was principal, and Miss Carrie Bamborough, assistant."

Mr. Stark was much surprised at the remarkable changes that had taken place in Alma, not alone in material things, but also in its religious and educational privileges.

Alma has had its ups and downs, to use a familiar expression. In the early days, and for twenty-five or thirty years, it had a strong rival only three miles down the river. St. Louis and Alma, founded at about the same time, had about equal natural advantages, and their location so near together was unfortunate for both. St. Louis seemed to have the advantage, however, and boomed ahead of both Alma and Ithaca for several years. But there were rivalries and jealousies among its own citizens that did as much damage as did the opposition of its rivals, and prevented it from reaching and maintaining a permanent and commanding lead over its opponents. Then in the early '80s when Alma was so strongly reinforced by the acqui-




SUPERIOR STREET, 1913—LOOKING EAST FROM STATE STREET.

sition of the wealthy and influential Ammi W. Wright, it was only a question of a comparatively short time when the conditions were reversed and Alma was forging to the front in material prosperity and in population. Mr. Wright immediately identified himself with the interests of the town, and his ample wealth enabled him to inaugurate and maintain business enterprises that were calculated to be, and were, of inestimable value to Alma. Alma's other business men, who, by the way, had always worked together quite harmoniously, loyally lent their aid to Mr. Wright's efforts. And the result of it all is clearly apparent; needs no guideboard to attract attention.

The legislature of 1887 passed a local act detaching sections 33 and 34 from Pine River Township and attaching them to Arcada. This was done for the accommodation of Alma, which, as a village, had been located in the two townships, and consequently was subject to much inconvenience. The contest over the matter created a good deal of "feeling", Pine River

people being very averse to losing two valuable sections of their territory, including half of Alma; mainly valuable to Pine River—and incidentally to St. Louis—for taxation purposes.

Alma College, treated of quite fully in this connection, stands out prominently as one of the most important assets of the town. It has grown from a small beginning to an institution of large proportions both materially, and as an educational factor not only of Alma, but also of the county and state. The sugar factory has done much to enhance the prosperity of the city and the surrounding country. This institution, also the many other manufacturing and business industries of the town are given individual attention farther along in this department, together with many of the minor business interests of the city at the present time.

Taking a look farther back, a few of the earlier industries may be further referred to. In 1868, Pierce & Ward established a sawmill, with other industrial side-lines in connection. To show its importance it is



SUPERIOR STREET, 1913—LOOKING WEST FROM STATE STREET.

mentioned that its aggregate output for one day was 30,310 feet of inch boards, 28,000 shingles and 7,000 pieces of lath. In 1882 the business was in the hands of Geo. D. Barton, A. W. Wright and J. O. Lumsden with the firm name of Geo. D. Barton & Co. Planing machinery was added and in 1884 the firm was succeeded by Wright & Lumsden. In 1886 Tinker & Lumsden was the firm name.

The years 1885 and '86 witnessed a building boom in Alma, the value of the buildings erected in those two years aggregating over $200,000. The buildings included what is now the Masonic Home, and also the Church block, the Union School building and Humbert's woolen factory.

The flouring mill, still doing duty, was built in 1881 by Turck & Wright at a cost of $25,000. The Hotel Arcada was erected in 1889 by Geo. W. Pulfrey, who has conducted it as landlord almost continuously ever since, and is still on the job. The Wright House was built in 1883 at a cost

of about $75,000. The Pollasky block was erected in 1897, taking the place of the wooden structure built in 1871, and which burned in 1893.

While not strictly an "industry", a digression is here made long enough to mention a Fourth of July celebration in 1885, at which James L. Clark was the orator. Jake Merchant took a prize in a foot race, Dewitt Vought won in a jumping contest, and Arcada beat Pine River in a rope-pulling contest, winning a fine flag.

Alma's railroad advantages are the best in the county; the junction of the Ann Arbor and Pere Marquette Railroads. A union depot does duty, equipped with a fine building remodeled and enlarged in 1913.

An attractive and valuable feature of the town is found in its scores of elegant flowing wells which furnish an abundance of the purest water. Boring to the depth of 16 feet or more brings the water either by natural flow or by pumping.

### Drainage System.

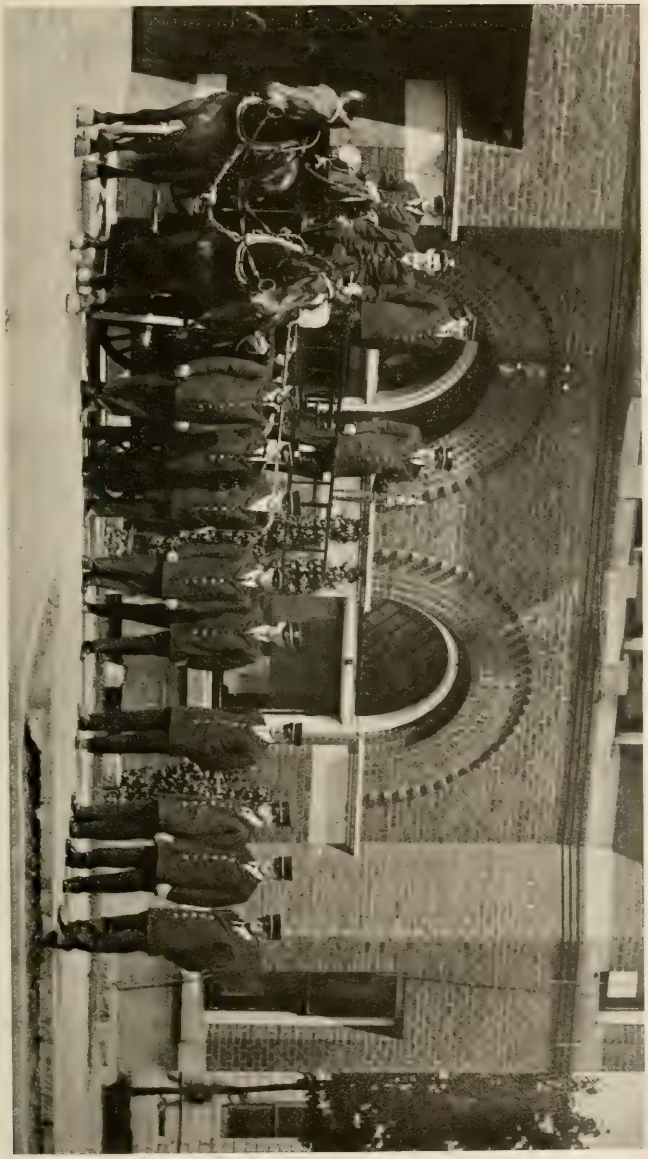
In the matter of sewerage, Alma can lay claim to a very complete system. Intersected as it is by Pine River, the question of an outlet presents no obstacles. Many years ago a trunk line sewer was laid from Alma College on the west along the main street of the town eastward to the river. In 1904 a general awakening for better sewerage was experienced. In that year, during the administration of Geo. S. Young as village president, a trunk line known as the Young sewer, was established for the north part of town, and during the following year the Pollasky sewer was constructed, covering the southern portion of the city, north of the river. Since that time numerous laterals have been constructed, until now the system is very complete.

### Electric Lighting.

The city's electric lighting system is up to date in all respects. What is known as the Boulevard system was installed in 1912 along the principal streets. It consists of clusters of three lights on iron posts, at stated distances apart, producing very satisfactory results, and presenting a fine metropolitan appearance. The light is furnished from Mt. Pleasant, by the Consolidated Light & Power Company. At present there are 65 posts located. The company also does commercial and domestic lighting. All this is in addition to the lighting service established in 1897 and maintained by the Alma Grain & Lumber Company, with power from the Roller Mill's plant, furnished by the River Pine.

### Fire Protection.

The city is furnished with an abundance of water from the Pine for fire protection, the city owning its pipes and hydrants; water and pressure furnished by the Alma Grain & Lumber Company. The city



**ALMA'S FIRE FIGHTERS:** Upper row, left to right Will Peck, Driver, Jo. P. Sartor, Jr., Chief, Carl Wahlbers, J. S. Knoerzer. Lower Row—Fred Delavan, Karl Adams, Harry Orwig, Sidney Hass, Robert Butler, Howard Hoch, Ray Fuller, Ed. La Fountine, Claude Struble.

pays $225 per month for 275,000 gallons of water per day. The laying of water pipes was begun in 1882. The city's fire protection is ample and up to date. A hose truck, a hook and ladder truck and two city teams constitute the equipment, manned and operated by a company of 14 vigorous and enthusiastic firemen, under the efficient leadership of Joseph F. Sartor, Jr., chief; P. T. Banghart, captain; Karl Adams, lieutenant; J. S. Knoertzer, secretary and treasurer; Will Peck, driver.

Charles F. Fishbeck served as chief for many years and was accounted a very efficient officer. On his removal to Alberta in 1911, J. F. Sartor, Jr., took his place as chief, and right well he fills the place vacated by Mr. Fishbeck. Some enthusiasts think Jo. more than fills it; sticks over the edges, as it were.

In 1890 Perley M. Smith was chief, and he had a large share of the city's population as his fire-fighting associates: They were—Chas. Fishbeck, Ed. Hannah, Frank Shannon, Ralph Shannon, Theo. Marsh, Chas. Spicer, Frank Clow, Vinton Richards, Clinton Richards, Wm. Faughner, John Faughner, Otis Wise, Alex. Neil, Elmer Carpenter, Fred Shipman, Jas. Kinch, Sol. Fink, Jake Kernen, Geo. Lane, Frank Medler, Dennis Fitzgerald, Melvern Medler, John Gladding, Fred Bloomfield, Caris Brown, Henry Parsons, J. W. Nesbitt, Jo. Sartor, Lewis Kehn, Richard Anderson, Chas. Sly, Bert Stephens, Benj. Taylor, Glen Salsbury, Stephen Bennett, J. W. Glass, Ora Chaffin, Jas. G. Kress, Wm. Kelly, J. R. McCarty, Ely Brewbaker, Geo. S. Young, Dewitt Vought, Wm. Clubb, Jay Alverson.

### Pavement and Walks.

Few towns can lay claim to more pavement than can Alma. The year 1912 saw the work well begun, eleven blocks being laid that year—four with brick on concrete and seven with concrete alone. This year—1913—enough more pavement is being constructed to make the aggregate length of paved streets one and a half miles. The city at large pays for the street and alley crossings, and 15 per cent. of the street paving, abutting property paying 85 per cent. of the cost of the pavement adjoining the property.

Alma has many miles of fine cement walks; a credit to the enterprise of its people, but a feature that need not be elaborated in this connection.

## INCORPORATION AND ELECTIONS.

Alma was the last of the three big towns of the county to become incorporated as a village. St. Louis had sought the honor and obtained the necessary permit from the board of supervisors at its session of October, 1868. Ithaca followed suit the next year, getting the order from the supervisors at their session of October, 1869. Alma was started on its career as an incorporated village by resolution of the board of supervisors at its January session, 1872. A petition of resident electors was presented on the first day of the session, showing that the territory which it was proposed to incorporate had a population of 425 people.

The matter was referred to a committee composed of Supervisors Jas. T. Hall, of Arcada, E. W. Kellogg, of Newark, and Barney Swope, of Wheeler.

The territory to be incorporated consisted of the following described parcels, located in Arcada and Pine River Townships, in about equal proportions: In Pine River—the S. ½ of section 34, and the E. ½ of the S. E. ¼ of section 33. In Arcada—the E. frl. ½ of the N. E. ¼ of section 4, and the N. frl. ½ of section 3.

The names of the petitioners are herewith given; a matter of interest locally, as the list contains names prominent in those days when the country was still young. But a small proportion of the number are now living. The list is as follows:

Jas. Gargett, Wm. Hannah, A. Gillis, S. D. Detwiler, S. B. Heverlo, Geo. L. Spicer, J. C. Truesdell, D. J. Marquette, S. K. Johnson, C. W. Tann, Peter Hoffman, Wm. Yerington, John E. Davidson, John W. Parker, David Leach, Gus. Bode, S. Brewbaker, B. W. Ellison, D. J. Dean, S. C. Dean, C. M. Scott, H. Boyer, John N. Thompson, A. M. Ford, C. J. Tobey, G. S. Ward, H. M. Holiday. Isaac Pierce, Jas. Kress, J. H. Miller, Wm. H. Cornell, Daniel A. Miller, Ralph Ely, G. W. Helt, Almon Yerington, Wm. Tann, Frank Webb, M. Pollasky, John Cameron, H. B. Hulbert, Hiram Utley, Martin Ransom, John Brewbaker, T. Bamborough, G. W. Seaman, Albert Holmes, O. Ellison, Wm. Bamborough.

The committee reported favorably, and the board, by resolution, adopted the report, and directed that the first election be held at the school house in said village on Friday, February 2, 1872. Geo. W. Helt, Thos. Bamborough and Almon Yerington were designated and appointed to act as inspectors of election.

A disastrous fire, known as "the Gillis fire", occurring January 26, 1877, destroyed the village records; so it is impossible to give the full details of the elections previous to that date. However, by strenuous effort it has been possible to get something of each year's doings. Commencing with the election of 1877 the record thereafter is very full and complete.

**Feb. 2, 1872:** Pres.—Ralph Ely; Trustees—Derwin Ely, Wm. Hannah, Geo. Bahlke, J. M. Montigel, Sr., Owen Ellison, Wm. Carpenter; Clk.—Geo. G. Holiday; Ass'rs—Jas. T. Hall, Samuel Brewbaker.

**March, 1872:** Pres.—Ralph Ely; Trustees—Isaac Pierce, M. Pallasky, Geo. W. Helt, Frank Webb, C. W. Tann, Derwin Ely; Clk.—Geo. G. Holiday; Treas.—David Leach; Ass'r—Jas. T. Hall; Mar.—Townsend A. Ely.

**March, 1873:** Have nothing of this year's election.

**March, 1874:** Pres.—Ralph Ely; Trustees—E. P. Timby, A. Yerington, Henry E. Kingsley; Clk.—John F. Schwartz; Ass'r—G. S. Ward; Mar.—W. N. Carpenter.

**March, 1875:** Pres.—Jas. Gargett; Trustees—Isaac Pierce, S. Brewbaker, Wm. N. Rogers; Clk.—J. F. Schwartz; Treas.—H. A. Delavan; Ass'r—Wm. Yerington; Mar.—Geo. P. Helt.

**March, 1876:** Pres.—Henry E. Kingsley; Trustees—E. F. Quinn, T. F. Timby, Geo. Bahlke; Clk.—Augustus M. Ford; Treas.—H. A. Delavan; Ass'r—G. S. Ward; Mar.—Wm. Adams.

At a meeting of the village council held February 6, 1877, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That it is the belief of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Alma, that the records of said village were burned in the fire of January 26, 1877, and that the clerk be instructed to procure a new record book and place this resolution at the head of said record.

Signed — Samuel Brewbaker, George Bahlke, Isaac Pierce, Wm. N. Rogers, E. F. Quinn, T. F. Timby, trustees; H. E. Kingsley, president; A. M. Ford, clerk."



ON STATE STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

**March, 1877:** There were 121 votes polled at this election, distributed as follows:

Pres.—Jas. Gargett 76, Jas. T. Hall 45; Clk.—A. M. Ford 80, Chas. H. Coates 38; Treas.—H. A. Blackmar 78, B. W. Ellison 41; Ass'r—J. F. Schwartz 83, Geo. L. Spicer 34; Mar.—Duncan McIntosh 118; Trustees—Isaac Pierce, W. N. Rogers, M. Pollasky.

A. D. Axford was appointed marshal in place of McIntosh who did not qualify.

August 14, '77, the board asked for Axford's resignation, and afterward appointed Geo. English to the position of marshal.

**March, 1878:** Pres.—Ephraim F. Quinn; Trustees—Wm. D. Clark, Geo. W. Jennings, Henry A. Delavan; Clk.—A. M. Ford; Treas.—H. A. Blackmar; Ass'r—Chipman J. Tobey; Mar.—Geo. English.

June 26, '78, Geo. English resigned as marshal, and Chas. H. Coates was appointed.

**March, 1879:** Votes cast 110, with the following result: Pres.—E. F. Quinn; Treas.—H. A. Delavan, Elias W. Morey, Samuel Brewbaker; Clk.—Almon Yerington; Treas.—Sylvester B. Heverlo; Ass'r—C. J. Tobey; Mar.—Francis Stephens.

September 15, '79, the board appointed Geo. D. Barton trustee vice Morey, removed from the village.

**March, 1880:** Pres.—Michael Pollasky; Trustees, 2 yrs.—E. F. Quinn, C. H. Coates, B. W. Ellison; 1 yr.—T. A. Ely, J. F. Schwartz, S. H. Loveland; Clk.—A. Yerington; Treas.—S. B. Heverlo; Ass'r—Francis Palmer; Mar.—Geo. Willard.

Oct. 9, '80, G. C. Waller was appointed trustee vice Ellison, resigned.

**March, 1881:** Pres.—M. Pollasky; Trustees—J. F. Schwartz, Chas. L. Delavan, Geo. D. Barton; 1 yr., Geo. C. Waller; Clk.—A. Yerington; Treas.—Gerritt S. Ward; Ass'r—S. B. Heverlo; Mar.—Geo. English.

Off. ap.: St. C.—Geo. Willard; H. O.—C. L. Downie.

**March, 1882:** Pres.—M. Pollasky; Trustees—Geo. C. Waller, Wm. B. Humbert, C. L. Downie; Clk.—A. Yerington; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—T. A. Ely; Mar.—Wesley S. Booth. Chas. H. Coates was later appointed trustee vice Humbert who failed to qualify.

**March, 1883:** Pres.—Wm. S. Turck; Trustees—J. F. Schwartz, C. L. Delavan, M. Pollasky; 1 yr., Joseph F. Sartor, Albert C. Barrow, Kelmer W. Ely; Clk.—A. Yerington, Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Allen C. Adams; St. C.—Milton C. Dallas; Const.—Geo. Willard.

April 9, '83, Jas. Gargett was appointed assessor vice Adams who failed to qualify. Chas. H. Coates was appointed marshal.

**March, 1884:** Pres.—Wm. S. Turck; Trustees—J. F. Sartor, Fred H. Hamlin, K. W. Ely; Clk.—A. Yerington; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Jas. Gargett; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—Jas. Austin. Perry D. Pettit was appointed marshal.

May 20, '84, Yerington resigned as clerk and Francis Palmer was appointed. Pettit resigned as marshal and the board appointed Geo. W. Pulfrey. Later on Pulfrey resigned.



A MANUFACTURING SECTION—1913.

**March, 1885:** Pres.—Cullen Leitch Downie; Trustees—Geo. D. Barton, Byron S. Webb, John O. Lumsden; Clk.—Hamlin J. Ward; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Chas. H. Axtell; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—Howard Willard.

Off. ap.: Mar.—P. D. Pettit; Water C.—M. Montigel; H. O.—Dr. J. F. Suydam.

Trustees Barton and Ely having removed, a special election was held May 5, '85, to fill the vacancies. A. Yerington secured the long term, Martin Montigel, Jr., the short term.

**March, 1886:** Pres.—C. L. Downie; Trustees—Jas. W. McLeod, Edbert B. Green, M. Montigel; Clk.—K. W. Ely; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Geo. W. Pulfrey; St. C.—Wm. A. Thomas; Const.—Joseph Ray.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Jas. L. Clark; Mar.—P. D. Pettit; Sur.—C. H. Axtell; Ch. F. D.—Chas. L. Delavan; H. O.—Dr. J. F. Suydam.

A special election was held June 28, '86, to vote on the question of bonding for $5,000 for the establishment of water works. Yes, 66; no, 8.

Dec. 28, '86, Jerry Smith was appointed marshal vice Pettit, elected sheriff.

**March, 1887:** Pres — Byron S. Webb; Trustees — Perley M. Smith, John W. Hawkins, Geo. W. Pulfrey; Clk.—A. Yerington; Treas.—Harry B. Waldby; Ass'r—Jas. G. Chase; St. C.—Albinus Pierce; Const.—Jo. Ray.

Off. ap.: Atty—Jas. L. Clark; Mar.—J. B. Parker; Sur.—Jas. G. Chase; Ch. F. D.—Ferd. Montigel; H. O.—S. D. Yerington; Water C.—C. L. Delavan, J. F. Sartor, M. Montigel.

A special election was held Aug. 8, '87, to vote on the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of $10,000 for public improvements. Yes, 183; no, 13.

Nov. 8, '87, Treasurer Waldby resigned and G. S. Ward was appointed to fill the vacancy.

**March, 1888:** Pres.—E. B. Green; Trustees—Stephen W. Tinker, Edgar A. Bagley, M. Montigel; Clk.—Wm. A. Bahlke; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Francis Palmer; St. C.—John W. Morton; Const.—Edwin N. Chadwick.

Off. ap.: Atty—Jas. L. Clark; Mar.—Jas. B. Parker; Ch. F. D.—C. L. Delavan; H. O.—Dr. J. F. Suydam; Sur.—Jas. G. Chase; Water C.—M. Montigel.

**March, 1889:** Pres.—Martin Montigel; Trustees—Jas. B. Tubbs, Fred D. Adams, John Dunham; Clk.—Jas. G. Kress; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Albert E. Woodward; St. Com.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—Chas. Spicer.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Jas. L. Clark; Mar.—E. N. Chadwick; H. O.—S. D. Yerington; Sur.—Samuel F. Anderson; W. C.—P. M. Smith; Ch. F. D.—Edward Hannah.

Sept. 24, '89, Chas. L. Delavan was appointed trustee vice Fred. D. Adams, deceased.

**March, 1890:** Pres.—E. A. Bagley; Trustees—Andrew J. Hall, Geo. S. Young, Chas. F. Brown; 1 yr., Nelson J. McCullough; Clk.—Jas. G. Kress; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—A. E. Woodward; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—Fred D. Willard.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Wm. A. Bahlke; Mar.—Frank A. Leonard; Sur.—S. F. Anderson; Eng. W. W.—Benj. R. Lane.

**March, 1891:** Pres.—Fred H. Hamlin; Trustees—M. Montigel, John H. Arnold, Edward Hannah; Clk.—Jas. G. Kress; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—A. E. Woodward; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—Geo. Willard.

Off. ap.: Mar.—E. N. Chadwick; Ch. F. D.—P. M. Smith; Sur.—S. F. Anderson; H. O.—S. D. Yerington.

**March, 1892:** Pres.—John W. Holmes; Trustees—E. N. Chadwick, Bert Vandenburg, Geo. M. Delavan; Clk.—Jas. G. Kress; Treas.—G. S. Ward; Ass'r—Francis Palmer; St. C.—Hiram F. Utley; Const.—Elmer N. Van Wegen.

Off. ap.: Atty.—F. Palmer; Mar.—John Greig; Eng. W. W.—Wm. Hannah; Sur.—G. S. Young; W. C.—E. N. Chadwick; Ch. F. D.—Geo. S. Young.

April 26, '92, board appointed Wm. S. Turck treasurer vice Ward, ineligible, by reason of having held the office two years; provision of a recently enacted law.

Dec. 6, '92, board appointed O. M. Everden clerk vice Kress, elected county clerk.

**March, 1893:** Pres.—J. W. Holmes; Trustees—Wm. J. Gargett, Jas. A. Baker, N. J. McCullough; Clk.—O. M. Everden; Treas.—Ely Brewbaker; Ass'r—Ambrose B. Angell; St. C.—John Morton; Const.—John D. Spinney.

Off. ap.: Atty.—John D. Spinney; Mar.—John Greig; W. C.—M. Montigel; Eng. W. W.—Wm. Hannah; Ch. F. D.—Frank Medler.

Sept. 26, '93, Bert Vandenburg was appointed president vice Holmes, resigned.

Oct. 26, '93, C. F. Brown was appointed clerk vice Everden, resigned.

**March, 1894:** Pres.—Townsend A. Ely; Trustees—Geo. M. Delavan, John W. Glass, Ferd. Montigel; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—Ely Brewbaker; Ass'r—A. B. Angell; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Const.—J. H. Haskell.

Off. ap.: Atty.—John D. Spinney; W. C.—John W. Glass; Sur.—Geo. S. Young; H. O.—Dr. Suydam.

**March, 1895:** Pres.—T. A. Ely; Trustees—Wm. Kelly, Jas. A. Baker, Wm. J. Gargett; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—J. W. Holmes; Ass'r—Virgil M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: W. C.—W. J. Gargett; Sur.—Geo. S. Young; H. O.—Dr. Suydam; Mar.—John Greig; Eng. W. W.—Wm. J. Paddelford; St. C.—M. C. Dallas.

**March, 1896:** Pres.—T. A. Ely; Trustees—John W. Glass, S. W. Tinker, Edward Hannah; Clk.—Seth A. Tubbs; Treas.—J. W. Holmes; Ass'r—Virgil M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: Mar.—John Greig; H. O.—Dr. Suydam; Sur.—G. S. Young; W. C.—F. Montigel.

**March, 1897:** Pres.—E. A. Bagley; Trustees—John W. Dean, Geo. E. Wilson, Frank E. Pollasky; 1 yr., Ely Brewbaker; Clk.—Earl G. Torrey; Treas.—W. J. Gargett; Ass'r—Virgil M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: Mar.—John Greig; St. C.—H. F. Thompson; Eng. W. W.—H. P. Bogert; W. C.—John Dean; Sur.—G. S. Young; H. O.—Dr. Suydam.

**March, 1898:** Pres.—S. W. Tinker; Trustees—Ely Brewbaker, Amos W. Beckner, Edward Hannah; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—W. J. Gargett; Ass'r—V. M. Wilson; Const.—Geo. Willard.

Off. ap.: Mar.—John Greig; St. C.—H. F. Thompson; W. C.—Geo. S. Young, Geo. Sharrar; H. O.—Dr. Suydam.

**March, 1899:** Pres.—S. W. Tinker; Trustees—J. W. Dean, Henry E. Myers, Geo. E. Wilson; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—John W. Glass; Ass'r—V. M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: Mar.—John Greig; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; Atty.—John D. Spinney; W. C.—P. M. Smith; H. O.—Dr. I. F. Suydam.

The vote on bonding for $6,000 for highway and street improvement, stood—Yes, 148; no, 43.

**March, 1900:** Pres.—Ely Brewbaker; Trustees—Ferd. Montigel, Ed. Hannah, C. L. Delavan; 1 yr., Chauncey C. Thompson; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—John W. Glass; Ass'r—V. M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: Atty.—J. D. Spinney; Mar.—John Greig; St. C.—M. C. Dallas; W. C.—D. P. Struble.

**March, 1901:** Pres.—Wm. A. Bahlke; Trustees—Chas. F. Fishbeck, Lester H. Hayt, C. C. Thompson; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—Geo. E. Wilson; Ass'r—V. M. Wilson.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Ben. C. Button; St. C.—Harry Clark; Review—T. A. Ely, J. W. Glass; W. C.—L. H. Hayt; H. O.—Dr. I. N. Brainerd.

**March, 1902:** Pres.—Wm. A. Bahlke; Trustees—Ferd. Montigel, C. L. Delavan, Otto G. B. Sanderhoff; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—Geo. E. Wilson; Ass'r—V. M. Wilson.



ON GRANT STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Ben. C. Button; St. C.—Harry Clark; Supt. W. W.—Wm. Clubb; Sur.—J. G. Chase; H. O.—Dr. I. N. Brainerd.

The proposition to bond for $12,000 to purchase grounds and build a village hall carried—Yes, 279; no, 44.

May 6, '02, Street Commissioner Harry Clark resigned and Isaac Russell was chosen to fill the vacancy.

**March, 1903:** Pres. Geo. S. Young; Trustees—W. H. Demuth, Sidney G. Pierce, Daniel P. Struble; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—Theo. W. Marsh; Ass'r—Delos W. Adams.

Off. ap.: Mar. and St. C.—John Greig; Ch. F. D.—Chas. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—J. G. Chase; Supt. W. W.—Wm. A. Howe; H. O.—Edward T. Lamb.

**March, 1904:** Pres.—Geo. S. Young; Trustees—C. L. Delavan, Otto Sanderhoff, Ferd. Montigel; Clk.—W. W. Kinch; Treas.—Theo. W. Marsh; Ass'r—D. W. Adams.

Off. ap.: Mar. and St. C.—John Greig; Ch. F. D.—Chas. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—J. G. Chase; Supt. W. W.—Wm. A. Howe; H. O.—Dr. E. T. Lamb.

March 22, '04, Geo. W. Moore was appointed trustee vice S. G. Pierce, resigned.

### Presidents.

Ralph Ely, 1872, '74.
Jas. Gargett, 1875, '77.
Henry E. Kingsley, 1876.
Ephraim F. Quinn, 1878, '79.
Michael Pollasky, 1880, '81, '82.
Wm. S. Turck, 1883, '84.
C. L. Downie, 1885, '86.
Byron S. Webb, 1887.
Edbert B. Green, 1888.
Martin Montigel, 1889.
E. A. Bagley, 1890, '97.
Fred H. Hamlin, 1891.
John W. Holmes, 1892, '93.
Bert Vandenburg, ap. Sept. 26, '93.
Townsend A. Ely, 1894, '95, '96.
S. W. Tinker, 1898, '99.
Ely Brewbaker, 1900.
Wm. A. Bahlke, 1901, '02.
Geo. S. Young, 1903, '04.

### Clerks.

Geo. G. Holiday, 1872.
John F. Schwartz, 1874, '75.
Augustus M. Ford, 1876, '77, '78.
Almon Yerington, 1879, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '87.
Francis Palmer, ap. May 20, '84.

Hamlin J. Ward, 1885.
K. W. Ely, 1886.
Wm. A. Bahlke, 1888.
Jas. G. Kress, 1889, '90, '91, '92.
O. M. Everden, ap. Dec. 6, '92; '93.
Chas. F. Brown, ap. Oct. 26, '93.
Seth A. Tubbs, 1894, '95, '96.
Earl G. Torrey, 1897.
Wm. W. Kinch, 1898, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04.

### Treasurers.

David Leach, 1872.
H. A. Delavan, 1875, '76.
H. A. Blackmar, 1877, '78.
Sylvester B. Heverlo, 1879, '80.
Gerritt S. Ward, 1881, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, ap. Nov. 8, '87; '88, '89, '90, '91, '92.
Harry B. Waldby, 1887.
Wm. S. Turck, ap. April 26, '92.
Ely Brewbaker, 1893, '94.
John W. Holmes, 1895, '96.
W. J. Gargett, 1897, '98.
John W. Glass, 1899, '00.
Geo. E. Wilson, 1901, '02.
Theo. W. Marsh, 1903, '04.

### Assessors.

Jas. T. Hall, Samuel Brewbaker, 1872.
Gerritt S. Ward, 1874, '76.
Wm. Yerington, 1875.
J. F. Schwartz, 1877.
Chipman J. Tobey, 1878, '79.
Francis Palmer, 1880, '88, '92.
S. B. Heverlo, 1881.
T. A. Ely, 1882.
Jas. Gargett, ap. April 9, '83; '84.
Chas. H. Axtell, 1885.
Geo. W. Pulfrey, 1886.
Jas. G. Chase, 1887.
Albert E. Woodward, 1889, '90, '91.
Ambrose B. Angell, 1893, '94.
Virgil M. Wilson, 1895, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02.
Delos W. Adams, 1903, '04.

### Marshals.

T. A. Ely, 1872.
W. N. Carpenter, 1874.
Geo. P. Helt, 1875.
Wm. Adams, 1876.
A. D. Axford, ap. '77.
Geo. English, ap. '77; '78, '81.
Chas. H. Coates, ap. June 26, '78; '83.
Francis Stephens, 1879.
Geo. Willard, 1880.
Wesley S. Booth, 1882.
P. D. Pettit, 1884, '85, '86.
Geo. W. Pulfrey, ap. '84.
Jerry Smith, ap. Dec. 28, '86.
J. B. Parker, 1887, '88.
E. N. Chadwick, 1889, '91.
Frank A. Leonard, 1890.
John Greig, 1892, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '03, '04.
Ben. C. Button, 1901, '02.

## ALMA AS A CITY—ELECTIONS.

Alma was incorporated as a city, March 1, 1905. Its territory was divided into four wards, and the first election was held in the several wards April 3, 1905. A total of 646 votes were cast, and the result was as follows:

Mayor—Chas. L. Delavan; Clk.—Wm. W. Kinch; Treas.—Jas. B. Baker; J. P.—John D. Spinney, Edwin N. Chadwick.

First Ward: Sup.—Thos. J. Clark; Ald.—Otto Sanderhoff, Geo. W. Moore; Const.—Ben. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—Delos W. Adams; Ald.—V. S. Hollenbeck, Howard Willard; Const.—John Greig.

Third Ward: Sup.—Clark H. Decker; Ald.—Wm. Demuth, Albert P. Cook; Const.—Wm. Allen.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Perley M. Smith; Ald.—Robert H. Erwin, Adelbert Thum; Const.—Ernest Paul Engleman.

Off. ap.: St. C.—John Greig; Mar.—Ben. C. Button; H. O.—Dr. E. T. Lamb; Ch. F. D.—Chas. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—Jas. G. Chase; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress; Supt. W. W.—Wm. A. Howe.

**April, 1906:** Mayor—C. L. Delavan; Clk.—Delos W. Adams; Treas.—Jas. A. Baker; J. P.—John D. Spinney, E. N. Chadwick

First Ward: Sup.—T. J. Clark; Ald.—Otto Sanderhoff; Const.—Ben. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—Gerritt S. Ward; Ald.—Virgil S. Hollenbeck; Const.—John E. Booth.

Third Ward: Sup.—Clark H. Decker; Ald.—Wm. Demuth; Const.—Robert Smith.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Perley M. Smith; Ald.—Francis King; Const.—E. P. Engleman.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Jas. G. Kress; Mar.—Benj. C. Button; Sur.—Jas. G. Chase; St. Com.—John Greig; Ch. F. D.—Chas. F. Fishbeck; H. O.—Dr. E. T. Lamb.

**April, 1907:** Mayor—Francis King; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—John F. Schwartz; J. P.—E. N. Chadwick, John D. Spinney.

First Ward: Sup.—T. J. Clark; Ald.—Otto Sanderhoff, Jesse E. Fuller; Const.—B. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—G. S. Ward; Ald.—V. S. Hollenbeck, J. W. Glass; Const.—J. E. Booth.

Third Ward: Sup.—C. H. Decker; Ald.—Wm. Demuth, Albert P. Cook.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Perley M. Smith; Ald.—Ed. Hannah, Nelson Fullerton; Const.—E. P. Engleman.

Off. ap.: St. C.—John Greig; Mar.—B. C. Button; H. O.—Dr. E. T. Lamb; Ch. F. D.—Chas. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—J. G. Chase; Supt. W. W.—Geo. C. Parsons; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress.

**April, 1908:** Mayor—Francis King; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—J. F. Schwartz; J. P.—E. N. Chadwick, J. D. Spinney.

First Ward: Sup.—Nelson J. McCullough; Ald.—J. E. Fuller, Geo. Ogden; Const.—B. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—G. S. Ward; Ald.—J. W. Glass, V. S. Hollenbeck; Const.—J. E. Booth.

Third Ward: Sup.—C. H. Decker; Ald.—Albert P. Cook, John N. Day, Jr.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Perley M. Smith; Ald.—Nelson Fullerton, Edward Hannah; Const.—Frank G. Bennitt.

Off. ap.: St. C.—John Greig; Mar.—E. Sprague; H. O.—Dr. E. T. Lamb; Ch. F. D.—C. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—J. G. Chase; Supt. W. W.—Geo. C. Parsons; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress.

**April, 1909:** Mayor—Nelson F. McClinton; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—J. W. Holmes; J. P.—E. N. Chadwick, John D. Spinney.

First Ward: Sup.—T. J. Clark; Ald.—J. E. Fuller, Geo. Ogden; Const.—B. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—L. M. Sweet; Ald.—J. W. Glass, Isaac Russell; Const.—John Greig.

Third Ward: Sup.—T. A. Ely; Ald.—Geo. W. Pulfrey, John N. Day, Jr.; Const.—Robert Smith.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—P. M. Smith; Ald.—N. Fullerton, Ed. Hannah; Const.—Frank G. Bennitt.



M. E. Church. Pres. Church.



W. A. B. Res. Bap. Church.



Cath. Church. College.



Manfg. Section. Sugar Factory.

BIRDSEYE VIEWS FROM MASONIC HOME TOWER.

Off. ap.: St. & W. Com.—John Greig; Mar.—O. L. Convis; H. O.—Dr. I. N. Brainerd; Ch. F. D.—C. F. Fishbeck; Sur.—E. M. Wood.

**April, 1910:** Mayor—Nelson F. McClinton; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—J. W. Holmes; J. P.—J. D. Spinney, E. N. Chadwick.

First Ward: Sup.—T. J. Clark; Ald.—J. E. Fuller, Henry H. Soule; Const.—B. C. Button.

Second Ward: Sup.—L. M. Sweet; Ald.—J. W. Glass, Isaac Russell; Const.—John Greig.

Third Ward: Sup.—T. A. Ely; Ald.—Geo. W. Pulfrey, G. H. Bansil; Const.—Robert Smith.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Perley M. Smith; Ald.—N. Fullerton, Ransom J. Fraker; Const.—Frank G. Bennitt.

Off. ap.: St. & W. Com.—John Greig; Mar.—John Wright; H. O.—Dr. I. N. Brainerd; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress; Ch. F. D.—C. F. Fishbeck.

Mayor McClinton resigned January 1, 1911, to remove from town, and President pro tem John W. Glass was acting Mayor during the balance of the term.

**April, 1911:** Mayor—John M. Montigel; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—John W. Glass; Justice—John T. Swigart.

First Ward: Sup.—T. J. Clark; Ald.—J. E. Fuller; Const.—Jo. Ray.

Second Ward: Sup.—L. M. Sweet; Ald.—Geo. R. Knight; Const.—John Greig.

Third Ward: Sup.—T. A. Ely; Ald.—Geo. W. Pulfrey; Const.—Wm. Smith.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—P. M. Smith; Ald.—R. J. Fraker; Const.—Frank G. Bennitt.

Off. ap.: St. & W. Com.—John Greig; Mar.—John Wright; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress; H. O.—Dr. J. N. Day; Ch. F. D.—C. F. Fishbeck.

C. F. Fishbeck resigning as Ch. F. D., J. F. Sartor, Jr., was appointed to the position.

**April, 1912:** Mayor—John M. Montigel; Clk.—D. W. Adams, Treas.—Fred O. Grover.

First Ward: Sup.—John H. Parrish; Ald.—Roy Goodspeed; Const.—Jo. Ray.

Second Ward: Sup.—Isaac Russell; Ald., 2 yrs.—Howard Willard; 1 yr.—Walter W. Caple; Const.—John Greig.

Third Ward: Sup.—T. A. Ely; Ald.—A. P. Cook; Const.—Wm. Smith.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—Jacob D. Helman; Ald.—Louis B. Kehn; Const.—Frank G. Bennitt.

Off. ap.: Mar.—John Wright; St. & W. Com.—John Greig; H. O.—John E. Booth; Atty.—Jas. G. Kress; Ch. F. D.—Jo. F. Sartor, Jr.; Cemetery Bd.—E. M. Wood, L. N. Baker, A. W. Brock, R. J. Fraker, D. L. Sharrar.

Roy Goodspeed resigned as alderman and A. H. Olmstead was appointed.

Marshal Wright resigned and on June 20, '12, J. D. Helman was appointed.

**April, 1913:** Mayor—J. M. Montigel; Clk.—D. W. Adams; Treas.—Jesse E. Fuller; J. P.—John A. Mann.

First Ward: Sup.—J. H. Parrish; Ald., 2 yrs.—F. H. Rowland; 1 yr.—Geo. Peery; Const.—Oscar Vibber.

Second Ward: Sup.—Isaac Russell; Ald.—W. W. Caple; Const.—C. F. Parker.

Third Ward: Sup.—John D. Sullivan; Ald.—C. O. Ward; Const.—Geo. Brown.

Fourth Ward: Sup.—J. D. Helman; Ald.—R. J. Fraker; Const.—Frank Bennitt.

Woman Suffrage Amendment: Yes, 273; no, 332.
On County Road System: Yes, 312; no, 113.
On Gas Franchise to Wagner Bros.: Yes, 590; no, 38.
Off. ap.: Pres. pro tem—A. P. Cook; Atty.—D. L. Johnson; H. O.—Dr. F. Erwin; Mar.—J. R. Campbell; St. Com.—O. F. Parker; Ch. F. D.—J. F. Sartor, Jr.; Driver F. T.—Will Peck.

### Mayors.

Chas. L. Delavan, 1905, '06.
Francis King, 1907, '08.
Nelson F. McClinton, 1909, '10.
John M. Montigel, 1911, '12, '13.

### Clerks.

Wm. W. Kinch, 1905.
Delos W. Adams, 1906, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Jas. A. Baker, 1905, '06.
John F. Schwartz, 1907, '08.
John W. Holmes, 1909, '10.
John W. Glass, 1911.
Fred O. Grover, 1912.
Jesse E. Fuller, 1913.

### Justices of the Peace.

John D. Spinney, 1905, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10.
Edwin N. Chadwick, 1905, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10.
John T. Swigart, 1911.
John A. Mann, 1913.

### Marshals.

Ben. C. Button, 1905, '06, '07.
Elmer Sprague, 1908.
John Greig, 1909.
John Wright, 1910, '11, '12.
J. D. Helman, ap. June 20, '12.
J. R. Campbell, 1913.

### Supervisors.

Ward. 1905.
1—Thos J. Clark.
2—Delos W. Adams.
3—Clark H. Decker.
4—Perley M. Smith.
Ward. 1906.
1—Thos. J. Clark.
2—Gerritt S. Ward.
3—Clark H. Decker.
4—Perley M. Smith.
Ward. 1907.
1—Thos. J. Clark.
2—G. S. Ward.
3—C. H. Decker.
4—P. M. Smith.
Ward. 1908.
1—Nelson J. McCullough.
2—G. S. Ward.
3—C. H. Decker.
4—P. M. Smith.
Ward. 1909.
1—T. J. Clark.
2—Lawrence M. Sweet.
Ward. 1909.
3—T. A. Ely.
4—P. M. Smith.
Ward. 1910.
1—T. J. Clark.
2—Lawrence M. Sweet.
3—T. A. Ely.
4—P. M. Smith.
Ward. 1911.
1—T. J. Clark.
2—Lawrence M. Sweet.
3—T. A. Ely.
4—P. M. Smith.
Ward. 1912.
1—John H. Parrish.
2—Isaac Russell.
3—T. A. Ely.
4—Jacob D. Helman.
Ward. 1913.
1—John H. Parrish.
2—Isaac Russell.
3—John D. Sullivan.
4—J. D. Helman.

## ALMA BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### BAHLKE.

William A. Bahlke, of the City of Alma, was born on his father's farm, two miles west of the Village of Pewamo, Ionia County, Mich., on the 4th day of July, 1861. His father, Anton Bahlke, and his mother, Mary (Hund) Bahlke, were born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1828, migrating to this country in 1854 and locating in the City of Detroit. They were both born and reared in the Lutheran faith and remained steadfast therein during their lives. After a residence of one year in Detroit, they moved to the Village of Lyons, Ionia County, and thence to their farm in Lyons Township, where the subject of this sketch was born. They were hard-working, industrious Germans, and when they retired from their business as farmers, they owned a valuable farm of 420 acres on East Plains, near Pewamo. This farm, it can fairly be said, was the scene and the result of their life's work. And it may further truthfully be said that its possession was faithfully and honestly earned. The greater part of those acres were cleared and subdued by their personal energy and toil.

The mother's health failing, in the fall of 1886, they sold the farm and removed to the City of Alma, where they resided for five years and then returned to the Village of Pewamo. In April, 1909, they again moved to Alma, and resided with their son, William A., until their deaths in the fall of 1910.

William A. Bahlke inherited from his parents a generous share of energy and ambition, a statement easily proven by a glance at the facts of his career thus far. He received his early education in a country school, later taking and completing the high school course at Pewamo. In the fall of 1879 he entered the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, taking the agricultural course and graduating with the class of 1883. After graduation he taught school for a year in Pewamo, and then entered Hammill's School of Elocution in Chicago, graduating in September, 1884. After traveling in the west for several months he returned in the winter of 1884-5 and entered the law office of Hon. A. A. Ellis, of Ionia, then prosecuting attorney of Ionia County, for the study of law. Here he remained until February, 1886, when he was admitted to the bar as an attorney, at Ionia, before Judge Vernon H. Smith.

In April, 1886, Mr. Bahlke located at Alma, this county, for the practice of his chosen profession, since which time he has been in active practice in this and surrounding counties. His ability as a lawyer was early recognized, and he has enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practive. In fact, it may truthfully be said that his standing as a popular and successful attorney is not excelled by any attorney in the county.

October 7, 1891, Mr. Bahlke was married to Miss Mary Eleanor Carpenter, of Marysville, St. Clair County, Mich. Mrs. Bahlke assists Mr. Bahlke in his various business enterprises. She is prominent in everything that tends to the betterment and upbuilding of her home city.

Since reaching the age of manhood, Mr. Bahlke has always been an active Democrat. His loyalty to his party has never been questioned. He has been his party's candidate for various responsible offices, but his party being generally in the minority in the county, he has usually suffered defeat with his party. In 1886 and again in 1888 he was the Democratic candidate for prosecuting attorney but shared defeat with his party each



WILLIAM A. BAHLKE.

time. In 1901 and 1902 he was elected president of the Village of Alma, notwithstanding the village had a large Republican majority. In 1904 he was the candidate of the 11th district Democracy for the lower house of congress. He was postmaster at Alma under President Cleveland's administration from 1894 to 1898.

This sketch would be incomplete without due reference to Mr. Bahlke's connection with the material interests of Alma. He has always taken an active interest in the development and growth of the village and city. In 1901 he organized the Alma State Savings Bank and has been its president since its incorporation. In 1903 Mr. Bahlke organized the Alma Manufacturing Company and has been interested in it ever since its organization, and is now its secretary and assistant treasurer. He is president of the Alma Realty Company which owns valuable business property in his home city, and is general attorney and director of the Union Telephone Company, and has been one of the active forces in building up its large business. Mr. Bahlke has been a director of the Alma Board of Trade ever since its organization and has served several years as its president.

A share of Mr. Bahlke's energies, for many years, found ample scope for exercise in the management of his splendid farm of 160 acres which he sold in 1912, and which adjoins the City of Alma on the east. He greatly enjoyed this work and is entitled to much credit for his activity and taste in building up, keeping up and beautifying his farm. He was a successful farmer and especially enthusiastic in the cultivation of sugar beets. He was an active factor in the organization of the Alma Sugar Company, and is pronounced in his views that the growing of sugar beets is one of the most profitable lines to which the Gratiot County farmer can devote his energies.

While not a member of any church, Mr. Bahlke gives active support to the First Presbyterian Church of his city. He was president of its trustees and of its building committee when the present magnificent church building was erected, in 1900. He was active in the work of securing funds for the purpose, and perhaps did as much as any other one person to see that the edifice was fully completed and paid for.

Alma's fine city hall was constructed during Mr. Bahlke's incumbency of the office of village president, and as president of the board of trade, he has been instrumental in locating several large manufacturing institutions in Alma, and is still deeply interested in efforts along that line.

Mr. Bahlke's residence on State Street, erected in 1907, under his personal and constant supervision, is one of the finest residences in this part of the state, and would be an adornment to a much larger and more pretentious city.

In the summer of 1912, Mr. Bahlke, accompanied by his wife, took a trip to Europe, visiting not only the home country of his forefathers, but also various other portions of Europe. He returned in time to take an active part in the Wilson, Marshall and Ferris campaign, serving as acting chairman of the Democratic committee of Gratiot County.

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## HEVERLO.

Sylvester B. Heverlo was the incumbent of many official positions in township, village and county, including two terms as county treasurer. He came to Alma in 1871 and engaged in the boot and shoe and grocery trade. He was treasurer of Alma in '79 and '80, assessor in '81, treasurer of Pine River in '81 and '82. In 1882 he was elected county treasurer on the Fusion

(Democrat and Greenback) ticket over T. A. Ely, and was re-elected in 1884 over C. C. Foote. In both elections the Fusion candidates were generally successful. Mr. Heverlo won and held the confidence of all citizens regardless of party by his strict devotion to the principles of justice and honor. His death occurred at his home in Ithaca, August 21, 1893.

Sylvester B. Heverlo was born in Delaware County, Ohio, September 7, 1836, son of Barnet and Mary (Smith) Heverlo. His early years were spent in farming and in acquiring a common school education, supplemented by a course in a local academy. He was married in Duplain, Clinton County, Mich., March 5, 1867, to Mrs. K. K. (Keen) Cobb. Their children were Arthur K., Jessie F. and Bertha M. For several years Mrs. Heverlo and her daughters have been residents of North Carolina. Mr. Heverlo and his estimable family are held in pleasant memory by many citizens.

## ELY.

Gen. Ralph Ely, founder of Alma, distinguished soldier of the Civil War, elected first treasurer of Gratiot County and an honored resident of the county for many years, was born in Marshall, Oneida County, N. Y., July 10, 1820, son of Armenius and Electa (Munger) Ely, both natives of the State of New York. Ralph was one of a family of four children—Lucy, Ralph, Derwin and Flavius.



GEN. RALPH ELY.

Ralph Ely came to Michigan in 1846, first settling in Ionia County. In 1854 he came to Gratiot, purchasing wild land (it was all wild) in Pine River and Arcada Townships, now the site of the City of Alma. Here he built a log house for himself and family—the first in that vicinity—also erecting other buildings, including a saw mill and grist mill. He took an active and leading part in the organization of the county, and also in the county's affairs for many years thereafter, as well as the affairs of his village and township. In 1872 he represented the district of which Gratiot formed a part in the State Senate. In 1874 he was elected Auditor General of the State and was re-elected in 1876.

Mr. Ely served as a soldier during nearly the entire War of the Rebellion, being largely instrumental in raising a company of Gratiot County soldiers which went into the service in August, 1861, as Company C of the 8th Mich. Infantry, with Mr. Ely as its captain. He served until the close of the war, making an enviable record by distinguished services rendered, and rising to the grade of Brigadier General of Volunteers.

Ralph Ely was married September 22, 1842, to Mary E. Halstead, who was born in Waterloo, Seneca County, N. Y., February 16, 1823, daughter of Elisha O. and Phebe M. (Woodworth) Halstead. Six children were born to this union—Townsend A., Louise A., Phebe E., Mary J., Lucy L. and Kate F.

Gen. Ely died April 4, 1883. His wife, Mary E. Ely, died August, 1905.

Further details of Gen. Ely's various activities in public life may be found chronicled in other departments of this volume.

## CHAPIN.

Dewitt C. Chapin was born May 28, 1816, son of Theodore H. and Margaret (Fox) Chapin. He was educated in Lockport and in Lewiston, Western New York, and was admitted to the bar to practice law before attaining his majority. He came to Michigan in 1837, locating first in Cass County, thence migrating to Oakland County, where, in 1842, he was elected county clerk, his father being elected judge of probate at the same election. After serving one term he removed to Allegan County where he served four years as prosecuting attorney and four years as judge of probate. Returning to Clinton County he was again elected county clerk—1856—and was re-elected in '58 and '60.



DEWITT C. CHAPIN.

In 1864 Mr. Chapin removed to Alma, this county and there prosecuted his law practice. In November, 1870, he was elected register of deeds and was re-elected in 1872. At the election of April, 1867, he was elected delegate from Gratiot County to the state constitutional convention, running as an Independent Republican, defeating Gen. Nathan Church, the regular Republican candidate, by a majority of three votes.

Mr. Chapin died January 29, 1873, having just begun service on his second term as register of deeds. By general consent and by authority of the board of supervisors, his daughter, Ella F., who afterward was the wife of William O. Watson, and is now deceased, was allowed to finish out her father's term as register.

Mr. Chapin was married December 25, 1843, to Edna F., daughter of William and Mahala Utley, of Clinton County. She was born in Ontario County, N. Y., December 18, 1822. Their children were Margaret M., Delia H., William W., Ella F., Laura C., Nettie M., Frank W., Fred W., Carrie F. and Louise.

Mr. Chapin was a Mason for about thirty years, reaching a high degree in the order and filling most of the important positions in the different branches.

## HOLMES.

Hon. John W. Holmes, representative from Gratiot County to the state legislature three consecutive terms, was born in Springwater Township, Livingston County, N. Y., January 21, 1840, son of Milton and Maria (Chesebro) Holmes. John W. was one of eleven children. He remained with his parents until seventeen years old, receiving his education from the common schools and finishing in the high school at Jonesville, Mich. June 9, 1861, he enlisted in the 7th Mich. Infantry and after serving one year was discharged on account of illness. After his return from the army he taught school several years, and later was engaged in mercantile trade in Mosherville, Horton and Remus, Mich., afterward removing to Alma where he did an extensive business as a dealer in agricultural implements, etc.

Mr. Holmes took an active part in Alma affairs. He was president of the village in 1892 and '93, treasurer in '95 and '96, and in 1909 and '10,

served as city treasurer. In the fall of 1900 he was chosen as Gratiot County's representative in the state legislature, and was re-elected in 1902 and '04. As a legislator he took high rank, and was particularly active and influential in all matters coming before the house bearing upon the cause of temperance, always devoting himself diligently to the work in favor of that cause.

Mr. Holmes was married December 24, 1874, in Horton, Mich., to Eva E., daughter of Albert I. and Harriet Ayres. She was born July 29, 1854. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were—Lena, Milton A., Bessie L. and Conway. Mrs. Eva E. Holmes passed away May 16, 1903.

On the 6th day of December, 1905, Mr. Holmes was married to Mrs. Mary D. Culver. She died January 8, 1913, at the age of 67 years, at Lansing, to which place they removed in 1911.

## DELAVAN.

Henry A. Delavan, head of the Delavan family so far as Gratiot County is concerned, was for many years one of the leading spirits in the business and social life of the Village of Alma, coming to that burg in 1870 and spending the remainder of his life there. He was born August 1, 1810, in Seneca County, N. Y., son of Tompkins C. and Esther (Jessup) Delavan. He received his education in the common schools, finishing with a course at Ovid Academy, Seneca County. He engaged in mercantile business at the age of 16, and that was his principal business through life, though mixing in some agricultural work and some speculation in real estate.



HENRY A. DELAVAN.

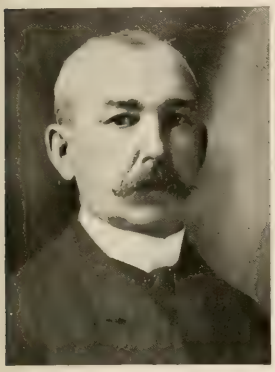
Mr. Delavan removed to Michigan in 1838, settling at Jonesville. In 1861 he was appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue for his district, continuing in that capacity until 1865. In 1870 he removed to Alma and engaged in mercantile trade. In 1876 he erected an elevator, probably the first in the county. His two sons, Chas. L. and George M., became associated with him in business, and their business, including buying and shipping grain, assumed large proportions, the firm holding a position and standing second to none in the village.

Mr. Delavan was married in Watkins, N. Y., December 5, 1835, to Mary T., daughter of Isaac and Catharine (Tillinghast) Leake. Nine children were born to them—Cornelia, Anna L., Julia, Mary C., Catharine, Agnes E., William A., Chas. L. and George M. Mrs. Catharine Delavan passed away August 18, 1870. Henry A. Delavan continued in active business to within a few years of his death, which occurred September 5, 1903, at the age of 93 years.

Mr. Delavan will long be remembered as a most active and energetic citizen and one whose influence was always for good government and right living. He and his family were, and are, active and influential members of the Episcopal Church.

## PULFREY.

George W. Pulfrey, of Alma, now and for many years one of the best-known hotel men in Central Michigan, was born in Seneca County, N. Y., January 18, 1852. His father, Alexander Pulfrey, was a native of New York State, born March 14, 1821. His mother, Susan A. (Longwood) Pulfrey, born October 15, 1823, was also a native of the Empire State. They were married December 7, 1848, and became the parents of children as follows: Eddy C. Pulfrey, Columbus F. Pulfrey, John A. Pulfrey, Emma L. Pulfrey, Cornelia C. Pulfrey and George W. Pulfrey, the subject of this sketch.



GEORGE W. PULFREY.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Pulfrey, after their marriage, established their home in the State of New York and remained there until the year 1864, when they came to Gratiot County with their family, settling in Washington Township. After a residence of five years in that township, they removed to St. Johns, Mich., where the parents resided until their deaths. While a resident of Washington Township, Alexander Pulfrey served a term—1865—as supervisor.

George W. Pulfrey started in life for himself when sixteen years of age. He followed hotel work for a short time and then commenced driving stage between St. Johns and St. Louis, continuing in that capacity for about three years. In 1873 he entered the Exchange Hotel, at St. Louis, as clerk, and was so engaged until the spring of 1878, when he leased the Seaman Hotel at Alma and removed to that village. After a period of one and one-half years he bought the hotel and continued as proprietor and landlord for about five years, when he sold the hotel and engaged in the grocery business. Selling this he removed to Plano, Ill., and was engaged in the hotel business for one year, and then returned to Alma, and later — 1889 — built the Hotel Arcada, corner of Superior and Prospect Streets. This hostelry he still owns, and much of the time since its erection has also conducted its business as landlord. At various times he has leased the Arcada and engaged in the same business at St. Johns, Ann Arbor, and at the resort hotels at Omena and Frankfort, Mich.



MRS. GEO. W. PULFREY.

Thus with his many years' experience as a hotel man to his credit, it may safely be said that Mr. Pulfrey is truly a pioneer in the business, and the oldest hotel man now living in the county.

Mr. Pulfrey was united in marriage to Eliza C. Eicher, at Maple Rapids, Mich., September 24, 1874. Mrs. Pulfrey was born in Fulton Township, this county, January 24, 1854, and is the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Beck) Eicher, the former born in France, the latter born in Switzerland.

She is one of a family of nine children, her brothers and sisters being as follows: Jacob Eicher, Frank Eicher, Benjamin Eicher, William Eicher, Maud Eicher, Mary Eicher, Nancy Eicher, and Ida Eicher.

In politics Mr. Pulfrey is a Republican. He filled various offices of trust and responsibility in Alma as a village, and since its incorporation as a city he has served four years as alderman, and at the present time is an incumbent of that office. He takes a deep interest in all projects and enterprises designed to advance Alma's welfare and growth and can always be depended on for intelligent, honest and energetic service. He platted and thus added to Alma's available residence territory, what was known as the Moyer property.

Mr. and Mrs. Pulfrey, together with their children, are identified with the Episcopal Church at Alma, Mr. Pulfrey acting at the present time as treasurer and junior warden. Their children are Hebert G. Pulfrey, Grace M. Pulfrey and Ivah M. Pulfrey. Hebert G. married Lillian M. McCullough and resides in Saginaw. They have a daughter—Dorothy M.—born May 10, 1903. Grace M. resides with her parents in Alma. Ivah M. is a graduate nurse of Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, and is now practicing in Lincoln, Nebraska.

## SARTOR.

Among the progressive and energetic business men of Alma it is but justice, as it is also a pleasure, to include the name of Joseph F. Sartor, Jr., the wide-awake publisher of the Alma Journal. He is successor to Brown & Sartor (Caris Brown and Joseph F. Sartor, Jr.) who formed a partnership in June, 1904, for the publication of the Alma Journal. In 1909 Mr. Sartor became sole proprietor of the paper by the purchase of his partner's interest.

Mr. Sartor was born in Elgin, Illinois, July 17, 1870. He is a son of Joseph F. and Selma (Hartel) Sartor. He came to Alma with his parents in 1877, securing his education in the common schools and in the Alma High School. Later he learned the printer's trade in the office of the Alma Record—C. F. Brown, publisher—under the foremanship of Caris Brown, who afterward became his partner in the publication of the Journal, as above stated. The Journal is a leader in the newspaper field of the county and well deserves the liveral patronage that it is enjoying.

Mr. Sartor takes a lively interest in matters bearing upon the well-being of his city. He has been for many years one of the city's efficient firemen, holding important and responsible positions in the department. Upon the retirement of Chief Chas. F. Fishbeck in the fall of 1911, after a long and successful term as chief, Mr. Sartor was appointed to the highly responsible office, and is performing its duties to the entire satisfaction of the authorities and of the citizens generally. He is an active member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Knights of Pythias.

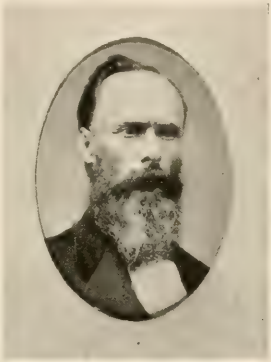
December 31, 1894, Mr. Sartor was united in marriage to Miss Leva Dean, daughter of James and Mary (Merchant) Dean. She was born September 13, 1875. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sartor, as follows: Caris W., born January 24, 1898; Chas. B., born July 3, 1899; Stanley L., born November 6, 1902; J F, born January 28, 1905; Chrissie Theresa, born September 28, 1911.



JOSEPH F. SARTOR, JR.

## GARGETT.

The name of James Gargett was prominent in Gratiot during the '60s and '70s. He was one of Alma's most active business men. He was born in Canada, July 15, 1825, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Perkins) Gargett. The family removed to Summit County, Ohio, in 1844. In 1871 the parents were both murdered in cold blood, "and their tragic fate and the condign punishment of the assassin are matters of record in the archives of Summit County. The murderer, John Hunter, was apprehended, tried and convicted, and was executed in October, 1871, at Akron, Ohio."



HON. JAS. GARGETT.

Mr. Gargett secured a common school education and for a while engaged in teaching. He was married May 24, 1849, in Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y., to Louisa Gee, daughter of Joseph and Eleanor (Seaton) Gee. She was born in Lyons, May 24, 1831. Two children came to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gargett—Minnie L. and George. The latter died in infancy, a victim of accidental scalding. The former became the wife of Wm. B. Humbert, and is now deceased.

Mr. Gargett settled in Alma in January, 1859, and at once engaged in merchandising. He had many reverses in business, but remained in active business along various lines—flouring mill, woolen mill, lumbering, real estate, etc.—for many years. He served as village president in 1875 and '77. In the fall of 1862 he was elected representative in the state legislature, and served one term. He served as supervisor of Pine River Township in 1865.

Mrs. Louisa Gargett, who was a woman of superior talent, died in Florida, October 8, 1887. Mr. Gargett survived her several years, but is now deceased.

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## VLIET.

Samuel A. Vliet, late resident of Alma, but now deceased, was born at Clarkston, Mich., March 31, 1845. His parents, Nathan and Sarah (Jewell) Vliet, were natives of New Jersey, and came to Clarkston in 1839, residing there until 1855, when they came to Fulton Township, Gratiot County, and later to St. Louis, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father died December 13, 1870, the mother August 30, 1865. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: John, who died at St. Louis, aged 76 years; Mary A., wife of L. Phillips, died at Pompeii August, 1906, aged 80 years; Jackson, whose wife was Almira Mecum, died December, 1904, aged 76 years; James V. who married Hannah Ferris and is still living in St. Louis; Phebe E., wife of Orange Hopkins, died at Jackson, May, 1896, aged 63 years; Joseph B., whose wife was Deborah Mecum, died at St. Louis April, 1910, aged 73 years; Sarah, wife of Charles Rooks, died near Breckenridge, October, 1909, aged 70 years; Eliza, wife of Lionel W. Harris, died at Pompeii, March, 1913, aged 71 years; Samuel A. Vliet, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel A. Vliet was a farmer by occupation. He was married December 23, 1869, to Jessie C. Cheesman, of St. Louis, daughter of Dr. John R. and Mary A. (Chapman) Cheesman, who were natives of New York State, and who settled in Hamilton Township, this county, in 1854, where the wife and mother died in 1857 at the age of 34 years. Three children were born to them—Laura A., born in Manlius, N. Y., November 11, 1848, became the wife of Rev. Theodore Nelson; Jessie C., born at Chittenango, N. Y., August 21, 1850, and Frank, who died in infancy. September, 1858, Dr. Cheesman was married (second) to Ellen E. Moulton. One daughter, Minnie M., was born to this union, May 1862. She resides in Alma and is at the head of the department of music, Alma College. Dr. Cheesman died at his home in St. Louis, June 8, 1893, aged 73 years. His wife, Ellen E. Cheesman died in St. Louis, September 18, 1900.

Children were born to Samuel A. and Jessie C. Vliet as follows: Walter C., born at St. Louis, October 9, 1871; Ida M., born at St. Louis, July 18, 1873; Alice H., born January 29, 1876, died March 23, 1899. Walter C. Vliet was married to Blanch E. Hyde, November, 1894. Four children were born to them—Lester H.; Fern H.; Harland D., died in infancy; Stanley C., born April 26, 1902. Walter C. Vliet and family reside at Fargo, N. D. Ida M. Vliet is married to George W. Bates. They reside in Petoskey and have a son, George A., born February 8, 1906

Samuel A. Vliet was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in Company F, 2nd Mich. Cavalry, December 30, 1863, and serving till the close of the war. He was an invalid in late life for several years, and passed away at his home in Alma, January 24, 1909. He was a man of very kindly nd genial disposition, having many friends. His estimable wife, Jessie C. Vliet, resides in the family home in Alma. The family were, and are, adherents of the Baptist Church.

## KING.

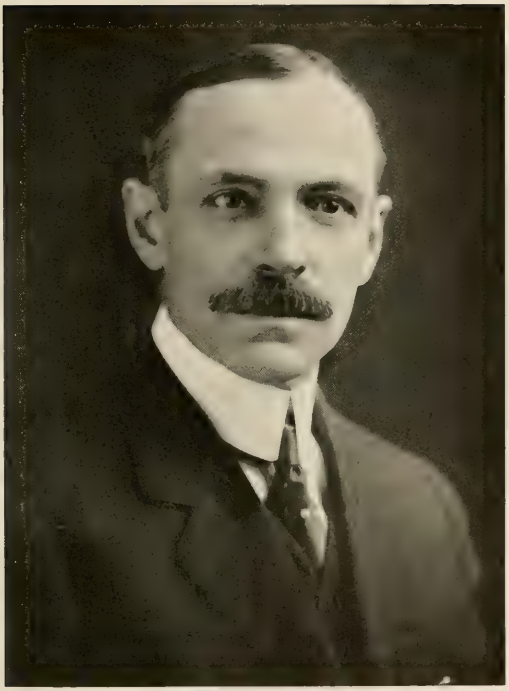
Hon. Francis King, one of the foremost citizens of Alma and of Gratiot County, was born in Chicago, Illinois, January 5, 1863. His father, Henry W. King, was born in Martinsburgh, N. Y., December 18, 1829, and died in Chicago, April 13, 1898. His mother, Aurelia R. (Case) King, was also a native of the State of New York, born in Nassau, February 6, 1833. She passed away in Chicago, December 31, 1900.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. King, children were born as follows: Henry W. King, born May 3, 1859, in Chicago, died in Omaha, September 18, 1888; Mrs. C. K. Pomeroy, born in Chicago, February 21, 1861; Francis King, January 5, 1863; Mrs. Cyrus Bentley, born in Chicago, September 27, 1865.

Francis King was married at Orange, N. J., June 12, 1890, to Louisa Boyd Yeomans, born in Washington, N. J., October 17, 1864, daughter of Rev. Alfred Yeomans and Elizabeth B. (Ramsay) Yeomans, the former born in North Adams, Mass., the latter in Baltimore, Maryland. The father is now deceased. Edward Yeomans, Charles Yeomans and Alfred B. Yeomans, brothers of Mrs. King, are residents of Chicago. Mary Yeomans, her sister, resides in Orange, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis King are the parents of three children, all residing at their home in Alma. They are—Elizabeth King, aged 21 years; Henry W. King, aged 18 years; Frances King, aged 16 years.

Mr. King removed to Alma with his family in August, 1902. He is active in all enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his city and



HON. FRANCIS KING.

county. His fellow-citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to many positions of honor and responsibility, and his administration of the affairs entrusted to him has fully justified their judgment. He served two terms as alderman of the fourth ward—1905-'06. Twice he was elected mayor of the city—1907-'08. In 1908 he was chosen by his party to represent the 11th congressional district in the Republican National Convention. In 1907 Gov. Warner appointed him as a member of the Commission of Inquiry for Tax Lands and Forestry, which commission formulated a report of its findings and conclusions which was submitted to the legislature. Its recommendations have since been largely followed by the present Public Domain Commission, a board formed and established by the State as was suggested in the aforesaid report. He has served several years as a member of the Board of Education of the City of Alma; also as a Director of the First State Bank of Alma, and is now second vice-president; member of the Republican County Committee, and at the last meeting and banquet of the Gratiot County Republican Club was chosen its president. As vice-president of the Alma Manufacturing Co., treasurer of the Little Giant Hay Press Co., president of the Miller Saw Trimmer Co., and president of the Alma Board of Trade, he has shown his interest in, and devotion to, the business interests of his home city.



RESIDENCE OF FRANCIS KING.

At the Republican primaries of August, 1912, Francis King received the nomination of his party for state senator, and was elected in the following November. His record as senator in the session of 1913 gave general satisfaction to his constituents, and reflected credit upon the important body of which he is a member.

Mr. King is a graduate of Williams College, and is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Alma.

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## WEBB.

Francis Marion Webb, a farmer on section 5, Arcada, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, in the year 1849, son of Philip and Sarah (Duck) Webb, both of whom were born in Tuscarawas County. Their other children were William, George, Charlie, Henry and Ella. Henry died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1904. Ella died at Alma in 1901, leaving a family of seven children. She was the wife of Joseph Ellison.

Francis M. Webb was married to Miss Matilda Reed, December 9, 1875. She was the daughter of Noah and Elizabeth (Miner) Reed, the former born in Wood County, Ohio, the latter born in Harrison County, Ohio. Mrs. Matilda Webb was born in Wood County, Ohio, in 1853. Her brothers and sisters were Minnie, Mary, Samuel and Welcome, born in Wood County, Ohio; Ella and Lucretia born in Lucas County, Ohio. Ella, Mary and Welcome died in Lucas County.

Francis M. Webb came to Gratiot with his family, including his mother, four brothers and one sister, in 1879. His own family consisted of his wife and four children. They settled on section 5, Arcada, the farm which has ever since been their home. The four children referred to were all born in Defiance County, Ohio. Eight more were born in Gratiot County. Three boys were born in the shanty first built on the farm. Mary died in her youth, and Sadie died in infancy. Ida died at the age of 14 years, in 1901. Will died in 1899 at the age of 21. Zetta was married in 1899 to Arthur Childs, and lives near St. Louis, this county. Joseph is a resident of Alma, and Edwin lives in Howell, Mich. The rest of the children reside with their parents.

Mr. Webb and family, though by no means the earliest pioneers, came early enough to see Gratiot County in a much wilder and more primitive condition than at present. Large and unbroken tracts of dense woods still existed, and it has required persevering industry to transform the forest into the fine farm that now constitutes their home. They are reckoned among the respected and substantial residents of Arcada.

(This sketch naturally would go among Arcada sketches, but as it came a little too late, it is given the next best position.)

## WRIGHT.

The name of Ammi Willard Wright—lumberman, manufacturer, financier, philanthropist—is one that the people of Michigan will always love and honor. Though now deceased, his enterprise, ability and personal worth will remain as a grateful memory, and especially so to the people of Gratiot County, his home for more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Wright was born at Grafton, Windham County, Vermont, July 5, 1822, his parents—Nathan and Mary (Lamson) Wright—being natives of the Green Mountain State. He remained a farmer boy until nearly 20 years of age. March 6, 1848, he was married to Miss Harriet Barton, of Bartonville, Vermont. Their only living child is Mrs. James Henry Lancashire, of Alma and Detroit. Mrs. Wright died June 30, 1884, and on December 21, 1885, he married Miss Anna Case, of Exeter, Canada, who was a helpmeet of rare devotion during the remainder of his life.

Mr. Wright's business career opened in 1844, when he began carrying produce to Boston from Vermont, and taking merchandise back to the mountains. He often referred with much pleasure to the big six-horse team he drove in those ante-railroad days.

Following a year or two of hotel keeping in Boston, he came, in 1850, to Detroit, and in the following year to Saginaw, where, seeing great possibilities in timber lands and in the lumbering business, he immediately engaged in it. In 1859 he entered into partnership with Miller & Payne, and re-fitted the "big mill" of Saginaw, his partners selling out to J. H. Pearson, of Chicago, in 1865, and soon after the "big mill" went up in smoke. It was immediately rebuilt on a larger and better scale. Mr. Pearson retired about ten years later, and in 1882 the A. W. Wright



AMMI W. WRIGHT.

Lumber Co. was organized with a capital stock of $1,500,000, with Mr. Wright as president. The company handled from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 feet of logs annually.

Mr. Wright did not confine himself to lumbering, but soon became prominent in other business channels, being identified with various organizations, in many of which he was an officer and director, among which may be mentioned the WellsStone mercantile Co. of Saginaw; the Elliott-Taylor - Wolfenden Co. of Detroit; Marshall-Wells Hardware Co. of Duluth; Stone-Ordean-Wells Co. of Duluth; Advance Thresher Co. of Battle Creek; the Peerless Portland Cement Co. of Union City, Mich.; the Tittabawassee Boom Co., a logging company which in its day is said to have delivered more pine logs than has ever been rafted out of any other lumbering stream in the world; the Bank of Saginaw; First State Bank of Alma; Detroit Trust Co. of Detroit; Old Detroit National Bank of Detroit; Chemical National Bank of New York; Michigan Sugar Co.; Alma Manufacturing Co.; Central Mich. Produce Co., Alma; the Alma Roller Mills; Alma Electric Light & Power Co.; large holdings of timber and mining properties in Minnesota which later were sold to James J. Hill and associates; the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railway, now a part of the Pere Marquette system; Ann Arbor Railroad; Cincinnati Saginaw & Mackinaw Railroad; Grand Trunk Western Railway, and large holdings of real estate in Minneapolis and Kansas City, besides extensive acreage of southern timber and ranch lands.



THE A. W. WRIGHT RESIDENCE.

Mr. Wright was not only a money maker but was a money giver as well, being the constant benefactor of many worthy charities and educational institutions, among which should be mentioned Alma College, which is indebted to him for its principal buildings and a large share of its endowment funds. The Michigan Masonic Home at Alma is his gift to the Grand Lodge of that fraternity; and the City of Alma itself is in large measure a monument to his enterprise and public spirit. The beautiful park of ten acres, adjoining the Masonic Home is his gift to the city. He was also largely instrumental in developing the farming country in the vicinity of Alma, having at one time owned and operated more than a dozen large farms, which, after improving by underdrains and substantial buildings, he sold to various parties. He was also an advocate of good roads, and spent much time and money to make all good roads lead to Alma.

In the early '80s Mr. Wright became favorably impressed with Alma as a place of residence, and thereafter made Alma his home. After building the Opera House Block, he—in 1882—erected the Wright House, a hotel which would be a credit to a much larger city. In 1887 he built the Alma Sanitarium, now the Michigan Masonic Home.

In a brief sketch, written in 1908, a friend wrote thus interestingly of Mr. Wright: "Physically, Mr. Wright exhibits some of the characteristics of his native state, having a rugged constitution, and, being an abstemious liver, has generally enjoyed excellent health. Among the elements which have contributed to his success are an excellent judgment of men and enterprises, and the courage to back them to the end; and his keen sense of humor has often relieved the tension of important business negotiations. Plain living, honorable employment, regular wholesome habits, and a helping hand, constitute his prescription for happiness.

"Physically, mentally and morally, as well as financially, he is known as one of Michigan's strong men; strong in his attachments, loyal in his friendships, true to his convictions of right and wrong. He is a life-long Republican and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church of Alma. The Parish house is one of his gifts to that communion. At approximately four score years and ten, he lives unostentatiously at his handsome home in Alma, having delegated many details of his large business interests and enterprises to competent lieutenants, and may be seen taking a drive, or walking out any pleasant day, happy in the assurance of the love and respect of his fellowmen."

Mr. Wright died at his residence in Alma, Sunday, May 5, 1912, at the age of 90 years and 10 months, the funeral services being held at the residence on the following Tuesday. The remains were taken by the family, in a private car, for interment in a cemetery among the hills he loved so well, in Grafton, Windham County, Vermont.

## SULLIVAN.

This brief sketch deals with the life and activities of one of Gratiot County's native-born citizens—John D. Sullivan, long a resident of Pine River, now residing in the City of Alma. He was born in Pine River Township November 28, 1869, son of Daniel R. and Jeannette (Adams) Sullivan, who were among the earliest settlers in the county, well-known and prominent citizens for many years.

Daniel R. Sullivan was born in Newport, Rhode Island, June 8, 1830, son of Cornelius and Margaret (Murphy) Sullivan, both natives of Ireland, who came to this country in 1829, settling first in Newport, R. I., and in 1836 removing to Michigan, locating first in Washtenaw County, afterward removing to Jackson County where the father and mother both died. Daniel R. Sullivan came to Gratiot County in 1854, locating 160 acres of forest land in Pine River Township upon which he settled permanently in 1861. In December, 1862, he was united in marriage to Miss Jeannette Adams, daughter of Emery and Maria (Lewis) Adams, of Arcada Township. She was born in Liberty Township, Jackson County, Mich., December 28, 1842, and came with her parents to Gratiot in 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Sullivan became the parents of four children—William C.; John D.; Pearl, who died in infancy; Maggie M. William C. Sullivan is a prosperous farmer of Pine River. He is married to Annette Kate Pontine. Their children are Maude Pauline and Rowena Belle. Maggie M. Sullivan was married to Dr. Nelson F. McClinton, of Alma, and is now deceased.

Daniel R. Sullivan, during his entire life in Gratiot County, was prominently identified with local and county affairs, and was called upon to fill many positions of trust and responsibility. He served his township as highway commissioner, treasurer and supervisor, and in 1876 was the candidate of his party (Democrat) for sheriff. He died January 19, 1895. Mrs. Jeannette Sullivan is still living, a resident of Alma.

John D. Sullivan, the principal individual considered in this sketch, was brought up a farmer, receiving his education in the common schools, in the Alma High School and in the commercial department of Alma College. He was married to Miss Nellie J. Snyder, of Arcada, January 1, 1894. She is a daughter of John W. and Sarah J. (Derby) Snyder, and was born in North Huron, Wayne County, N. Y., December 31, 1871. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan. They are—D. Ross, born in Pine River Township, March 4, 1898. J. Donald, born in Pine River, March 1, 1902. Muriel J., born in Pine River, March 18, 1896, died February 5, 1901.

Mr. Sullivan, as heretofore stated, has followed the vocation of a farmer the most of his life. His valuable farm of over 200 acres lies about one and a half miles northwest of Alma, on section 32, Pine River. Without disposing of his farm, in March, 1912, he went into real estate and insurance business in Alma, and is thus engaged at the present time. He is in partnership with John T. Swigart and H. G. Bansil. He was elected township treasurer of Pine River in 1900 and re-elected in 1901. In 1912 he was chosen supervisor. In 1913, having become a resident of Alma, he was elected supervisor of the third ward. He serves his townsmen faithfully and well, in whatever position he is placed; an upright and popular citizen.

## KRESS.

James Kress, one of the well-known pioneers of Gratiot, settled in Pine River Township near Alma in the year 1855, where he was engaged in clearing and otherwise improving his farm until the year 1864 when he removed to Alma, and remained a resident there the remainder of his life. He was born in Yates County, N. Y., February 25, 1804, son of Samuel and Catharine (Slaughter) Kress; natives of New Jersey.



JAMES KRESS.

Mr. Kress was married November 4, 1829, to Mary Hulse, daughter of Hugh and Rachel (Smith) Hulse, born October 9, 1809, in Ovid, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. James Kress were the parents of eight children, of whom six grew to maturity. They are—Thompson H., Mary J., Garwood E., Theron T., Richard A. and Rachel A.

James Kress and the individual members of his family and of their families following, have been, and are, influential and esteemed citizens of the county. Mr. Kress lived to the advanced age of 89 years, passing away April 26, 1893. His wife, Mrs. Mary Kress, died Feb. 6, 1886, aged 76 years. (See sketch of James G. Kress.)

## TURCK.

Capt. William S. Turck, now deceased, was one of the pioneer settlers of Gratiot County; son of Zachariah and Rebecca Turck. His father was born in 1790 in the State of New York, and served as ensign in a New York regiment in the War of 1812. He was by vocation a tanner and currier. W. S. Turck's mother was a native of Schoharie County, N. Y.

Mr. Turck was born in Port Hope, Canada, August 7, 1839. He received a fair elementary education in the common schools, and at the age of 16 began an apprenticeship with his brother Henry who was engaged in the tannery business in Clark Township, Durham County, Canada. He served about four years and then went to Shelby, Orleans County, N. Y., where he remained until 1860, when he came to Isabella County, Mich., and obtained employment at Indian Mills on the Chippewa River, near the present site of Mt. Pleasant. The establishment was owned by the U. S. Government, and included a sawmill and gristmill. Mr. Turck remained there a year, in charge of the flouring department.

In the fall of 1861 he came to Alma and rented a saw and gristmill. The now flourishing city was then in its incipiency, and consisted of a few log houses, a frame school house and one small store. He continued the management of the mill until August, 1862, when he arranged his business affairs and enlisted in Company D, 26th Mich. Vol. Infantry, and was mustered into the service as second lieutenant of the company. The honorable record of the 26th Regiment, which outranked every other regiment in the army as skirmishers, included every man on its roll.

April 15, 1863, Mr. Turck was promoted to first lieutenant, and was made captain August 12, 1864. He was in 28 engagements, including all of the prominent actions of the Army of the Potomac after the assignment of the regiment. At the Battle of Spottsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864, Mr. Turck was wounded in the head by a Minnie ball, and was off duty some time in consquence. On the occasion of Lee's surrender, Capt. Turck was in charge of the brigade skirmishers.

Mr. Turck returned to Alma at the close of the war and engaged in lumbering during the winter of 1865-6. In the fall of 1866 he was elected county treasurer, and was twice re-elected to the same position, holding the office an aggregate of six years. In consequence of impaired health, after retiring as county treasurer, he decided to devote his energies to agriculture, and bought a farm one and a half miles north of Ithaca, where he passed the succeeding eight years, and then returned to Alma, where, in 1880, he founded the banking firm of Turck, Winton & Co.

In 1883 the bank was reorganized under the name of William S. Turck & Co., with A. W. Wright as one of the stockholders. In 1901 the bank was merged into the present institution known as the First State Bank of Alma, with A. W. Wright as president and Mr. Turck as vice-president.

In 1881, Mr. Turck, in connection with A. W. Wright, built the first complete roller flouring mill in the State of Michigan. The structure was of brick, 45 by 80 feet in size, with three stories above the basement. Eleven sets of rollers and three run of stone were installed.

Mr. Turck, from the time of reaching his majority, was a republican in politics, and was fearless and outspoken in the interest of the party. In 1876 he was elected a member of the Michigan House of Representatives and was re-elected in 1878. He served on several important committees and performed much efficient service for his constituency. He was a delegate to the national convention of 1884 that nominated James G. Blaine for president.



HON. WILLIAM S. TURCK.



MRS. WILLIAM S. TURCK.

Locally Mr. Turck was accorded positions of trust and responsibility by his townsmen—two terms as village president and six years as supervisor of Arcada Township.

From 1861 Mr. Turck was a leading member of the Masonic Order, holding all of the important positions in the lower body, and was Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Michigan; also held the office of High Priest of Chapter No. 70, of Ithaca, for eight years. He served four years as a member of the Mich. Soldiers' Home Board, and was treasurer of that institution three years.

The war, business and political record of Mr. Turck afford the best possible manifest of his standing and merits as an American citizen. After several months of failing health, he died at his fine home in Alma, September 19, 1912. During the last 30 years Mr. Turck, with his family, spent the winters in South Florida.



THE W. S. TURCK RESIDENCE.

Mr. Turck's marriage to Louise A. Ely occurred September 15, 1864. She was born July 18, 1845, in Stockton, Chautauqua County, N. Y., daughter of Gen. Ralph and Mary E. Ely. She is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, and served the order as Department President of Michigan in 1897-8. She also is a member of the Eastern Star, holding the office of Worthy Grand Matron for two years — 1894 and 1895.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Turck as follows: Ralph H., June 26, 1865, died August 14, 1869; Ruby, June 28, 1869, died March 9, 1872; Lena M., September 9, 1872, died December 16, 1905; Raymond C., October 12, 1874.

Raymond C. Turck, the son, is a resident of Jacksonville, Florida, where he is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. The following sketch of him appeared in the publication, "Who's Who," Chicago, A. N. Marquis, publisher:

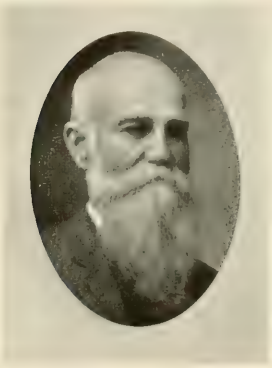
"Raymond Custer Turck was born in Ithaca, Mich., October 12, 1874. After finishing high school in Alma, he attended Alma College, 1888-9. Graduated from Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, 1892. Attended the medical department, University of Michigan, 1892-5; New York University, 1896; New York Medical School, 1897; surgeon in charge Michigan Soldiers' Home, 1897; instructor in surgery, and demonstrator Anatomy, Chicago; post-graduate Medical School, 1898; surgeon in charge Chicago Hospital, 1900; prof. Gynecology, Dearborn Medical College, Chicago, 1904; attending surgeon Chicago Post-Graduate School and Samar-

itan Hospital, and consulting surgeon Provident Hospital, Chicago, 1904; assistant surgeon, 1900, and surgeon, 1901, Illinois Naval Reserves; lieutenant 4th Division same, 1904; member American Society, Florida State Medical Society, Mich. State Medical Society; Fellow Chicago Academy of Medicine.

"Dr. Turck was superintendent and manager of Alma Sanitarium, 1904-5, and removed to Jacksonville, Florida in 1905. He is a Knight Templar and Shriner. He belongs to the Kenwood Club, Chicago; Seminole Club, Jacksonville, Yacht and Country Club, Jacksonville. He is author of various Medical Monographs, and contributor to Medical Journals."

## ELY.

Townsend A. Ely, of Alma, was born at Wabash, Indiana, August 27, 1843. He came to Michigan with his parents in 1846 and to Alma in 1854, where he has resided almost continuously for 59 years. His education was obtained in the common schools of the place, and his principal business has been farming. He has always been actively interested in the development of his home town, the county and the state. He served three terms as president of the Village of Alma, twelve years on the school board and was postmaster during both the Hayes and Harrison administrations. He was elected to the state senate in 1904, and again in 1906; introduced and secured the passage of a bill creating a state highway department, and also secured a liberal appropriation for the betterment of the wagon roads of the state. In April, 1909, Governor Warner appointed him state highway commissioner for a term of four years, from the first of July following, in which capacity he served efficiently, and to the general satisfaction of the people of the entire state. He absolutely declined a renomination for the position.



HON. T. A. ELY.

Mr. Ely enlisted in his country's military service in the latter part of the Civil War and became second lieutenant of his company—Company C, 8th Mich. Infantry. He participated in several engagements, and was discharged at Detroit, August 14, 1865.

Townsend A. Ely was married September 25, 1866, to Maggie C. Chapin, who was born June 27, 1845, daughter of Dewitt C. and Edna F. (Utley) Chapin. To this union a son was born—Ralph C.—March 5, 1870. He is now a resident of the State of Oklahoma. Mrs. Ely died August 14, 1912, aged 67 years.

## SCATTERGOOD.

Alfred Barker Scattergood, a resident of Alma and one of that city's leading jewelers, was born at Plymouth, Mich., October 25, 1854. His father, Joshua Scattergood, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, Caroline (Barker) Scattergood, was born in the State of New York. Alfred

B. is one of six brothers and sisters—Theodore; Ed., (deceased); Will.; Carrie (Scattergood) Smith, (deceased); Bessie (Scattergood) Fox.

Mr. Scattergood came to Gratiot County in 1876 with his parents, who settled in Ithaca. His father died August 18, 1886. His mother resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Bessie and Fred Fox, of Saginaw.

Alfred B. Scattergood was married October 25, 1883, at Cambria, Mich., to Miss Nellie Niblack, daughter of Dr. J. W. Niblack, who was born in Pennsylvania, February 26, 1831, and Mary (Keefer) Niblack, born in Champion, Ohio, May 31, 1831. Mrs. Scattergood's two brothers are, Charles Niblack, born August 31, 1856, and George Niblack, born February 22, 1861. Dr. Niblack and family removed from Ohio to Hillsdale County, Mich., in 1862, and the parents still reside in that county.

Mr. and Mrs. Scattergood have one child—Helen M.—born in Ithaca, June 22, 1888. She was married October 21, 1908, to Murray J. Kellogg, of Reading, Mich.

Mr. Scattergood enjoys an enviable reputation as an expert artist in his line of work, as well as an honorable and reliable dealer. He is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, jeweler in the county. He belongs to Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodman.

Mrs. Scattergood has been for many years an ardent worker in the order of Pythian Sisters, and at the institution of the Grand Temple of the State she was made the first Past Grand Chief. She is a Christian Scientist, and an active worker in the cause, in her home city.

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## DELAVAN.

The name of Charles L. Delavan must necessarily and justly occupy a prominent place in any history of Alma or of Gratiot County. His record as a business man of Alma for more than forty years is one that fully attests his integrity, popularity and public spirit. The official records of his home town also furnish unquestioned proof of the trust and confidence of his fellow citizens.

Chas. L. Delavan was born in Jonesville, Mich., March 17, 1851, son of Henry A. and Mary T. (Leake) Delavan, the former born in Seneca County, N. Y., August 1, 1810, the latter born in Albany County, N. Y., October 8, 1812. The mother died in Jonesville August, 1870, while the father lived to the advanced age of 93 years, passing away at Alma, September 5, 1903, after an active business career of more than thirty years as one of Alma's most energetic and honorable business men.

Coming to Alma with his father's family in October, 1870, Chas. L. Delavan was employed in his father's store for about three years, and was then taken into partnership, together with his brothers, under the firm name of H. A. Delavan & Co. With some changes in the personnel of the partnership the firm has continued as general dealers till the present time. Mr. Delavan, the principal subject of this sketch, was one of a family of nine children. Those still living are Mary C. and Catharine Delavan, of Alma, Mrs. Agnes E. Sterling, wife of Chas. J. Sterling, of Chicago, and George M. Delavan, of Alma, member of the firm of Chas. L. & Geo. M. Delavan.

Chas. L. Delavan was united in marriage at Chelsea, Mich., October 21, 1885, to Miss Belle C. Tuttle, daughter of B. Franklin and Jane L. (Chase) Tuttle, of Chelsea, Mich. She was born in Washtenaw County, Mich., June 28, 1858, and is the eldest of four children. Three children

have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Delavan, their names and birth-dates as follows: Paul Tuttle Delavan, born December 20, 1886; Carlyn Chase Delavan, born February 18, 1890; Marjorie Delavan, born July 24, 1891.

As intimated earlier in this sketch, Mr. Delavan has been prominently identified with the official history of his community. He was for several years a member of the village council, clerk and treasurer of Pine River Township, clerk of Arcada Township, and seven years supervisor of Arcada Township. On the incorporation of Alma as a city in 1905, Mr. Delavan was elected first mayor of the city, and was re-elected in 1906.

In political affiliation Mr. Delavan is a Republican. In church matters he leans toward the Episcopalian denomination, though not a member. His father's family were of that branch of the church, and its members have done much for the advancement of its interests in Alma. Mrs. Delavan is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

## KRESS.

James G. Kress, attorney at law and solicitor in chancery, was born in Alma, Mich., August 9, 1866, at a time when the place was but a hamlet. His father, Garwood E. Kress, who is now a resident of Eugene, Oregon, was born in the State of New York, coming to Michigan in the early '50s with his father, James L. Kress, who was one of the first white settlers. His mother, Eliza N. Kress, was born in the State of Ohio, her maiden name being Robinson. She traced her lineage back to the Robinsons who came over in the Mayflower. She, too, was a pioneer of Gratiot, coming to the state when they had to cut the road for a part of the way before reaching the home in the wilderness which her first husband, Joshua Hurlbut, had located. On the way from Ohio, their little girl, then only about two years old, died, and the little body was brought on and laid to rest in the forest in front of their cabin where it rested until the establishment of the Ithaca Cemetery, when it was taken up and buried there.

At the time of the Civil War, Mr. Hurlbut, who had joined the army, but who was always a great home man, was taken sick and word was sent to his wife, who engaged Garwood E. Kress to drive her across the country to St. Johns, (Gratiot County had no railroad then) where she took a train for Jackson, reaching that town just in time to meet the men returning from the cemetery where they had buried her husband. The doctors stated that he died from homesickness and nothing else. After she returned, she sold the land they had taken and removed to Alma where she opened a millinery store, and in the early spring of 1865, married Garwood E. Kress. To this union two children were born, namely, James G. Kress, the subject of this sketch, and Netta Robinson Kress, who now lives with her father in Eugene, Oregon. Eliza N. Kress, died at the Eugene home, September 26, 1902, at the age of 67 years.

During his early years James G. Kress resided upon a farm with his parents, working at farm work summers and attending district school winters until he was fourteen years of age, when his parents returned to Alma, and for a short time he attended the Alma schools. At the age of 17 he commenced work for B. W. Ellison, a pioneer merchant of Alma, for whom he worked upward of six years, and then became manager of one of the department stores of Ammi W. Wright, in Alma, a position he held for three years, and until he was elected to the office of county clerk of Gratiot



JAMES G. KRESS.

county, at the November election in 1892. During the time Mr. Kress was engaged in mercantile work, he put in some spare time studying, and for a time attended night classes at the Alma Normal School, which has since become Alma College.

Mr. Kress commenced his work as county clerk at Ithaca, the county seat, January 1, 1893. During his first term he re-indexed the records of the office, using a system of indexing which has been carried on ever since. In 1894 he was re-elected for a second term by a large majority. During the time he was performing the duties of his said office, which comprise not only the duties of county clerk, but that of register in chancery and clerk of the circuit court, he also found time to study law, and after a satisfactory examination was admitted to practice, the date of his admission being July 17, 1895. Subsequently he was admitted to practice in the federal courts.

After he was admitted to practice law and while he was still holding the office of county clerk, he was elected to the office of justice of the peace for the Township of Ithaca. Therefore he holds the distinction of being able, as county clerk, to issue a license to marry; then as justice of the peace, perform the marriage ceremony; and then if they were not suited, he could file a bill for divorce. Mr. Kress performed sixteen marriage ceremonies while holding the office of justice, and he says he has yet to hear of one that has been dissolved; so he feels he did his work in that line well.

After finishing his second term as county clerk, he refused to consider a re-nomination, believing some other man was entitled to the office, especially after he had held it for two terms. He then commenced the practice of law, and was subsequently elected circuit court commissoner, which office he held for two terms. In the summer of 1899 he formed a law partnership with Kelly S. Searl (now Judge Searl), and together, under the firm name of Searl & Kress, they practiced law in Ithaca, until 1903, when Mr. Kress sold his interest in the firm to Frank Monfort, and opened a law office in Alma, where he has since continued the practice of his profession. Shortly after locating in Alma, he was appointed city attorney, a position which he held several years. He has also been appointed and now holds the position of local attorney for the Ann Arbor Railroad Company. Some heavy litigation has come into his hands, and with it all he has been successful, receiving some of the largest contingent fees of any lawyer in the county.

July 3, 1888, Mr. Kress was married to Carrie D. Reid, of Williamston, Mich., and to them have been born seven children, six of whom are now living, namely, James Lee Kress, Paul G. Kress, Mildred E. Kress, Theodore G. Kress, Ernest Dudley Kress, and Margaret E. Kress. Stanley Reid Kress died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Kress reside with their family at their home at No. 421 Superior Street, in the City of Alma, it being one of Alma's fine residences.

In his profession as an attorney Mr. Kress has won many friends, being loyal to all whom it has been his pleasure to serve.

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## JOHNSON.

D'Arcy Lloyd Johnson, an attorney residing at Alma, was born in the Township of Pine River, this county, December 31, 1875. His father was Theron A. Johnson, a well-known and highly respected pioneer of the county, who, with his wife Julia and elder children, moved to the county

in 1861 from Iowa, to which state they had moved from Canada four years earlier. For many years they lived at Alma where the father was engaged in business with M. Pollasky. In the early '70s the family moved to the farm on section 29, Pine River Township, where the subject of this sketch was born; the youngest but one of a family of eight children. The names of the others, in the order of birth, are as follows: Sarah A. Keyes, Lillie E. Wright, Charles D., Ella Moore, Alice Medler, Theron L., and Ethel M. Yerian. All are married, living in the state, and rearing many children.

"D. L.", as he is familiarly known, was reared on the farm and attended the country schools. He was the first student in Gratiot County to receive a county eighth-grade diploma. In 1892 he entered the high school at Alma, walking from the farm each day, a distance of three and one-half miles. He was graduated in 1895 at the head of his class, receiving a scholarship at Alma College in recognition. He attended Alma College the following year, but on account of the death of his father, he was compelled to abandon college for a time. In 1898 he entered the University of Michigan, graduating from the law department in 1901 with the degree of L. L. B. He was admitted to the bar and the same year opened his office at Alma, where he has since practiced.

In 1903, Mr. Johnson was married to Bertha Viola Struble, daughter of Daniel P. and Mary A. Struble, long-time residents of Alma. Mrs. Johnson was a graduate of the Alma High School and a student at the Normal College at Ypsilanti. She had been a teacher in the Alma public schools at the time of her marriage, and is, therefore, the better qualified to look after the education and care of their three children—Lloyd Russell, born March 23, 1905; Mary Kathryn, born October 5, 1907, and Richard Wayne, born July 22, 1911.

In civic affairs "D. L." is among the progressives, voting usually with the Democrats. He is always to be counted on in matters of local interest. He is a director and secretary of the Alma Board of Trade; a member and treasurer of the Alma Board of Education. He is well along up in Masonic matters, and as master of Alma Lodge, was a conspicuous and influetial factor in securing the Michigan Masonic Home for Alma.

## BROWN.

Charles F. Brown, postmaster at Alma, and for many years a prominent citizen of that place, was born in Leslie, Ingham County, Mich., September 13, 1862. His father was George W. Brown, born in Carmel, Putnam County, N. Y. He was a teacher by profession, and served as the first county superintendent of schools of Ingham County. His wife, mother of Charles F. Brown, was Avis (Bunker) Brown, born in Jackson County, Mich. They were the parents of five children, born in the following order: Charles F., September 13, 1862; Fred L., August 10, 1863; George R., April 19, 1866; Edwin E., September 21, 1868, and Avis Lou Belle, January 1, 1872. The mother died March 30, 1872, aged 36 years. The father passed away at Hastings, Mich., July 4, 1893.

Charles F. Brown worked as a farmer boy and attended the common schools until fourteen years of age, when he entered the printing office of the Williamston (Mich.) Enterprise—E. S. Andrews, publisher—for the purpose of learning the printer's trade. At the end of four years he engaged as a traveling salesman for a Detroit paper house, remaining in the business two years. He then bought the Sheridan (Mich.) News, publishing that paper about a year, and then became connected with the Alma



POSTMASTER CHARLES F. BROWN.

Record as business manager, soon after—in April, 1886—becoming owner of that paper by purchase. He continued the publication of this paper until 1903, when he sold it and retired from newspaper work.

December 19, 1885, Mr. Brown was united in marriage, at Sheridan, Mich., to Miss Nellie Gray, born in Steuben County, N. Y., April 22, 1868, daughter of Mulford and Emily (Tompkins) Gray, who settled in Ionia, Mich., in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Gray settled in Alma in 1895. Mrs. Gray died April 21, 1904. Mr. Gray passed away July 6, 1907.

Mr. Brown has always taken an active interest in the local affairs of his home town and county, and has been prominent and influential in all projects calculated to advance the well-being of the community. He has served as a member of the city council, and as village clerk before the incorporation of Alma as a city. He is an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and has been a leader in its councils in Gratiot County for many years, serving about twenty years as a member of the county committee, and was its secretary four years. Mr. Brown was active, with others, in the organization of the Alma Board of Trade, and was for several years its president. He is serving his fourth term as postmaster at Alma, having been first appointed by President McKinley in 1898, and re-appointed by President Roosevelt in 1902 and in 1906, and by President Taft in 1910.

## SUYDAM.

Dr. J. Frank Suydam, for many years, and at the present time, one of Alma's leading citizens and most skillful physicians, was born in Oswego County, N. Y., June 18, 1852, son of John H. and Harriet A. (Buell) Suydam. John H. Suydam, the father, was born June 14, 1826, in the Town of Hoosic, Rensselaer County, N. Y. He was the son of Peter Van Surdam, (as it was written and spoken in early days), born in Hoosic, N. Y., March 14, 1787, died in North Granby, Oswego County, N. Y., April 21, 1866, and of Nancy (Vaughn) Van Surdam, born in Bennington, Vermont, August 17, 1782, died in North Granby, N. Y., November 21, 1867.



DR. J. FRANK SUYDAM.

Harriet A. Buell, mother of Dr. Suydam, was born in Granby, Oswego County, N. Y., March 4, 1833. She was a daughter of John Buell and Luna E. (Bennett) Buell, the former born November 7, 1791 at Oswego Falls, N. Y., died August 24, 1863; the latter born in Tioga County, N. Y., August 22, 1814, died in St. Louis, Mich., March 8, 1898. They were married in 1832.

John H. and Harriet A. (Buell) Suydam, Dr. Suydam's parents, were united in marriage at Granby, Oswego County, N. Y. They were the parents of four children with names and birth-dates as follows: J. Frank Suydam, born June 18, 1852, as stated; Mark Burdette Suydam, born March 28, 1854, died in Bethany Township, this county, January 10, 1884; Ira D. Suydam, born October 19, 1856; Hattie W. Suydam, born October 12, 1870, died January 3, 1882 in St. Louis, this county. All were born in Oswego County, N. Y., excepting Hattie W., who was born in St. Louis, Mich.

In the spring of 1865, John H. Suydam removed with his family to St. Louis, this county, where, and on his farm on section 29 of Bethany Township, he resided, actively engaged in building, farming and in other lines of industry, until about the year 1890 when he retired from active business, and has since spent the time traveling in various parts of the West and the East, and is now, (June, 1913), at the advanced age of 87 years, and in feeble health, sojourning with kinsfolks in Skaneateles, N. Y. Mrs. Harriet A. Suydam, the wife and mother, died April 17, 1905. It is but simple justice to say, and it is a pleasure to so record it, that this family was justly classed among the very best of St. Louis' many good citizens.

Mark Burdette Suydam married Miss Mary Goodenough, daughter of the late Dr. Chauncey J. and Mrs. Goodenough, of St. Louis. Three children were born to this union—Johnnie G., who died October 8, 1882, aged eight years, five months and three days; Charlie B., who died September 6, 1883, aged eight months and twenty days; Lizzie, who married Lester Hawkins and now resides in Mason City, Iowa, and is the mother of five children—Ellen Bernice, Rachel June, Clayton Lester, Evelyn Esther, Dewitt Franklin and Hope. Mrs. Mary (Goodenough) Suydam died at her home in Bethany, April 27, 1888, at the age of about 30 years.

Ira D. Suydam married Miss Emma Bieber. They are prominent and popular residents of St. Louis.

Dr. J. Frank Suydam, the principal subject of this sketch, after acquiring his education, and in the meantime aiding in the varied activities and duties generally devolving upon the eldest son of the family, spent some time as a mercantile salesman and then took up the study of medicine. He diligently prosecuted his researches into the mysteries of that profession, finishing his course at the Detroit Medical College, a student in that institution in the years 1879, '80 and '81. He immediately began practice at Alma where he has resided to the present time and where he has won the confidence and esteem of the entire community. There are many inherent qualities in Dr. Suydam's make-up that especially fit and commend him for his chosen profession. He is a careful, conscientious and painstaking practitioner, largely endowed with a genial and sympathetic nature; qualifications which, when combined with skill and good judgment, are sure to win popularity and success. In recognition of his qualifications and merits he has been entrusted with the responsible position of health officer, both of Arcada Township and of Alma, several years each. He is an active member of the Gratiot County Medical Society and of the State Medical Society.

Dr. Suydam was married in Kansas City, Mo., November 17, 1886, to Miss Estella M. Barnes, daughter of William and Maria (Longacre) Barnes, of that city.

## SPINNEY.

John D. Spinney was born in Clymer, New York, August 13, 1861. He is the only son, with issue, of Andrew B. Spinney, a well-known physician in Michigan, born at Magog, Province of Quebec, Canada, October 6, 1835, who was the only son, with issue, of John Spinney, a farmer. His mother was Frances E. Davis, born at Panama, New York, January 15, 1834, who was the daughter of Reuben Davis and Harriet Davis, whose maiden name was Harriet Loomis.

In 1862 Mr. Spinney's parents moved to Michigan. He was educated in the city schools of Saginaw and Detroit. Moore & Moore's law office in

Detroit, and graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan with the class of 1885, being admitted to practice in the courts of the state in March 1885.

Mr. Spinney located in Alma, Mich., in the fall of 1885 and engaged in the practice of the law, doing mostly an office business. He has filled numerous public offices of trust and has always been a Republican in politics.

July 4, 1889, he married Kate R. Stanton, of Mason, Mich., whose family have resided there for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Spinney's children are Marian A. Spinney, born October 2, 1890; Mark L. Spinney, born May 16, 1893, and Melba A. Spinney, born December 13, 1898.

## BRAINERD.

Ira Newton Brainerd was born in Grand Blanc, Genesee County, Mich., February 3, 1852. His ancestors, for many generations, were New Englanders. His great grandfather, Eli Brainerd, was a shipbuilder in Maine, born September 11, 1766. His grandfather was Alfred Brainerd, born February 12, 1787. Born in Maine, he subsequently moved to Connecticut, and later to New York, where he married, and where all his children were born. The second son he named Eli, after his own father. This son, Eli Brainerd, was the father of the subject of this sketch. He was born April 6, 1817. Alfred Brainerd was a deacon in the Baptist Church and a justice of the peace for many years.



BRAINERD HOSPITAL.

As his children neared manhood and womanhood he decided to move them all to Michigan, and to locate them all near himself. This he did in 1833. He took up six adjacent "eighties" in the Township of Grand Blanc—one for himself and one for each of his five children, the deeds coming direct from the government. Here, in the midst of his children, Alfred Brainerd lived like a patriarch for nearly 40 years. He and his children are now all dead; but the memory of the old man still lives in the hearts of his grateful grandchildren.

After a residence of a year or two in Michigan, Eli Brainerd, the second son, returned to New York to marry the girl of his choice—Miss Almira Straw. He brought her at once to the Brainerd settlement in the woods, to live in a little log cabin among his friends and the Indians and the wolverines. The fifth child born to this couple is the subject of this

sketch. The others living are Mary, now Mrs. Fuller, of Ortonville, Mich.; Ariedna, now Mrs. Van Vleet, of Durand, Mich., and Ambrose Brainerd, of Grand Blanc.

Ira Newton Brainerd got his primary education in a country school, and his higher education at Fenton Seminary, Fenton, Mich., and at the Normal School, Ypsilanti, Mich., graduating from the former in 1875, and from the latter in 1876.He took his degree in medicine from the Columbus Medical College in 1881. He immediately began the practice of medicine in Fenton, Mich. Here, on the 5th of December, 1885, he married Mrs. Florence Renwick, daughter of Wesley Ball, of Petersburg, Mich. She was born June 26, 1857. To them four children have been born, three of whom are now living—Mabel, born November 10, 1886; Hubert, born July 19, 1888; Bernice, born October 19, 1891.

While living in Fenton Dr. Brainerd taught the sciences in Fenton Seminary for two years, giving his services to the school. The next year he taught the sciences in the Eastern Mich. Normal School, also located at Fenton. When that school moved to Alma, in 1886, he moved with it. At the end of the first year in Alma he quit teaching and since that time has given his whole attention to his medical practice, excepting when engaged in writing upon subjects mainly along the line of his profession. He has been a prolific writer, having written a "Key to Robinson's New Elementary Algebra"; a treatise on the "Theory and Art of Teaching"; a "Physiology"; a "Physics"; a "Chemistry"; a "Biology"; a "Zoology"; also works on "Nursing", "Materia Medica and Therapeutics", "Hygiene" and "Dietetics", probably a hundred lectures on the Sunday School Lessons, and a score of other papers on various subjects.

Dr. Brainerd was converted to the Christian religion when fifteen years of age, becoming a member of the Baptist Church. He has had but little time to devote to politics or to official matters, but was a school inspector in his native township at the age of 21, and was a pension examiner under President Cleveland during his second term.

Dr. Brainerd's greatest work, and the one that will long be a monument to his name, is the Brainerd Hospital at Alma. With only $200 in money to start with, but with boundless confidence in himself, he undertook to build this institution. He has put eighteen years of hard work into it, and now has a property worth $45,000; an institution of which Gratiot County and Central Michigan may well be, and are, justly proud. The quality of Dr. Brainerd's work has been such as to make hosts of friends for himself and for his Hospital.

## POLLASKY.

Frank E. Pollasky was born in Detroit in 1858, son of Michael and Celia Pollasky. His school days were spent in Detroit and in Alma, to which place the family removed in 1861. At an early age, however, he left school and went to work in his father's tub and pail factory. A little later he entered his father's general store, and as clerk served a thorough apprenticeship.

The name Pollasky is identified with Alma's history from early days down to the present time, appearing prominently in all mention of Alma in the last 50 years. Michael Pollasky ,Ralph Ely and many others were the incorporators of the Village of Alma. And so on down through all the succeeding years to the present time, the name of Pollasky has been found in the roll of Alma's progressive merchants.

In 1884 Frank E. Pollasky became the sole owner, by purchase, of the Pollasky mercantile business, and conducted it through all the years down to 1912, when he sold out the business, and since that time has devoted the most of his time in looking after the interests of his four farms. He is now also interested in Detroit real estate, though still residing in Alma. Commencing in mercantile business, as he did, in early life, his many years of experience gave him such a thorough knowledge of all the detalis of mercantile trade as but few possess. This, coupled with his well-merited reputation for fair dealing resulted in building up a prosperous and remunerative business.

Mr. Pollasky was married in January, 1890, to Miss Cora Roberts, of Alma. Two children resulted from this union. One, a son, died in infancy. The other, a daughter, is Miss Bernice, well-known to the people of Alma as one of the most popular and estimable young ladies of the city. She is now a resident of Chicago where she has taken up art work. Mrs. Cora Pollasky died in August, 1901, after a short illness. Her death was a sad blow to her family, and was greatly lamented by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Pollasky's fine residence on State Street, Alma, was built in 1908, and is one of the best in the city. Mrs. Pollasky, before her death, helped to plan it, and Mr. Pollasky has well carried out the ideas formulated by the two. The house is a substantial structure, and a model of neatness and convenience.

April, 1912, Mr. Pollasky was married to Lottie (Gunther) Naldrett, widow of the late Clement Naldrett, and daughter of Frederick Gunther, of Carson City, Mich.

As a public-spirited citizen Mr. Pollasky ranks as one of the most progressive in the thriving City of Alma. He is interested in all public movements for the city's welfare, and is always willing to lend a helping hand to any worthy project, and to any deserving charity. He has been a member of the common council, and as such gave entire satisfaction, fully meeting the expectations of his constituents.

## SWIGART.

John T. Swigart, a prominent resident of Alma and one of the most widely-known citizens of the county, was born in Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, July 5, 1845. His father, Samuel Swigart, and his mother, Maria (Dinkel) Swigart, were both of German descent, the former born in Maryland, the latter in Virginia. Samuel Swigart died in Seneca County, Ohio, and when John T. was about ten years of age, the mother brought her family to Gratiot County, settling in Fulton Township. There were five children—William, John T., Robert, Scott and Mary E. Excepting the subject of this sketch, all, including the mother, have passed to the other world.

Coming to this county in 1856, and having resided here constantly to the present time, excepting while engaged in his country's military service, Mr. Swigart has been an eye-witness, so to speak, of all the operations that have resulted in transforming the county from its wild state to its present advanced position as one of the best agricultural counties of the state. Not only an eye-witness but one of the active agents in bringing about the great change.

In October, 1863, Mr. Swigart enlisted in the Union Army, joining Company L, First Mich. Engineers and Mechanics, and serving until the close of the war.

December 25, 1876, Mr. Swigart was united in marriage to Ella A. Crowley, daughter of Lyman and Martha Crowley. She was born in New York, December 23, 1855. Three children resulted from this union—Edna M., Raymond G. and Emma M. Edna resides at home; Raymond G. is principal of Mt. Pleasant High School, while Emma M. is teaching in the Charlevoix High School.

Mr. Swigart lost his wife by death April 3, 1901. In the following autumn he moved to Alma where he has since resided. He is engaged in real estate and insurance business, in partnership with G. H. Bansil and John D. Sullivan, the latter having joined the co-partnership within the last year. He still owns the homestead in Fulton; a fine farm of 100 acres, with good and suitable farm buildings.

While a resident of Fulton Mr. Swigart was entrusted with various official positions of responsibility, such as township clerk, highway commissioner, justice of the peace, etc. In 1882 he was nominated by the Democratic and Greenback parties for the office of county clerk. The fusion ticket was elected almost entire, Mr. Swigart winning by a majority of 38. He served with such satisfaction to his party friends and the public generally that he was renominated in 1884 and was elected by a majority increased to 335. In 1892 he was his party's candidate for state senator, but failed with all his associates.

In the fall of 1908 Mr. Swigart was appointed one of the county superintendents of the poor, and still holds that position. In the Alma City election of April, 1911, he was elected justice of the peace, and is still serving in that capacity. His good ability, his strict integrity and his genial and kindly nature have always made him many staunch and enduring friends.

## LAKE.

Edward Wilmont Lake, for more than twenty years a resident of Pine River Township, near Forest Hill, but now residing in the City of Alma, was born February 27, 1860, in Wyoming County, N. Y. His father, Russell Wilmont Lake, was born in the same county, August 7, 1838. His mother, also a native of Wyoming County, and whose maiden name was Ellen E. Percival, was born March 26, 1840.

Edward W. Lake is the oldest of a family of four children. The others are Fred R. Lake, born in Wyoming County, N. Y., July 6, 1867; Nellie Lake, born August 3, 1876, in Livingston County, Mich.; Grace Lake, born in Livingston County, March 15, 1878.

Mr. Lake removed with his parents, when nine years old, to Livingston County, Mich. They settled near Pinckney, and followed farming as a vocation. October 28, 1880, he was married to Jennie D. Hodgeman, at Pinckney, Mich. She is a daughter of Joseph P. and Angenette M. (Howard) Hodgeman, the former born May 11, 1826, in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., the latter born in Erie County, N. Y., March 28, 1836. Mrs. Lake was born February 22, 1862, in Washtenaw County, Mich. She had three brothers—David M. Hodgeman, born September 30, 1850; Alphonzo N. Hodgeman, born March 28, 1854; Joseph H. Hodgeman, born November 9, 1856, died January 8, 1904.

In April, 1889, Mr. Lake removed with his family to Gratiot County, buying a farm one-half mile east of Forest Hill. There they remained, engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1910, when they took up their residence in Alma.

Children have come to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lake as follows: Floyd H., born May 24, 1883; Howard C., born January 10, 1889; Mabel A., born August 1, 1892; Ray E., born December 17, 1894; Ernest Wayne, born July 12, 1900, died September 8, 1900. Floyd H. Lake was married to Margaret Goetz, May 26, 1909. They reside in Chelsea, Mich., and have one child, Ione Fern, born March 23, 1910. Howard C. Lake was married to Rowena Belle Sullivan, February 5, 1910. They are now residents of Alma.

Mr. and Mrs. Lake are reckoned among Gratiot County's most worthy citizens. While a resident of Pine River, Mr. Lake held the office of justice of the peace for sixteen years. He also served a term as drain commissioner, and served two years as treasurer of his school district. He was largely instrumental in forming the Pine River Telephone Association, and in the work of installing the system.

## BITTNER.

Joseph A. Bittner, Alma's well-known florist, was born near Frankenstein, Germany, October 9, 1860. His father, Frank Bittner, and his mother, Anna (Kruschie) Bittner, were natives of the same place, the former born February 20, 1820, died October 27, 1887. The mother passed away in May, 1866; both dying at Frankenstein, their native place.

The subject of this sketch came to America in 1879, reaching Detroit March 11th of that year. He resided in that city about four years and then went to Flint. After a residence of about a year in Flint he went to Grand Haven and was there engaged for about four years in the management of the only wholesale cut-flower house in Michigan, at that time.

August 29, 1889, Mr. Bittner came to Alma, where he has remained a resident up to the present time.

On the 8th day of August, 1888, Mr. Bittner was married to Miss Emma Milleman, who was born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, February 8, 1861, daughter of John and Barbara (Schehrer) Milleman, both of whom were natives of Switzerland.

Mr. Bittner was reared to the business of a florist, and has attained a high standing in his chosen profession. He has a special genius for the business, and that, combined with a commendable degree of energy, industry and perseverance, has enabled him to build up a business in his line second to none in the county. He owns a fine home on Superior Street, west, and in connection therewith he has, without doubt, the best-equipped and best-stocked greenhouse in this part of the state. He has certainly made a very gratifying success of the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Bittner are the parents of three children—Eleanore W. was born May 5, 1889, in Grand Haven. She is a graduate of Alma College, class of 1912, and is now serving her second year as preceptress in the high school at Montague, Mich. William E. was born in Alma, August 29, 1891, is a graduate of Alma High School, class of 1912. With the view of taking up pharmacy as a profession, he is now employed as an assistant in F. O. Grover's drug store, Alma. Frank E. was born in Alma, March 28, 1895, and is now a senior in Alma High School.

Mr. Bittner is a member of the K. O. T. M. M., at Alma, and also belongs to the Arbeiter Lodge at Grand Haven.

**William Yerington** located in Alma in 1866, coming from Lenawee County, Mich. He and his sons, Almon, Stephen, George and Charles, have occupied leading positions in Gratiot County affairs. William Yerington died September 11, 1877, aged 60 years. His wife, Amanda (Bennett) Yerington, died January 25, 1875.

**William Moyer** was prominent in Alma's early history, occupying positions of trust, among which may be mentioned that of supervisor of Arcada Township in 1863 and '67, and justice of the peace 12 years. He died in March, 1869.

**Almon Yerington** came to Alma in 1866. He was a soldier in the Civil War, first in the 3rd Mich. Cavalry and later in the 6th Mich., Cavalry. In Alma his townsmen manifested their confidence in him by electing him village clerk seven years, and he served as justice of the peace for Arcada Township 12 years. In 1867 he was appointed postmaster and served 12 years.

**Gerritt S. Ward** has ranked for many years as one of Alma's most enterprising business men, particularly along banking and financial lines. Officially he has served 12 years as village treasurer, two years as assessor, and four years as treasurer of the Township of Arcada. After the incorporation of Alma as a city, Mr. Ward served three years as supervisor of the second ward.

**Edbert B. Green** took rank as one of Alma's high-class citizens along in the '80s. He was a village councilman in 1886, and village president in '88, and in November of that year he was elected state senator, serving one term.

**James T. Hall** came to Alma in 1868. He was a valued business man, dealing in lumber and for a time engaged in the manufacture of hoops on a large scale. He served as assessor in the Village of Alma, justice of the peace for Arcada Township and was supervisor in '71, '72, '74 and '77. He resided in St. Louis for a time and was elected a member of the village council in 1880. In the fall of 1874 he was elected register of deeds and served one term. For about three years he served as superintendent of the Chicago, Saginaw and Canada Railroad which extended from St. Louis to Lakeview, now constituting a part of the Pere Marquette. He later became a resident of Chicago.

**Derwin Ely** was one of the first settlers in Alma and did his share toward making it the flourishing town that it is, and as a resident of Arcada Township, was instrumental and active in its development and progress. He served as postmaster during President Cleveland's first administration. His death occurred November 23, 1897, at the age of 75 years.

**Michael Pollasky,** who for the past fifty years has been a resident of Alma and closely identified with the interests of that town, and who is still one of its live citizens, was born in Hungary, November 16, 1833. He is a son of Michael and Rebecca (Blitz) Pollasky. While a resident of his native country Mr. P. was interested and took part in its struggles for independence. He came to America with his wife and two children and after years of varied experience, settled in Alma in 1863. There he engaged in mercantile pursuits to which were added lumbering, and, in the course of time, manufacturing tubs and pails. He was the victim of various adversities—fires and business reverses—but by pluck and energy emerged from their effects and eventually attained a satisfactory degree of success. Mr. Pollasky was married in Hungary to Celia Wix, March 15, 1852, born April 12, 1832, daughter of Emanuel and Sarah Wix. Their children, several of whom are still living, and active in business and professional life,

were Moses, Rosa, Max E., Frank E., Marcus and Anna. The wife and mother, an energetic and estimable woman, passed away July 12, 1901. Mr. Pollasky is one of the very few survivors of the leading citizens of early Alma. He has been prominent in the official life of the village and city. He served on the village council several terms, and was president in 1880, '81 and '82. He has also attained high rank as a member of the Masonic order and of other fraternal societies.

**John Brewbaker** came to Alma in 1864 and was a well-known and respected citizen, his death occurring April 2, 1885, at the age of 76.

**Horace B. Hulbert** was identified with the interests of Alma from 1857 when he became a resident until his death, February 10, 1898. He was interested in various industries—merchant, hotel man and as proprietor of a flouring mill.

William J. Gargett first settled in Sumner Township—1866—later removing to Alma where in 1893 he served as councilman, and as treasurer in 1897 and '98. Milton C. Dallas was for many years one of Alma's useful citizens, serving several terms as street commissioner and as such giving exceptional satisfaction. He died August 20, 1901, aged 69 years. George W. Jennings settled in the Arcada woods in 1858 and removed to Alma in 1862. He stood well in the esteem of his townsmen who entrusted him with various responsible offices—justice of the peace several terms, and appointed supervisor in 1861. He died May 8, 1885, at the age of 57 years. Chipman J. Tobey, a well-known and somewhat eccentric citizen and an early comer, was a veteran of the Civil War. He held various local offices the most important being that of justice of the peace in Pine River three terms. His death occurred January 19, 1892. David Leach, an unpretentious shoemaker, but an upright man and possessed of good ability, was treasurer of Alma Village, Pine River Township and Arcada Township, all in the early 70s. He passed to his reward January 17, 1898, aged 70 years. J. E. Davidson, a skilled and popular photographer died December 18, 1885, aged 60. John F. Innis, an early settler in Arcada, now a resident of Alma, had and still has the respect of his townsmen as a worthy and useful citizen. While a rural resident he was three times elected a justice of the peace, giving general satisfaction. William Hannah was officially connected with Alma affairs several years. He died December 8, 1910, aged 84. Ephraim F. Quinn, a prominent merchant, served as village president in 1878 and '79. He also served a term as postmaster. Stephen W. Tinker, a respected manufacturer and builder served as councilman, and in 1898 and '99 was elevated to the presidency of the village. Nelson F. McClinton's election to the mayoralty in 1909 and '10, is deemed worthy of notice for the reason that he is a Democrat, elected in a Republican stronghold. George D. Barton came in 1879, and was prominent in mercantile endeaver in connection with A. W. Wright. He served as village councilman in '81. Removing to Nebraska his death occurred there October 28, 1885, at the age of 50 years. Dr. Kendall Brooks, many years president of Kalamazoo College, and for eight years professor of history and mathematics in Alma College, died in that village February 15, 1898, aged 77 years. Alonzo E. Kingsley was supervisor of Arcada Township in 1862. Henry E. Kingsley was an Arcada justice in 1878, and in 1876 was president of Alma Village. John Dunham was a village councilman, and was justice of the peace four terms. Dr. Edgar A. Bagley was village president in 1890 and '97 and served several years as U. S. pension examiner. Samuel F. Anderson, an expert architect and builder of many years standing; was also city surveyor and township drain commissioner. Lester H. Hayt.

a popular merchant, served in various local positions and for several years as county superintendent of the poor. He died in Pasadena, California, January 9, 1910. Nelson J. McCullough a councilman and supervisor, was elected sheriff in 1896 and re-elected in '98. A very popular citizen; died at Hot Springs, Ark., December 5, 1908, aged about 50 years. Delos W. Adams, treasurer of Arcada, 1901 and '02, village assessor in 1903 and '04, is now serving his eighth term as city clerk. George W. Helt come to Alma in 1863; was clerk of Arcada Township from '68 to '73; died January 21, 1881, aged 54. John Greig, marshal and street commissioner many years, died March 25, 1913. Rev. George Hunting first president of Alma College, died at his home in Marshall, Mich., April 4, 1901. J. M. Montigel, father and son, the latter present mayor of the city. George L. Spicer was early on the ground, helped to organize the Township of Pine River and was elected its first supervisor in April, 1855, but moving from the township he was succeeded by Hiram Burgess by appointment. Mr. Spicer remained an active resident of Alma until his death, March 12, 1897, at the age of 72.

The names of some of the others who have been at the front in Alma's business or official life or both, not definitely referred to elsewhere in these pages are as follows: Dr. C. L. Downie; Augustus M. Ford; Nicholas P. Watts; Francis Palmer; Charles H. Coates; Isaac Pierce; George W. Mead; T. F. Timby; William B. Humbert; Byron S. Webb; Otto W. Rogers, Democratic candidate for register of deeds in 1900; Thomas Bamborough; George Willard, Dr. I. N. Brainerd; William W. Kinch, village clerk seven terms; John F. Schwartz; B. W. Ellison; George S. Young; Edward Hannah, present president of Ithaca; Charles F. Fishbeck; Fred W. Hooper; Joseph F. Sartor, Sr.; Albert E. Woodward; E. N. Chadwick; Perley M. Smith; John W. Glass; Thomas J. Clark; James G. Chase; Philip W. Creaser; Simon Messinger; Jesse E. Fuller; Lester A. Sharp; Wesley H. Parr; E. J. Burr; George H. Carl; Geo G. Holiday; Virgil M. Wilson; John S. Caple; G. H. Bansil; Albert P. Cook; John E. Booth; L. N. Baker; A. W. Brock; George M. Delavan; John Wright; Fred O. Grover; B. Forquer; Andrew J. Hall; Hon. James W. Robinson, member of the state legislature from Montcalm County in 1887. Lack of time and space prevent further mention in this connection.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Adams, Fred D.,** Sept. 19, 1889, aged 35 years. A popular young business man.

**Adams, Mrs. Aurora,** Sept. 16, 1890, aged 35 years; widow of Fred D. Adams.

**Anderson, James,** April 1, 1886, aged 72 years; father of Samuel F. Anderson, well-known architect and builder.

**Abbott, Mrs. W. S.,** February 20, 1895, aged 68 years.

**Abbott, Jacob,** April 27, 1895, aged 69.

**Alverson, ,Mrs.,** Oct. 1, 1907, aged 74; wife of E. G. Alverson, a well-known architect and builder.

**Angell, Mrs. Elvira,** wife of Ambrose B. Angell, Aug. 3, 1898, aged 58. Came to Gratiot in 1868, settling in Arcada.

**Anderson, Mrs. Emily,** wife of Samuel F. Anderson, died at her home on Pine Street, Oct. 21, 1911, aged 64 years. She left a husband and six sons to mourn the loss of a loving wife and mother.

**Adams, Henry,** Nov. 10, 1912, aged 52 years.

**Allen, Mrs. Edwin E.,** July 1, 1913, aged 69 years. A resident since 1886.

**Bamborough, Cornelius,** Dec. 17, 1871, aged 61.

**Bahlke, Mrs. Geo.,** February 13, 1875.

**Buchanan, John,** January 24, 1881, aged 77. Came to the county in 1865.

**Barrington, Frank,** Aug. 27, 1884, at Battle Creek sanitarium, at the age of 30 years.

**Baker, Mrs.,** March 13, 1888, at the home of her son, A. J. Baker, aged 82.

**Barber, J. C.,** May 15, 1897, aged 70.

**Bamborough, Carrie and Flora,** maiden ladies, died within a few hours of each other, January 23, 1892, aged, respectively, 61 and 59 years. They were highly esteemed ladies.

**Brainerd, Eli,** March 27, 1904, aged 87. Father of Dr. I. N. Brainerd of Brainerd's Hospital, Alma.

**Bahlke, Mrs. Mary,** wife of Anton Bahlke, Aug. 30, 1910, at the home of her son, Wm. A. Bahlke. (See sketch of Wm. A. Bahlke.)

**Bahlke, Anton,** Sept. 27, 1910, at the home of his son, Wm. A. Bahlke, aged 82. (See sketch of Wm. A. Bahlke.)

**Bahlke, Geo. J.,** at his home in Alma, April 4, 1912, aged 82 years. Born in Germany, came to America in 1854 and to Alma in 1869. Served in the Civil War, member of the 9th Mich. Cavalry. Children surviving him are George, Alma; Mrs. Levan, Saginaw; Albert, Shepherd; Mrs. John F. Schwartz, Alma; Mrs. J. H. Seaver, Ithaca, and Hill City, Minn.; Mrs. Robert McKenzie, Traverse City; Mrs. Benjamin Marsac, Lorain, Ohio.

**Carpenter, Mrs. L. M.,** Aug. 15, 1896, aged 55; at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. A. Bahlke.

**Coates, Mrs. Lucy,** wife of Chas. H. Coates, at her home in Findlay, Ohio, April 18, 1897, aged 40 years; daughter of the late Gen. Ralph Ely. Mr. Coates was formerly in the hardware trade in Alma and St. Louis.

**Cahoon, Mrs. Lyman,** February 16, 1898, aged 58. A pioneer, coming to Gratiot in 1854.

**Case, Wm.,** May 21, 1899, aged 85.

**Cowles, Winfield,** died suddenly Nov. 28, 1912, aged 66. Besides a wife, he left seven sons, six daughters, 20 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was one of the early log-drivers on Pine River, and had lived in Alma nearly 50 years.

**Cowles, Alanson,** May 26, 1911, aged 71 years. Son of Ben. Cowles, Fulton's popular pioneer.

**Clow, Peter G.,** at his home in Alma, February 27, 1913, aged 75 years. An old soldier and a resident of the county 39 years.

**Coleman, Mrs. Lucy,** April 28, 1913, aged 76 years. Widow of John Coleman whose death occurred in 1898. They were respected pioneers, settling in Alma in 1872.

**Cahoon, Lyman C.,** August 24, 1913, aged 81 years. One of the early settlers in Pine River Township, an 1854 pioneer, and a well-known citizen.

**Dean, Stephen,** brakeman on the Ithaca to Saginaw train, suddenly at Ithaca, July 3, 1886; resided at Alma.

**Dunbar, Geo.,** about April 25, 1887, aged 88 years.

**Dunham, H. M.,** March 9, 1904.

**Ely, Kelmer W.,** son of Derwin Ely, Aug. 1, 1887, aged 34; a former editor of the Alma Record.

**Ely, Mrs. Mary E.,** widow of Gen. Ralph Ely, Aug., 1905, aged 82. One of the city's most esteemed citizens.







THREE VIEWS IN BEAUTIFUL RIVERSIDE.

**Ewing, Joseph W.,** Aug. 28, 1905, aged 70. A valued professor in Alma College.

**Ely, Mrs. Margaret C.,** Aug. 14, 1912, aged 67. Wife of Hon. T. A. Ely, and daughter of the late Dewitt C. Chapin.

**Fleming, Mrs.,** Aug. 11, 1899, aged 43; the esteemed wife of Delon Fleming, an Alma merchant, and Republican candidate for sheriff in '98.

**Fechting, Andrew,** April 2, 1905, aged 82. One of Pine River's early settlers.

**Fraker, Wallace W.,** March, 1904, aged 58. A soldier in the Civil War, a member of the 20th N. Y. Cavalry. He came to Gratiot in 1865, settling in Fulton, later removing to Ithaca, and in 1892 to Alma.

**Ferris, W. W.,** Nov. 2, 1910, aged 77. Formerly of Sumner and Carson City where he located in the early '60s.

**Gargett, Mrs. Louisa,** Oct. 8, 1887, at St. Andrew's Bay, Florida, aged 50 years; wife of Hon. Jas. Gargett. They settled in Alma in 1859, and at once took their places among the most enterprising residents of the town.

**Green, Mrs.,** wife of Hon. Edbert B. Green, Nov. 17, 1890, aged 35 years.

**Granger, Wm.,** January 13, 1912, aged 77. Came to Gratiot in 1859, and was for many years a resident of Bethany.

**Griffith, Mrs. Anna,** wife of Edwin R. Griffith, Oct. 5, 1912, aged 67. An esteemed lady, leaving a husband and two daughters; a brother, Geo. W. Winget, resides in Ithaca.

**Greig, John,** March 25, 1913, aged 66 years. He was one of Alma's most popular citizens; was entrusted with various village and city offices and filled them well. A Civil War soldier; resident of Alma since 1888. A wife and three daughters survive.

**Humbert, Mrs.,** wife of Wm. B. Humbert, a prominent business man of Alma, died Sept. 25, 1883, aged 38.

**Hildreth, John S.,** March 21, 1885, aged 75. Came to Gratiot in 1860, and was a leading citizen in both Seville and Pine River Townships.

**Hulbert, Mrs. S. B.,** mother of Horace B. Hulbert, January 17, 1887, aged 83; a resident of Alma since 1860.

**Hart, Philo,** April 29, 1887, aged 85; at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Derwin Ely.

**Hildreth, Mrs. Diana,** widow of the late John S. Hildreth, April 10, 1892, aged 79 years.

**Hawkins, J. W.,** Nov. 8, 1897, aged 67.

**Harrison, Sam. I.,** January 6, 1907, aged about 55. A clothing merchant, formerly doing business in St. Louis.

**Holmes, Mrs. Eva E.,** May 16, 1903, aged 48; the estimable wife of Hon. John W. Holmes.

**Howe, Wm.,** Dec. 12, 1908, aged 75 years. He had been a resident of Gratiot County about 40 years, and was an energetic and upright citizen.

**Johnson, Mrs. Julia,** July 22, 1905, aged 68, widow of Theron A. Johnson prominently identified with local and county affairs many years.

**Kress, Mrs. Mary,** wife of James Kress, February 6, 1886, at the age of 70 years. They came to the county in 1855 settling in Pine River Township, and moving to Alma in 1864. Among the most prominent and enterprising of the early settlers.

**Kelly, Dr.,** January 3, 1907. For 15 years a popular dentist of Alma.

**Koffenburger, Michael,** June 16, 1911, aged 81.

**Loveland, Mrs. S. H.,** March 28, 1887, aged 55.

**Loveland, Samuel H.,** July 2, 1902, aged 69.

**Lancashire, Mrs. Helen M.,** Nov. 5, 1905, aged 73.

**Leach, Mrs. David,** June 12, 1896, aged 75. They came to Alma in 1868.

**Lock, Mrs. Mary A.,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Greig, Sept. 1, 1898, aged about 70 years.

**Lyon, Thomas J.,** January 9, 1913, aged 64. A well-known and popular citizen, residing in Gratiot County since 1872, first in Seville, later removing to Alma.

**Leonard, Mrs. Mary A. (Hollenbeck),** February 21, 1913, aged 59 years. Esteemed wife of Frank A. Leonard. A resident since 1887.

**Lattimer, Reed C.,** at his home west of Alma, August 10, 1913, aged 80 years. A pioneer, coming in 1869.

**Lemon, Mrs. Estella,** wife of J. Major Lemon, at her home in Detroit, August 10, 1913, aged 58 years. A former esteemed resident of Alma, many years.

**Montigel, Mrs. Anna,** wife of John M. Montigel, Sept. 3, 1885, at the age of 59 years.

**Montigel, John M.,** January 2, 1894, aged 73. They came to Alma in 1871, and were among the most enterprising of Alma's business people.

**Medler, Mrs. Mary E.,** Dec. 15, 1902, aged 70 years.

**Moiles, Henry J.,** May 1, 1903, aged 77 years. An early settler in Seville Township.

**Minnick, John,** April 5, 1911, aged 57. He had lived in Middleton, Wheeler and Ithaca, conducting a hotel in the last mentioned place. He was in the livery business at Alma.

**Medler, Mrs. Ida,** wife of Melvin A. Medler, April 24, 1912, aged 42. The Medler families were among Gratiot's earliest and best pioneers.

**Mulvey, Mrs. Catharine,** mother of Rev. John Mulvey of St. Mary's Catholic Church, July 25, 1913, at the home of her son, aged 74 years.

**Naldrett, Clement,** at his home in Alma, Dec. 7, 1910, aged 45. He was born in Newark Township, son of Geo. S. Naldrett. Was in business in Middleton several years; resided in Alma about two years, and left many friends.

**Oswald, Eli,** March 15, 1909; in mercantile business.

**Peck, Phineas P.,** May 2, 1871, aged 72.

**Parks, Rufus,** Oct. 5, 1887, aged 87.

**Pollasky, Michael, Sr.,** at the home of his son, Michael, January 5, 1892, aged 84.

**Pollasky, Mrs. Celia,** wife of Michael Pollasky, aged 69 years.

**Pettyjohn, Chas. E.,** Oct. 2, 1907, aged 19 years; a favorite with all his acquaintances, his early death was greatly regretted.

**Purvis, Mrs. I. R.,** suddenly, Dec. 10, 1912, aged 59. A respected resident 20 years.

**Pierce, Wm. O.,** at the home of his son, Fred, in Lansing, Dec. 19, 1912, aged 64. An Alma resident many years.

**Rosenbury, David,** about Sept. 1, 1895, aged 77. He settled in Sumner in 1866, later removing to Alma, and in 1893 removing to Butler, Indiana, where he died.

**Rogers, Mrs. J. S.,** April 10, 1897, aged 60 years.

**Ray, Joseph T.,** May 16, 1905, aged 68 years.

**Ring, Mrs. Zilpha,** Oct. 17, 1905, aged 83; wife of Marcus Ring; pioneers of Gratiot in the year 1858.

**Rogers, Mrs. Maria,** widow of A. C. Rogers, June 13, 1897, at the age of 75 years. They were pioneers, coming in 1854.

**Seaver, Michael,** Dec. 2, 1890, aged 70 years. Died from the effects of a fall from a wagon.

**Scott, Chas. M.,** Dec. 19, 1902, aged 66.

**Sharrar, Mrs. Ellen A.,** Dec. 24, 1908, at the age of 61 years; the estimable wife of Daniel L. Sharrar, former county treasurer. They settled in Arcada about 1870.

**Sloan, Wm. H.,** at his home in Alma, Nov. 10, 1911, aged 74 years. A well-known pioneer of Pine River, coming to that township in 1854.

**Smith, Mrs. Mary J. (Belbeck),** widow of Andrew Smith, Nov. 14, 1912, aged 68. Respected residents of Alma since 1882. Mr. Smith died in 1900.

**Smith, Ray O.,** at his home in Alma, June 9, 1913, aged 33 years. He was an expert electrician, formerly a resident of Ithaca, son of B. Frank Smith. A young man highly esteemed.

**Turck, Mrs. Rebecca,** mother of Hon. Wm. S. Turck, Nov. 27, 1877, at the age of 76 years.

**Tally, Jackson,** Oct. 21, 1898, aged 66. They settled near Forest Hill in 1868.

**Thornton, Adam Clark,** Nov. 1, 1910, aged nearly 67 years. An old resident, senior member of the firm of A. C. Thornton & Son, dealers in coal, wood, lumber, hay, etc.

**Tinkham, Mrs. Isabelle,** wife of Lillie Tinkham, at her home, Jan. 16, 1913, aged 71 years. She was esteemed by many friends; a husband and one son survive.

**Turck, Hon. Wm. S.,** Sept. 19, 1912, aged 73. (See sketch.)

**Tuttle, W. A.,** at Brainerd's Hospital, July 25, 1913, aged 65 years; a well-known druggist.

**Vliet, Samuel A.,** January 31, 1909. A resident of the county about 45 years, settling with his father's family near St. Louis. A wide-awake participant in all of the strenuous though alluring activities pertaining to lumbering and log-driving on Pine River in the younger days of Gratiot County. A genial and popular citizen.

**Van Wegen, Geo. W.,** June 25, 1911, aged 81. A resident of Alma 24 years.

**Weaver, Peter,** July 23, 1870, at the age of 91 years.

**Webb, Dr. Frank,** January 16, 1875, aged 35 years.

**Whipple, Esek,** Dec. 10, 1883, at the age of 66. He settled in Pine River Township in 1860.

**Weaver, Garrett,** a pioneer, Aug. 12, 1884, aged 73.

**Weaver, Mrs.,** wife of Dr. L. A. Weaver, May 21, 1887, at the age of 36 years.

**Walker, Benjamin,** February 26, 1902, aged 73.

**Willard, Mrs. Henrietta,** wife of Geo. Willard, June 24, 1910, aged 79 years. An esteemed resident of Alma many years. Mr. Willard, an old soldier, has served efficiently as a peace officer of the town for many years.

**Wilson, Mrs. Hiram,** March 15, 1898, aged 65 years. She was an early settler in North Star, later living several years in Ithaca.

**Wilson, Oscar,** January 28, 1912, at his home in Alma, at the age of 50 years.

**Ward, Mrs. Eliza,** wife of John Ward, March 12, 1912, at the age of 54 years. Mr. and Mrs. Ward were old residents of Ithaca, removing to Alma in 1909.

**Yerington, Dr. Geo. H.,** at Eugene, Oregon, May 2, 1912, aged 58 years. He was an Alma pioneer, son of Wm. Yerington, but residing in the west several years.

**Wilbur, Leonard,** February 17, 1913, aged 54. He settled in Pine River with his parents in 1866.

**Wilson, Virgil M.,** July 16, 1912, aged 67.

**Ziessee, Adolph,** May 12, 1895, aged 64. A soldier in the Civil War; he survived his wife about a year.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1873, Dec. 27—Fire destroyed Simon Fink's cigar store, C. M. Scott's harness shop and did considerable damage to adjoining property.

1876, May 13—Fire in the evening of May 13th, destroyed the Hulbert House and some adjoining property, including the stock of goods of Wright & Dawson, which occupied a room under the same roof, with the hotel. Covered by insurance.

1876, June 6—The fine residence of James Gargett was destroyed by fire. Loss about $12,000; insured.

1876, Dec. 31—The dry-kiln to M. Pollasky's tub and pail factory burned causing a loss of $1,000.

1877, Jan. 26—A fire in the evening destroyed five buildings. It originated in Andrew Gillis' tailor shop and went to Geo. G. Holiday"s hardware, C. W. Tann's saloon, a building belonging to H. B. Hulbert and the cooper-shop of Geo. Best. Augustus M. Ford, village clerk, Geo. P. Helt, C. W. Tann and Alex. Axford, occupied the upper stories with their families. Stocks and household goods were mostly burned. Andrew Gillis, his wife and brother, Roland A., were arrested charged with starting the fire for the sake of the large insurance which they carried. The woman was discharged and the men were bound over for trial in the circuit. Later the cases were nolle prossed by Prosecuting Attorney T. W. Whitney.

1877, Oct. 6—M. Pollasky's dry-kiln was again burned, with the loss also of a large quantity of staves and heading.

1877, Nov. 14—Fire finished M. Pollasky's tub and pail factory on the morning of November 14th.

1880, Jan. 2—Fire this morning destroyed the brick depot building of the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad, nothing being left but the walls.

1880, Nov. 23—The Alma flouring mill and woolen mill burned. Loss about $16,000 and no insurance. The mills were owned by Mrs. Louisa Gargett, and operated by Jas. Gargett, Wm. B. Humbert and Isaac Gee.

1882, May 30—Fire destroyed A. C. Barrows' bakery and restaurant and S. H. Loveland's furniture store. Four families were turned out of the upper rooms. Small insurance.

1883, Oct. 4—S. C. Blinn's shook factory was destroyed by fire, with a loss of about $10,000; insurance, $6,500.

1884, May 29—Alma's woolen mill and knitting factory burned at 2 o'clock a. m. Loss $22,000, about half covered by insurance.

1885, Oct. 14—Big barn of Enos Kimmell, one-half mile west of Alma, burned with the larger part of its contents. Loss, $2,500; insurance, $1,000.

1888, March—Harrington & Son's table factory was badly damaged by fire, principally in the finishing department. There was a light insurance.

1890, Sept. 11—The old hotel building on the south side of the river, built in 1863, was burned; supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

1890, Sept. 12—Fire destroyed barns of L. D. Rodman, M. Pollasky and Mr. Best. Efficient work of the firemen prevented a much larger conflagration, which at one time seemed imminent.

1891, May 9—Alma had a big fire and an important one when M. B. Faughner's excelsior factory burned in the forenoon of May 9th. A call for help brought the St. Louis firemen, 40 strong with a supply of hose, and surrounding property was saved. Loss was $10,000; insurance, $3,000.

1892, May 8—Fire destroyed the wooden buildings west of the Pollasky block, with a loss of $4,000.

1893, Oct. 15—Sunday morning, fire destroyed the Pollasky block, southwest corner of State and Superior Streets, together with the jewelry stock of E. C. Taylor and the drug stock of B. Vandenburg. The loss was about $7,000, with insurance about half that amount.

1896, Aug. 20—Three barns were burned in rear of the Milligan House, and four horses were cremated. They belonged to M. C. Dallas, E. Saltie and Orlando Sharp, Alma, and Stephen Playford, St. Louis.

1899, Jan. 30—Ed. Edwards' Hotel was burned; loss, $2,000; insured.

1901, Jan. 5—The large planing mill and sash and door factory of Tinker & Hannah was entirely destroyed, with a large quantity of lumber. The fire department though promptly on hand could only prevent the fire from spreading to other buildings, so furious were the flames in the combustible material. Partly covered by insurance. The plant was rebuilt.

1901, Nov. 23—Alma suffered a severe loss by the burning of J. M. Montigel's foundry and machine shop, by a fire that broke out at 2 o'clock in the morning. The warehouse and its contents adjoining were saved. The loss was stated to be about $12,000, with insurance of $3,500. The plant was rebuilt.

1905, Sept. 25—The Asphalt Mastic Roofing plant went up in smoke Monday afternoon, September 25th, entailing a loss of $10,000. The fire was caused by a leak in the asphaltum vat, causing a blaze that could not be controlled, the material being of a very inflammable nature. The smoke from the burning plant rose in a column to a great height; an interesting and unusual spectacle to people ten miles away.

1908, Sept. 24—The big dairy farm of A. W. Wright, near Alma and called "Riverside," had a very destructive fire which burned the barns and other farm buildings, excepting the house. The contents of the buildings destroyed were extensive and valuable. Tramps were supposed to have been responsible for the fire.

1911, May 13—Fire destroyed a hay warehouse and a coopershop adjoining the Alma Roller Mills, causing a loss of about $3,000. The mill and other valuable property were greatly endangered, but the firemen's good work prevented further loss.

1913, April 17—Fire this evening broke out in the N. B. Waterman store, Opera House block, and before it could be subdued the large stock of goods was ruined, and the building badly damaged in the lower story and basement. The losses are figured at nearly $30,000 in the aggregate; fairly well insured.

## ALMA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Alma can boast of as good schools as can be found in the state. This is said without reference to Alma College. That is in a class by itself so far as Alma and Gratiot County are concerned. The children of the earliest settlers got their start, educationally, under difficulties. The first school building was of logs and located on the high ground now occupied by the College. But previous to the erection of this log building a little headway had been made along educational lines in the private houses of the settlers. About the year 1859 a frame school house was built on the site now occupied by the Wright House. Then, about the year 1872, a larger building became necessary, and a building was erected a little south of the present Church block, and this did duty till 1885, when the fine brick structure east of the river was erected, at a cost of about $16,000. When the increase in population called for more room, a ward school house was built on block 10, second block north of Superior Street, and nearer the business portion of the town.



UNION SCHOOL BUILDING 1885.

In the course of time additional facilities were needed, and it was determined to take no half-way measures, but to make a bold venture and erect a new central high school building that would be of sufficient capacity to accommodate the city for many years to come. The determination, followed by energetic and intelligent action, resulted in the erection of the superb building, a fine picture of which is shown in connection with this article. In the fall of 1911 bonds to the amount of $65,000 were voted by the district, and the building was erected in 1912. Much credit is given to Superintendent Frank E. Ellsworth, for his untiring efforts in behalf of the schools, and for the successful outcome of the building proposition. He is now serving his ninth year as superintendent of the Alma schools; excellent proof of his superlative fitness for the position. The Alma High School has been on the University list for many years; the term signifying that graduates of the school are admitted to the Michigan University without examination, a diploma being satisfactory evidence that its possessor is duly qualified to enter that institution.

The corps of instructors in Alma's schools is constituted as follows, for the school year of 1913-14:

Superintendent—Frank E. Ellsworth; Principal of High School—R. A. Collins; Commercial Department—G. S. Crisp; German and Mathematics—Arthur Luchtman; Manual Training—Floyd A. Maxwell; English—Olive J. Smith; History—Sena Potter; Latin and Mathematics—Lois Fraker; Natural Science—Ella M. Clark; Physical Science—Julia T. Munger; Domestic Science—Mabel C. Rogers; Music and Drawing—Harriet

E. McGreaham; Principal of Grammar School and Instructor 8th grade—Cora Dunlap; 7th and 8th grades—Margaret H. Winn; 7th grade—Laura B. Soule; 6th grade—Bertha M. McLaren; 5th grade—Winifred G. Trapp; 4th and 5th grades—Frances M. Stitt; 4th grade—Marion Moon; 3rd grade and Principal of Primary School—Annette McLaren; 3rd grade—Lillian C. Meisel; 2nd grade—Teada T. Pinney and Lena C. Johnson; 1st grade—Delia J. Corey and Josephine Russell; Kindergarten—Grace L. Kramer.



NEW $65,000 SCHOOL BUILDING—1912.

The Board of Education is made up as follows for the year 1913: Ezra L. Smith, president; C. G. Rhodes, secretary; D. L. Johnson, treasurer; Francis King, P. M. Smith.

### Alma's High School Graduates.

Alma High School sent out its first graduating class in June, 1887. Following are the graduates for each year, ending with the class of 1913. By a reorganization of classes, two years—1891 and 1893—furnished no graduates:

**1887:** John N. Day, John Hanson, Abbie E. Taylor.

**1888:** Geo. E. Sharrar, Sadie Ward, Ralph C. Ely, Geo. Thornton, Jennie Webb, Harry Hawkins, Guy Milliken.

**1889:** Claude Forton, Winnie A. Griffin, Nettie Kress, Ariadne McLaren.

**1890:** Chas. Caple, Nellie Bamborough, Flora Hicks, Clara Booth.

**1892:** Alva Caple, Blanche Hyde, Blanche Cole, Flora Hawes, Clamina McLaughlin, Adelia Reid.

**1894:** Annie Reid, Mertha Peters.

**1895:** Bertha McLaren, Eli Raycraft, D. Lloyd Johnson.

**1896:** Bertha Struble, Blanche Curtis, Erma Rush, Maude McCullough, Stella Eagan, Major Leman, John Knoertzer, Frank Grover, Laura Bulton, Nettie Greig, Harriet Woodward, Jas. Gargett, Agnes Slaughter.

**1897:** Nellie Nevis, Elton Brock, Chas. Murphy, Chas. Van Wegen.

**1898:** Lena Eagan, Myrtle Walker, Teressa Jones, Mae Sargent, Mabel Washburn, Lucius Bagley.

1899: Ina Young, Arthur Brock, John S. Shiner, Jennie Quick, Sadie Messinger, Pearl Fuller, Alice Thompson, Raymond Bangs, Geo. Timby, Norman Root, Minnie Keckler, Arthur Downing, Eugene Tinker.

1900: Clara Pringle, Lora Morton, Edna Schwartz, Lottie McCloskey, Blanche Pugsley, Chas. Pringle, Arla Holiday, Marlie Slingluff.

1901: Bertram Leonard, Claude Baker, Nettie Lathrop, Susie Edwards, Albert Knapp, Abbie Day, Kate Baumgarten, Lulu Reid, Jessie Packer, Lena Vought.

1902: Ruth Hall, Fred Soule, Lulu Wilson, Harry Rogers, Howard Crawford, Edith Henson, Harry Jefferson, Mayme Hayes.

1903: Gretta Bagley, Orlin Fletcher, Floy Eagan, Lena Wiley, Mabel Hutchings, Maude Wilson, Stanley Boughton, Fred Royce, Ethel Taber, Sophia Hutchinson, Delos Shiner, Oliver Smith, Harry Leonard, Chas. H. Goggin, Lulu Brock, Grace Messinger.

1904: Blanche Boughton, Effie Boyer, Ralph Watson, Roy McGrath, Iva Holiday, Bert Hayes, Sophia Dunham, Ralph Montigel, Spurgeon Anderson, Roy Lockwood.

1905: Kate Wyman, Linnie Udell, Bertha Eyer, Nina Ward, Vera Johnson, Paul Delavan, John Dunham.

1906: Edward Titus, Dudley Tinker, Bessie Partee, Glenn Montigel, Vernon Eyer, Myrtle Creaser, Bertha Downs.

1907: Ray Williams, Julia Wynne, Rose Tibbitts, Alta Taylor, Maude Sullivan, Mertie Lewis, Harry Hall, Floyd Eyer, Mary Emsley, Hazel Bahlke, Theo. Amsbury.

1908: Alma Vought, Channing Parsons, Thos. Stitt, Sena Potter, Hattie Mills, Florence Hall, Blaine Hayes, Bertha Gorsline, Pearl Eyer, Edna Day, Ada Coleman, Francis Cooper, Loretta Clum.

1909: Karl Adams, Carlyn Delavan, Franz Bahlke, Ina Heyward, Grace Laycock, Ralph Goggin, R D Bradford, Bernice Walker, Barbara Wynne, Norman Shields, Winifred Washburn, Leontine Messinger, Flossie Clark, Paul Crandell, Marion Spinney.

1910: Ray Cheney, Floyd Smith, Fenton Fishbeck, Esther Smith, Bertha Hubbell, Jesse Callahan, Irene Arndt, Beulah Weaver, Dorothy Judge, Celia Creaser, Charlie Hooper, Paul Morgan, Mildred Schaeffer.

1911: Marcella Adams, Ethel Bower, Marjorie Delavan, Rua Day, Gretchen Eyer, Sadie Gerard, Lola McCarty, Ella Miller, Ernestine Palmer, Beulah Parr, Bessie Schwartz, Letta Soper, Laurel Welch, Mabel Wyant, Paul Austin, Dallas Brock, Clyde Creaser, Lester Fishbeck, Roy Gulick, Bristow Hood, Harry Jackson, Lawrence Montigel, Floyd Oswald, Arnold Robinson, Alger Wood.

1912: Mark Spinney, Roy Keefer, Raymond Lake, William E. Bittner, Edward Bahlke, Hugh J. Bartley, Alger Clark, Homer Dunham, Grace Du Bois, Elizabeth Fisher, Theodore Gates, Milton Jackson, Edna Kuhlman, Florence Keefer, Mildred Kress, John Ludwick, Mabel Lake, Arthur McIntyre, Calvin O. Lake, Mary Stitt, Juno Shepard, Queen Strong, Carl Titus, Mabel Wynn.

1913: Carrie Bailey, Rodney Burgess, Efford Beverly, Tallulah Beebe, Lydia Brown, Roy Beshgetoor, Paul R. Cash, Clifford Cummings, Edna Campbell, Bethel Cummings, Winnie Cooper, Esther Dunham, Lula Ellis, Laura Gossett, Grace Haner, Clarence Jessup, Lena Jessup, Rose Judge, Reginald McClinton, Dick Rockwell, Harlow Raycraft, Donald Smith, Daisy Slater, Bernice Sweet, Elfleda Udelle, Dwight von Thurn, Edna V. Wiley, John Gaffney.

## ALMA NEWSPAPERS.

The history of Alma's newspapers really commences with the establishment of the Alma Index in 1879, by M. L. Hart. Newspaper clippings, however, show that a paper called the Alma Enterprise was started in 1874 by Bryan & Johnson; that they came from Indiana, and that the paper was neutral in politics. The records further show that a copy of the first issue, that of Sept. 3, 1874, was deposited, with other things, in the corner-stone of the Administration Building of Alma College, at the time of the laying of the corner-stone, May 14, 1886. A little further information gathered "on the side" goes to show that the paper was a very temporary affair, started and run in the interest of Gen. Ralph Ely for auditor general of the state, and James T. Hall for register of deeds, the former a Republican, the latter a Democrat. As both were elected, the paper may not have been born in vain. It must have died soon after the success of its labors was realized.

M. L. Hart put out his first number of the Alma Index in April, 1879. In March, 1881, Alvin D. Pettit, for some time connected with the Gratiot Journal as an employee, bought the Alma Index and soon thereafter changed its name to The Gratiot County Record. In December, 1881, A. D. Pettit sold the paper to J. H. Phillips, who conducted it till February, 1883, when he sold it to N. G. ("Nick") Davidson, who changed the name of the paper to The Alma Record, which name the paper has borne to the present time. In November, 1883, Kerwin W. Ely bought the Record. Mr. Ely sold the paper in January, 1885, to Rev. F. E. York, a boot and shoe dealer of Alma, and Rev. J. W. Sutton of the M. E. Church also had an interest in it. In April following, the Alma Publishing Co. was in possession, with Chas. A. Bigelow as editor and manager. In June, 1885, Miss C. M. Fleming, late of Stanton and a first-class newspaper publisher, bought the Record, and made a first-class county paper of it. March 12, 1887, the paper was sold to Charles F. Brown who continued as editor and publisher for many years. He sold to P. N. Bland, and he to A. L. Bemis. The latter was succeeded by the Record Publishing Company, with Charles J. Brown as editor and manager, under whose administration the paper has attained a position in the front rank of the leading newspapers of Central Michigan.

In July, 1888, The Alma News Co. was formed for the purpose of starting a new paper. The paper was called the Alma News, and had A. J. Stranger as editor and manager. In May, 1889, the paper changed hands and for a time was conducted as a college paper, by The Alma College Printing Co. Then in November, 1890, the paper was bought and "assimilated" by the Alma Record, which had Brown & Everden as proprietors, O. M. Everden having purchased a half-interest in that paper in November, 1889.

In May, 1892, a paper called the Alma Enterprise was launched by Alf. Ringe. It had but a short and squally existence on the newspaporial sea.

March 15, 1895, No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Alma Argus was issued by "Nick" Davidson. He sold to Earl G. Torrey, an Alma attorney, and he sold to Mr. Goodenough. Caris Brown and Joseph Sartor, Jr., bought the paper in 1904 and changed the name to the Alma Journal. In 1909 Mr. Sartor became sole owner by purchase of his partner's interest, and is still the hustling and efficient editor and publisher. The Alma Journal is constantly improving, shows commendable progressive tendencies, and is deservedly popular.

Taking it from first to last, Alma has been favored with newspaper talent of every conceivable degree and grade of merit. The city can very plausibly be congratulated for its very commendable and satisfactory showing along that line at the present time.

## ALMA CHURCHES.

### Protestant Episcopal.

Occasional services of the Protestant Episcopal Church were held in Alma in 1879 and '80, by Rev. G. E. Peters, at that time in charge of Emmanuel Church, St. Louis. The first regular services were held by Rev. Wm. Charles, beginning in the summer of 1885. Mr. Charles, then residing in St. Louis, was regularly in charge in Alma, and held services alternate Sunday mornings and afternoons in the Baptist Church.



PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

February 9, 1886, a Woman's Guild was organized, and preliminary steps taken for building a church edifice. Subscriptions were raised by Mrs. A. W. Wright and Mrs. Jas. A. Stuttz, who reported April 28th that they had raised by subscription, $880, and had secured a lot for the location of the building.

The organization had got so well established and with such promise of permanency that in June, 1886, it was admitted to the Diocesan Convention as a Mission.

In October of that year a building committee was appointed, consisting of Stephen W. Tinker, John Lumsden, Jas. A. Stuttz, Henry A. Delavan and E. B. Green, and a contract for the erection of a building—the present building—was let to Tinker & Lumsden, who began work on the foundation at once. One year later—October 4, 1887—the building—brick veneered and 30 by 70 feet in size—being completed and furnished at a cost of $4,000, was consecrated by Right Rev. S. S. Harris, at that time Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan.

Rev. Geo. Vernon was the first minister in charge. Residing in St. Louis, he officiated there Sunday mornings and at Alma evenings. July 31, 1892, he was succeeded by Rev. John Weatherdon, who resided in Alma, officiating also in St. Louis. At this time preparations were begun for the erection of a Rectory, and the Woman's Guild, again under the leadership of Mrs. A. W. Wright, undertook the matter of financing the work. The result was, that a building—a large one, with all modern improvements, which occupies a lot north of the church—was erected at a cost of about $4,000. It was first occupied by Rev. Chas. Carey and family, January 1, 1894. His successor, Rev. H. B. Jefferson, coming October, 1895, continued in charge of the St. Louis Church, also, until July 1, 1899. Since that time, when Mr. Jefferson took charge of the Alma Church exclusively, the two churches have been conducted independently.

St. Johns Episcopal Church was declared to be independent of missionary aid at the Diocesan Convention of 1903, by Rev. Chas. L. Ramsay; but it continued a mission of the Diocese until November, 1907, when it was formally admitted as a Parish, controlled by a Vestry.

Resigning the charge September, 1906, Mr. Ramsay was succeeded by Rev. E. E. Williams, who planned and superintended the building of a Parish House. This was a gift to the Parish by Mr. A. W. Wright. It is joined to the church building and built to correspond. It consists of a Guild or Sunday school room, a kitchen and a gymnasium, all well furnished.

The present minister, Rev. Frank L. Jackson, came to the charge June 15, 1910, and is serving the Parish to the satisfaction of all.

### Baptist Church.

The First Baptist Church of Alma was organized July 7, 1866, with seven charter members, namely: Wm. Yerington, his wife Amanda Yerington, Miss Gertrude Yerington, Stephen D. Yerington, Mrs. Charity Wheeler, Otis Bartlett and Thos. H. Fitchett.

The first pastor was Rev. Lafayette Church; the first clerk, Stephen D. Yerington.

In 1873 a frame building was erected on Hastings Street at a cost of $1,800, the dedicatory services taking place July 13, 1873. The sermon was preached by Rev. C. W. Beals, State Missionary. Rev. Theo. Nelson was officiating as pastor at that time.

In 1899 the old church building was sold to the United Brethren, and a brick building on the corner of State and Hastings Streets, owned by the Presbyterians, was purchased, formal possession being taken July 1, 1899. The building was well adapted to the needs and purposes of the Church society and it is their present house of worship.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The following is a list of the pastors of the Church in their order, and the date of beginning their terms of service:

Lafayette Church, 1867; Theodore Nelson; P. P. Farnum; Richard Hultz, 1876; Wm. H. Bettys, 1880; Geo. D. Kaufman, 1887; Frank Kurtz (supply), 1892; E. J. Harris, 1892; A. H. Beaver, 1895; C. E. Woodruff (supply), 1896; W. H. Clough, 1896; Wilbur Nelson (supply), 1899; W. C.

Clatworthy, 1900; N. T. Hafer, 1900; H. S. Higgins, 1903; Robert Elder, 1906; C. H. Moscrip (supply), 1909; W. H. Cook, 1910; J. W. Priest, 1911, present incumbent.

The Church is in good and satisfactory condition, under the competent management of the following officials:

Deacons—L. A. Sharp, E. B. Soule, H. E. Walton, E. C. Crandell, F. Palmer.

Trustees—L. A. Sharp, L. N. Baker, C. F. Hainline, Nelson Fullerton, Wm. Schiff.

Treasurer—L. A. Sharp.

Clerk and Financial Secretary—Miss M. Louise Hood.

### The Presbyterians.

Some of the leading officials of this church would do well to change their ways. They promised faithfully and repeatedly to furnish a write-up of their church for these pages, but failed to do so, though oft reminded. So they necessarily will be favored with but scant notice. Their fine church edifice is located on the north side of Superior Street, corner of Prospect. Rev. W. H. Mason is the present pastor. From outside sources it is learned that the church is in a flourishing condition, with a large and constantly increasing membership. Thus I give them the best send-off I can in spite of their delinquencies. Hoping that they will profit by this lesson in forgiveness, I go still further and fairly heap coals of fire on their heads by giving them a fine view of their church edifice; and all as free as air.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The corner stone of the church building was laid, with interesting ceremonies, October 13, 1899, and the completed building was dedicated January 6, 1901. Previous to their building this church, however, they had owned and occupied the church building on the corner of State and Hastings Streets. They had bought this building of the Congregational Society who had erected it in 1885 and '86. The Presbyterians occupied this building until 1899, when they sold it to the Baptist Society, and erected their present structure, corner of Superior and Prospect, as before stated. The Congregationalists went out of existence as a church organization when they sold their building to the Presbyterians, but the members, individually, merged their interests mainly with the Presbyterian organization.

### Methodist Episcopal Church.

The M. E. Church of Alma dates its history from an early day. That is to say, the recording angel so dates it. No one on earth seems to have any records, and no one seems to have any very clear ideas of the matter, individually. W. O. Johnson, who with his wife was one of the earliest, evolved the information that he had the old records at one time, but that he lent them to the minister some years ago, and they were never returned. A. W. Brock showed some enthusiasm at first and made some promises, but the task evidently proved too great; anyway after a spasmodic effort of no very great proportions he gave up the job. Rev. W. E. Doty helped a little with a list of preachers, running from 1871 down to the present. Rev. T. J. Hill, who was early in the work at St. Louis, is credited with being the first M. E. minister to preach at Alma, along in the late '50s.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Rev. Doty's list starts in 1871, and is as follows: J. K. Stark, S. H. Loveland, H. N. Hall, J. Hills, S. Snyder, B. E. Paddock, O. H. Perry, J. F. Ross, J. N. Staley, J. W. Sutton, F. N. Jones, A. F. Hart, I. W. Peach, J. W. Vickers, W. T. Cook, J. W. McAllister, M. D. Carrel, E. L. Sinclair, J. R. Wooton, C. E. Hoag, F. H. Clapp, J. M. Wolfe, W. E. Doty. The present pastor is Thos. G. R. Brownlow.

A Church building was erected in 1873—dedicated August 24th of that year—on the corner of Superior and Prospect Streets, which served until 1897, when a fine brick building was erected, a good illustration of which is herewith presented. The old building was sold to the Christian Church in 1912, and removed to the eastern part of the city. The new building was dedicated September 12, 1897, Rev. Puffer, presiding elder, in charge. Rev. J. K. Stark, pastor in 1871, was present. The building cost about $8,000. The corner-stone was laid November 9, 1895. It was dedicated free from debt.

A great celebration, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the organization of the first M. E. class in Gratiot County, the class organized at Alma by Rev. T. J. Hill, was held in the Sanitarium Hotel, Alma, April 19, 1906, with many former pastors present.

### Christian Church.

The Christian Church at Alma is of comparatively recent origin, having been organized in 1910. Rev. George H. Carl was the moving spirit in the organization of the Church, loyally assisted by J. E. Hydorn and wife, Charles Dutt and wife, B. T. Wells and wife, Miss Myra Carl, Ruth and Charles Dutt and a number of others. Rev. Carl has ministered to the wants of the society in the main, but has had the assistance of Rev. A. Mudge and Rev. John Bridwell, the latter of whom—a resident of Alma—will continue to share the labors with Mr. Carl.

The society purchased—in 1912—the old M. E. Church building which was located at the corner of Superior and Prospect Streets, and moved it to a site in the east part of the city, on Pine Street. The renovated and remodled building serves well the necessities of the society. The membership is about 70, and regular weekly services are held. A Sunday school with about 75 scholars is regularly maintained.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The Catholics of Alma can boast of a strong church organization, considering the size of the city; and the church buildings would be a credit to a city of much greater population. The church property is well located near the park and consists of a fine church edifice and a commodious and tasty priests residence adjoining. The latter was erected during the year 1911.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The corner stone of the church building was laid June 27, 1905, the Rt. Reverend Joseph Schrembs, of Grand Rapids, conducting the ceremonies in the presence of a large concourse of people of all denominations and beliefs. The building was dedicated in 1906, by Bishop Richter, and the church was advanced to the rank of a parish and given the title of St. Mary's Parish in 1908, since which time Rev. John Mulvey has been the resident pastor. Under his administration the parish is making very satisfactory progress, and indications for the future welfare and success of the church are considered very flattering.

The churches at St. Louis, Irishtown and Shepherd are attached to St. Mary's as missions.

### Adventist Church.

In an early day the Adventist Church at Alma was a strong organization. It was founded in the early '60s and had among others, for its charter members such prominent citizens as James Gargett, Francis Nelson, Amos Johnson, Mrs. Huldah Johnson, Mrs. Mary Lathrop and many others. Rev. A. O. Burrell was one of the early ministers and continued in that capacity many years. Their church building located on Hastings Street, corner of Water Street, was erected in the year 1880, and was dedicated May 7, 1881; and out of debt. The present minister, or "local elder" as he is called, is Daniel C. Wood, who has served as the head of the local organization for about 20 years, is a son of James Wood, a pioneer of Pine River Township, and is a brother of Rev. C. L. Wood, a resident of Alma and a bishop in the United Brethren Church.

Pastor Dan. C. Wood says that weekly services are maintained the year around; also a Sunday school, and that the church at the present time has about 30 communicants.

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### United Brethren Church.

The United Brethren Church of Alma was organized in the late '80s. Some of the early members were Sol. Wright and wife, Mr. Bryant and wife, Mrs. Purvis, T. Campbell and wife. Mrs. Robbins and Rev. T. Robinson were early pastors. The society had no church building until 1899, when it purchased the Baptist Church edifice, located on Hastings Street, the Baptists purchasing the Presbyterian Church structure, located at the corner of State and Hastings Street; their present house of worship. At the re-dedication of the church by the United Brethren, the services were conducted by Bishop Horace T. Barnaby, so well known as one of Gratiot's most prominent pioneers.

Rev. C. L. Wood, son of James Wood, of Pine River, was a former pastor of the church, and was for 20 years presiding elder of the district. Still residing in Alma, he has been a bishop for more than eight years, having been elected for the third time at the church conference of May, 1912. His territory embraces Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, South Dakota, Nebraska and Northern Illinois.

The church at Alma has no regular pastor at the present time, and services are irregular and only occasional. Rev. J. S. Potter was the last regular pastor.

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### Christian Scientists.

The First Church of Christian Scientists of Alma was organized in the year 1900 under a state charter. Some of the leaders in the movement for the organization of the Society, and charter members when it was formed are Wm. J. Gargett, Mrs. Ella F. Ellison, E. R. White, Mrs. Almeda White, Otto Sanderhoff, Mrs. Louise (Gargett) Sanderhoff.

The church has about 20 members. Services are held in the K. of P. Hall. Sunday services at 10:30 a. m. are conducted by two readers, one reading from the Bible, the other from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures", the Christian Science text book, by Mary Baker Eddy.

The Wednesday evening services are a prayer and testimony meeting. All who attend the services find a cordial welcome. A Sunday school is maintained in connection, and is in a fairly flourishing condition.

## FIRST STATE BANK.

The First State Bank of Alma was organized and established in the year 1880, with W. S. Turck, W. E. Winton, J. H. Seaver, C. E. Webster, A. B. Darragh and John W. Lewis as the original stockholders. It was started as a private banking institution, with a capital of $10,000. G. S. Ward was made cashier of the new bank. The institution was known as the Bank of Turck, Winton & Co., and proved to be a great convenience, not only to the Village of Alma, but to the surrounding country as well, and it was successful from the start.

After about three years a re-organization of the bank took place, the new firm being composed of W. S. Turck, A. W. Wright, G. S. Ward, J. H. Seaver and C. E. Webster. The name was changed to W. S. Turck & Co. and G. S. Ward was continued as cashier, his management of the business having been highly satisfactory.

The bank continued as a private institution with constantly increasing business and popularity until the year 1901, when another change took place, the institution assuming its present name—First State Bank of Alma—and of course coming under State supervision. The capital stock was increased to $30,000.

In December, 1901, owing to failing health, Mr. Ward resigned as cashier, after a continuous service of over 20 years in that capacity. His place was filled by the appointment of Ely Brewbaker as cashier. Mr. Brewbaker had served as a clerk in the bank for several years, and was well qualified for the responsible position to which he was promoted. Chas. O. Ward was made assistant cashier, and John Knoertzer was made teller. After about three years' service as assistant cashier, Mr. Ward resigned the position and removed to New Mexico.

Upon the death of Cashier Brewbaker in the fall of 1910, G. S. Ward was called to act as cashier until the position could be permanently filled, and C. H. Washburn, who had been for several years a clerk in the bank, was made assistant cashier.

At a meeting of the directors of the bank held in November, 1910, C. H. Washburn was chosen as permanent cashier, and John Knoertzer was made assistant. The need of a second assistant cashier having become clearly manifest, C. O. Ward was added to the office force as an assistant cashier, July, 1912.

Without in any way detracting from the efficiency and good standing of any other member of the office, it is but just to say that the administration of Mr. Washburn as cashier has been particularly gratifying and highly satisfactory both to the bank and to its patrons. He has made himself popular with all by his pleasant manner as well as by his painstaking and accurate business methods.

The growth of this bank's business has been especially satisfactory from date of its first organization. It commenced business in what is now Wheaton's drug store, corner of Superior and State Streets. When the Wright House block was built the bank took up its quarters in rooms especially arranged and fitted up for it in that block, and there it has ever since remained. The growth and magnitude of its business is indicated by a late report which shows total resources of over $600,000. Its officers and stockholders are among the strongest and most enterprising business men of the city.

The bank's board of directors is made up of the following named gentlemen at the present time—June, 1913: G. S. Ward, L. A. Sharp, Francis King, P. M. Smith, C. H. Washburn, C. O. Ward, C. G. Rhodes. The officers are:

President—G. S. Ward; 1st Vice-President—L. A. Sharp; 2nd Vice-President—Francis King; Cashier—Carl H. Washburn; Assistant Cashier—J. S. Knoertzer; Assistant Cashier—Chas. O. Ward.

This is an institution that has shown its trustworthiness by many years of faithful service; a test that naturally appeals to the patrons, and calls for a continuance of confidence.

## ALMA STATE SAVINGS BANK.

This bank was organized in June, 1901. It was thought that there was a fair opening for a second bank in Alma; and the history of the bank then organized fully justifies the conclusion. The original stockholders were William A. Bahlke, Leonard Carpenter, Mary C. Bahlke, Kate W. Carpenter, Dr. J. H. Lancashire, Fred R. Hathaway, Samuel W. Webber, James H. Ruel, Lester H. Hayt, Jotham Allen, James E. Mitchell, George E. Sharrar, Arthur E. Mulholland, James W. Robinson, George S. Young, Byron S. Webb, Dr. Nelson F. McClinton, Mrs. Mariam Tinker, Clinton Nelson, Daniel L. Sharrar, Dr. Edgar A. Bagley, George C. Parsons, Charles H. La Flamboy and J. Clizbe. These were prominent and respected citizens and business people of Alma.

W. A. Bahlke, anticipating the organization of this institution, began early in the spring of 1901 to construct what is now known as the Bahlke Block, in which building the Alma State Savings Bank was opened for business July 1, 1901. The capital stock of the bank was $25,000. The first board of directors was constituted as follows: W. A. Bahlke, Dr. J. H. Lancashire, Fred R. Hathaway, James H. Ruel, L. H. Hayt, C. H. LaFlamboy and D. L. Sharrar. The first officers were: W. A. Bahlke, President; Dr. J. H. Lancashire, First Vice-President; F. R. Hathaway, Second Vice-President; George W. Moore, Cashier.

Mr. Moore had been for many years connected with the Commercial Savings Bank of St. Louis, Mich. He proved to be a very competent and worthy official, and remained with the bank as its cashier until the 15th of October, 1910, when at his urgent request his resignation was accepted, and Fred H. Rowland, who organized the Bank of Riverdale in 1905, was elected cashier. Mr. Rowland's health was such as to require him to engage in outside work, and he resigned September 1, 1911. Hira C. Moore, of Detroit, was elected cashier and began his work on that date.

Hira C. Moore is a natural banker. He has spent the most of his life in close connection with the business, and loves the work. He was a State Bank Examiner for two years and has learned the work in all its branches. The bank under his supervision has continued its record of progress and improvement and has become an ideal institution in the estimation of the business public.

The bank was a success from its inception. It made profits exceeding six per cent. during the first year of its existence. July 15, 1901, its total footings, including its capital stock, were only $40,306.37. There has not been a year, from that date to the present time in which it has not shown a steady and healthy growth. January 1, 1913, its capital, surplus and undivided profits were $49,566.32. Its total footings on that date were $296,980.14. It pays a regular semi-annual dividend of six per cent. The last year has shown more rapid growth and development than any previous year, and under the management and leadership of its new cashier its continued growth and success are assured.

The present board of directors consist of W. A. Bahlke, Hira C. Moore, Jotham Allen, Jas. E. Mitchell, D. L. Sharrar, Dr. E. A. Bagley and Geo. C.

Parsons. President—W. A. Bahlke; Vice-President—Jotham Allen; Cashier—Hira C. Moore; Assistant Cashier—Karl R. Adams; Bookkeeper—Flora M. Wise; Clerk—Clifford W. Carey.

The business of the bank having outgrown the original banking office built for it, the directors, at their meeting October 4, 1910, authorized the purchase of the Vermuelen Block, south side of Superior Street. March 1, 1913, work was begun on the new banking office in the block mentioned, and it was completed and ready for occupancy the following autumn. The new office is unexcelled for elegance, convenience, comfort and security, and certainly is, and will continue to be, greatly appreciated by the public.

## ALMA BOARD OF TRADE.

The commercial and industrial interests of Alma are looked after by the Alma Board of Trade. This association was organized in 1905 by about 100 of Alma's leading business and professional men. Francis King was its first president, and he was followed, in the order indicated, by J. H. Lancashire, Jas. W. Robinson and Wm. A. Bahlke. The present officers are, President—Chas. F. Brown; Vice-President—Chas. G. Rhodes; Treasurer—Carl Washburn; Secretary—D. L. Johnson.

Several industries have been brought to the city through the activities of the Board, and many of Alma's improvement can be traced to the concerted effort of its business men through this organization. Its greatest good is felt to be its tendency to harmonize its individual business interests for the general betterment of the city as a whole.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### G. A. R., No. 152.

Wm. Moyer Post No. 152 was organized June 11, 1883, with the following charter members:

Wm. H. Hull, G. S. Ward, A. Yerington, Elon F. Moyer, Geo. C. Beebe, Francis Palmer, Chas. H. Axtell, Samuel Brewbaker, Seth R. Cole, John Hicks, Geo. Bahlke, S. H. Loveland, Wm. Adams, J. J. Trott, L. F. Hall, Henry Wiser, M. F. Burkhead, D. S. Carr, Jeremiah Smith, Martin V. Allen, John N. Clow, Joseph G. Hayden.

The following named comrades have served the Post as commanders one or more years each, since the organization of the Post in 1883: W. H. Hull, Chas. Axtell, Ezra Robinson, John N. Clow, Garwood E. Kress, John Greig, E. N. Chadwick, J. J. Trott, W. A. Thomas, W. S. Turck, O. A. Sharp, Wm. Gargett, J. W. Holmes, V. M. Wilson, Geo. Willard, Henry Wise, R. R. Purvis, L. Stevens, Joseph Sartor, J. C. Gardner.

The present membership of the Post is 43; the highest number on the roll at any one time was 70; the total membership from first to last foots up 167.

John Greig, now deceased, held the position of adjutant 13 years.

Present officers, 1913: Com.—Chester A. Walker; S. V. Com.—Joseph Sartor, Sr.; J. V. Com.—Solomon Wilbur; Q. M.—J. C. Gardner; Chap.—Rodney Purvis; Guard—M. Barber; Surgeon—Warren Rollin; Adj.—Edd Griffiths; O. of D.—Ezra Robinson.

### W. R. C., No. 183.

Wm. Moyer Relief Corps No. 183, was instituted July 2, 1889, with the following named persons as charter members:

Huldah Bogardus, Ann Briggs, Anna Clow, Hattie Davis, Frances S. Palmer, Mary Graham, Emeline Sartor, Mary Robinson, Emeline Sparks, Martha Sharp, Mary G. Richards, Louise A. Turck, Kate Gibson, Almira Picket, Ada L. Greig, Mary A. Lockwood, M. A. Weaver, Mary Trott, E. P. Farrow, Elizabeth Rollin, Louise Stewart, Mary Grames, Amelia Wilbur, Almira Picket, Mary Clow, Phebe Tally.

Following is the list of first officers of the Corps:

Pres.—Mrs. Huldah Bogardus; Sr. V. P.—Mrs. Anna Briggs; Jr. V. P.—Mrs. Mary Weaver; Treas.—Mrs. Frances S. Palmer; Sec.—Mrs. Hattie Davis; Chap.—Mrs. Mary A. Lockwood; Con.—Mrs. Louise Stewart; Asst. Con.—Mrs. Ada L. Greig; Guard—Mrs. Mary Robinson; Asst. Guard —Mrs. Martha Sharp.

The following named ladies have served one or more years as President since the Corps was instituted in 1889 by Mrs. Sara L. Brown, of Ithaca:

Huldah Bogardus, Louise A. Turck, Sarah Taylor, Martha Walker, Mary Thomas, Ada L. Greig, Martha Fraker, Celia Conkrite, Henrietta Hubbell, Flora Stevens, Maryette Hawley.

Officers for 1913: Pres.—Cora Lewis; S. V. Pres.—Alice Titus; J. V. Pres.—Amelia Wilbur; Sec.—Martha Fraker; Treas.—Martha Walker; Con. —Hattie Walker; Guard—Gladys Gray; Ass't Con.—Maggie Hutchings; Ass't Guard—Carrie Allen; Pat. Inst.—Emma Struble; Press Cor.—Frances Hawley; Color B.—Martha Sharp, Mary Robinson, Mary Ruhl, Elizabeth Rollin.

### Free and Accepted Masons.

Alma Lodge No. 244, F. & A. M., was chartered January 15, 1869.

Charter members: Thos. Bamborough, H. E. Kingsley, I. C. Bowen, Dan'l R. Sullivan, J. H. Miller, D. C. Chapin, Michael Pollasky, C. C. Clark, N. P. Watts, G. S. Ward, S. Wolf, C. W. Courter, Ralph Ely, Isaac Church, Joseph Backus, Geo. Chandler, S. F. Anderson.

Past Worshipful Masters—Thos. Bamborough, 1868, '69, '70, '71; H. E. Kingsley, 1872, '73; C. W. Courter, 1874, '75, '76, '77; M. Pollasky, 1878, '79, '80, '81, '82; G. S. Ward, 1883, '84, '85; Wm. S. Turck, 1886; Byron S. Webb, 1887, '88, '89, '90, '03; Wm. A. Bahlke, 1891; Martin Montigel, 1892, '93; Ferdinand Montigel, 1894, '95; Wm. Kelley, 1896, '97, '98, 99, 1900, '04; H. E. Myers, 1901, '02; Justin E. Gill, 1905; A. H. Olmsted, 1906, '07; Isaac Fink, 1908, '09; D. L. Johnson, 1910; J. N. Day, S. L. Bennett.

Present officers: W. M.—Charles R. Murphy; S. W.—George H. Peery; J. W.—Jesse E. Fuller; Sec.—John S. Knoertzer; Treas.—Ezra L. Smith; S. D.—Frank O. Parker; J. D.—O. W. Hayes; S. S.—E. A. Wood; J. S. —Karl Adams; Chap.—Rev. F. Jackson; Grand M.—F. A. Gill; Tyler— D. P. Struble.

Membership, 257.

### Order of Eastern Star.

Alma Lodge was organized January 19, 1887, working under a special dispensation till chartered October 3, 1887.

Charter members: Mrs. M. Pollasky, Mrs. F. D. Adams, Mrs. B. D. Hulbert, Miss Lottie Bahlke, Mrs. G. S. Ward, Mrs. E. L. Stark, Mrs. Mary J. Wood, Mrs. Mary Yerington, Mrs. L. A. Turck, Mrs. Celia Brewbaker, Mrs. Mary Davidson, Mrs. Abbie Montigel, Mrs. Augusta Schwartz, Mrs. Eliza Adams, Mrs. Anna Messinger, G. S. Ward, S. Brewbaker, W. S. Turck, Wm. Adams, Marcus Pollasky, S. Messinger, Frank Wood, Chas. Davis, D. R. Sullivan, J. F. Schwartz, M. Pollasky, M. E. Pollasky, Geo. Bahlke, F. D. Adams.

Past Worthy Grand Matron—Mrs. Louise A. Turck, 1894, '95.

Past Worthy Matrons—Mrs. Anna Messinger, 1888; Mrs. Louise A. Turck, 1889, '90, '91, '92, '94; Mrs. Minnie Smith, 1893; Mrs. Hannah Hall, 1895, 1900, '01, '02; Mrs. Abbie Montigel, 1896, '97; Mrs. Olive Caple, 1898, '99; Mrs. Martha Russell, 1903, '04; Mrs. Frances Howe, 1905, '06; Mrs. Flora E. Day, 1907; Mrs. Cora Smith, 1908, '09; Mrs. Berdie Gill, 1910.

Present officers: W. M.—Mattie Parr; W. P.—Geo. Gulick; Associate M.—Kate Doane; Sec.—Arla Chick; Treas.—Carrie Fuller; Warder—Lena Creaser; Sent.—Ralph Miller; Con.—Odessa Miller; Associate Con.—Deva Perry; Adah—Birdie Gill; Ruth—Matie Wheaton; Esther—Minnie Crandell; Martha—Jessie Wright; Electa—Martha Russell; Chap.—Sarah Taylor.

Membership, 129.

### Royal Arch Masons.

Alma Chapter No. 123, R. A. M., was chartered January 18, 1889, with charter members as follows:

Wm. S. Turck, Dan'l R. Sullivan, Fred E. Fairchild, John S. Caple, Max E. Pollasky, Travis A. Miller, Michael Pollasky, J. M. Montigel, Byron S. Webb, Stephen W. Tinker, Isaac Russell, Geo. F. Hunting.

Past Grand High Priest—Wm. S. Turck, 1882.

Past High Priests—Wm. S. Turck, 1889; M. Pollasky, 1890 to 1904; 1906, '07, '08; B. S. Webb, 1905; E. A. Bagley, 1909, '10.

Present officers: H. P.—Frank E. Ellsworth; K.—Michael Pollasky; S.—E. A. Bagley; Treas.—Fred C. Rowland; Sec.—D. L. Johnson; C. of H.—Isaac Russell; P. S.—J. M. Montigel; R. A. C.—Walter W. Caple; M. 3rd V.—Maynard Pringle; M. 2nd V.—Edward Lake; M. 1st V.—Geo. Gulick; S.—D. P. Struble.

Membership, 70.

### I. O. O. F.

Alma Lodge No. 238, I. O. O. F., was organized July 23, 1886, the names of the sponsors, as shown by the charter, being J. F. Suydam, H. H. Grover, Wilson Brown, Nathan Belbeck, B. F. Worthington.

Odd Fellows Temple is owned by the order. It is a fine structure, costing about $12,000. The present membership of the order is about 150.

Officers, September, 1913, are as follows: N. G.—Jesse Walker; V. G.—Geo. Soper; Sec.—Ben. L. Walker; Treas.—Jas. Foster; Trustees—O. F. Parker, W. W. Medler, M. A. Medler; Warden—Claude Struble; R. S. N. G.—Geo. Carter; L. S. N. G.—J. L. Carmer; R. S. V. G.—O. L. Paulus; L. S. V. G.—John D. Sullivan; Con.—N. E. Saad; I. G.—Wm. Allen; O. G.—John Cook; Chap.—C. F. Renner; R. S. S.—Bert Bailey; L. S. S.—J. E. Atkinson; Past G.—W. E. Medler.

### Alma Encampment No. 62.

H. P.—W. E. Medler; J. W.—Jesse Walker; S. W.—W. D. Allen; Scribe—M. A. Medler; Treas.—John Cook.

### I. O. O. F. Canton.

Pine River Canton No. 47, I. O. O. F., was organized May 1, 1907, with the following as active members:

Geo. M. Hodgkinson, Chas. Fishbeck, Geo. Soper, Wm. H. Rogers, Fred Thornton, J. L. Carmer, J. G. Walker, Frank Elliott, H. A. Becker, E. Newcomer, C. S. Clark, Earl W. Young, Chas. Myers, R. W. Anderson, Claude Struble, Peter Kaufenburger, Robert Murker.

Present officers are, Capt.—E. R. Newcomer; Lt.—Jesse Walker; Ensign—H. A. Becker; Clerk—J. L. Carmer; Treas.—M. A. Medler; Drill M.—Geo. Soper.

### Rebeccas.

Superior Rebecca Lodge No. 101, was instituted April 14, 1887, the following appearing as the petitioners:

Frankie Brown, Ella Worthington, Maggie Hutchins, Mary Brown, Huldah Bogardus, Hattie Raynor, Frank Rodman, Selma Sartor.

Officers, October, 1913: N. G.—Myrtle Miller; V. G.—Sarah Foster; Past N. G.—Nina Williams; Sec.—Addie Amsden; Treas.—Alma Saad; F. Sec.—Carrie Walker; R. S. N. G.—Sadie Cook; L. S. N. G.—Etta Medler; R. S. V. G.—Martha Walker; L. S. V. G.—Ada Howe; Warden—Elsie Boyer; Con.—Cora Atkinson; I. G.—Dora Sharp; O. G.—Leah Smith; Chap.—Alice Carmer; Aud. Com.—Sarah Foster, Edna Abbott, Alice Medler.

### Maccabees.

Alma Tent No. 384, K. O. T. M. M., was chartered February 24, 1891, and started business under officers as follows:

Past Com.—Jerome Travis; Com.—N. G. Davidson; Lt. Com.—J. W. S. Opdyke; R. K.—W. A. Paine; F. K.—C. W. Yerington; Prel.—W. Stitt; Phy.—I. N. Brainerd; Ser.—R. D. Lemen; M. of A.—F. W. Hill; 1st M. of G.—A. Hitchcock; 2nd M. of G.—J. W. Dean; Sent.—J. T. Northron; Pick.—A. Herrick.

Officers, 1913: Com.—D. L. Sharrar; Lt. Com.—Guy Lockwood; R. K.—C. J. Brown; F. K.—C. J. Brown; Phy.—E. A. Bagley, M. D.; Chap.—Rev. J. Frank Jackson; Ser.—A. J. Bittner; M. of A.—F. E. Gray; 1st M. of G.—P. T. Banghart; 2nd M. of G.—S. L. Bennett; Sent.—Frank Keefer; Pick.—W. D. Strong.

### L. O. T. M. M.

Alma Hive No. 332, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees was organized with charter members as follows:

Adell Eckert, Bertha Richards, Adelia Dallas, Louise E. Gargett, Charlotta Cargill, Huldah A. Bogardus, Florence Hodgkinson, Doda E. M. Carey, Kate C. Taylor, Hattie Wimple, Emma Morden, Prudence Webb, Mary A. Struble, Sarah I. Atkinson, Henrietta G. Hubbell.

First officers were installed as follows:

Past Com.—Minnie R. Wilson; Com.—Estella L. Lemen; Lt. Com.—Katharine M. Davidson; R. K.—Maud E. Fisher; F. K.—Addie A. Dean; Chap.—Ada L. Greig; Ser.—Blanche E. Post; Mat.—Quintilla Ferris; Sent.—Anna Leonard; Pick.—Margaretha Leonard.

Officers for 1913: Com.—Mrs. Will Medler; Lt. Com.—Mrs. Herbert Stoddard; Past Com.—Mrs. Dewitt Vought; Chap.—Mrs. Gleason; R. K.—Mrs. Duncan McPhaul; F. K.—Mrs. Henrietta Hubbell; M. at A.—Mrs. Etta Keefer; Ser.—Mrs. Myrtle Harvey; Sent.—Mrs. Cora Lewis; Pick.—Mrs. Mary Parker; Dis. Dep'ty—Mrs. Mary Clow.

### Knights of Pythias.

Fitz James Lodge No. 95, was chartered March 19, 1891, and the following names are recorded as those of the charter members:

Daniel H. Adams, Arthur D. Amsden, Wm. H. Bemis, Geo. W. Burt, Benj. C. Button, Darius H. Clark, Fred J. Hale, Wm. Kelly, Jas. G. Kress, N. J. McCullough, Chas. J. McNally, Frank Medler, Bart. Miller, Lysander W. Miller, Ammi W. Pequegnat, Perley M. Smith, John D. Spinney, Orlando J. Stilwell, Jacob E. Stuttz.

Present officers: C. C.—E. J. Burr; V. C.—C. S. Hulse; Prelate—J. D. Helman; M. of W.—W. H. Parr; M. of Ex.—J. S. Knoertzer; M. of F.—J. E. Fuller; K. of R. and S.—W. A. Howlett; M. at A.—D. Vought; I. G.—M. E. Root; O. G.—John Luchini.

The order has 151 members.

### Uniform Rank, K. of P.

Edelweiss Co., No. 4, Uniform Rank, K. of P., was chartered March 28, 1902, with original officers as follows:

Capt.—Caris Brown; 1st Lt.—Geo. E. Sharrar; 2nd Lt.—M. A. Medler; Recorder—Marvin Harvey; Treas.—Wm. H. Anderson; Guard—J. F. Sartor, Jr.; Sent.—D. C. Anderson.

Present officers: Capt.—J. E. Fuller; First Lieut.—F. M. Ellicott; Second Lieut.—J. A. Smith; Recorder—W. A. Howlett; Treas.—V. A. Miner.

### Pythian Sisters.

Royal Temple No. 16, Pythian Sisters, was instituted October 23, 1895, and was favored with officers as follows:

Most Ex. Ch.—Minnie Smith; Ex. Sen.—Carrie Watson; Ex. Jr.—Lizzie Medler; Manager—Harrietta Miller; M. of Rec. and Cor.—Kate Davidson; M. of Finance—Mattie Nichols; Protector of T.—Anna Messinger; G. of the O. T.—Carrie Brown; Past Ch.—Kate Spinney.

Present officers: M. E. C.—Flora Howlett; E. S.—Nellie McPhee; E. J.—Mary McLean; M. of R. and C.—Carrie Fuller; M. of F.—Ellen Ellicott; M.—Hattie White; P. of T.—Mabel Walters; G. of O. T.—Gertrude McCullough; P. C.—Daisy Wright.

### M. W. of America.

Alma Camp No. 8142, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized May 28, 1900, the following being a list of the charter members:

Wm. J. Bishbing, Ernest Bloomer, Fred R. Dalrymple, Judson Ferrenberg, Joseph W. Henderson, Chas. A. Humphrey, Royal M. Hyde, Peter

Kaufenburger, Wm. H. Miner, Archie McKinley, Chas. A. Olds, Albert Ovenhouse, Jas. E. Pierce, N. F. McClinton, Andrew K. McLuney, Orin E. Shattuck, Geo. Weirnoch, Rollin A. Wood, Harlan Hall, Frank A. Johnson.

Present officers: Consul — B. J. Amsden; Adviser — D. P. Hole; Banker—J. E. Fuller; Clerk—Gloyd White; Escort—M. E. Root; Watchman—E. B. Berman; Sentry—Floyd Luchini; Trustee, three years—W. H. Miner; Trustee, two years—G. H. Carl; Trustee, one year—A. R. Isham; Past Com.—H. L. White.

Present membreship, 123 benficial; five social.

### Royal Neighbors.

Rosewood Camp No. 3281, was instituted November 25, 1902, with charter members as follows:

Carrie D. Stoddard, May Baldwin, Eva M. Dillon, Nora E. Davis, Lydia E. Sprague, Minnie M. Anderson, Maggie Snyder, Dr. Edward Lamb, Walter W. M. Anderson, Mabelle Lamb, Sarah Humphrey, Dora Sharp, Minnie Campbell, Herbert Stoddard, A. H. Dillon, Clyde Campbell, Jay Baldwin, E. Sprague, C. A. Humphrey.

The list of Past Oracles is as follows: Mrs. Sarah Humphrey, one year; Mrs. J. E. Fuller, two years; Mrs. Fannie Mack, one year; Mrs. M. Hagadorn, two years; Mrs. J. E. Fuller, again two years.

Present officers are: Oracle—Mrs. May Munn; V. O.—Mrs. M. E. Root; Receiver—Mrs. Winnie Story; Recorder—Mrs. Carrie E. Fuller; Chan.—Mrs. Defa Perry; Mar.—Mrs. Dora Sharp; Sent.—Mrs. Mary Atkinson; Out. Sent.—Mrs. Lefa Secord.

Membership, 28.

### Foresters.

Alma Court No. 778 was instituted October 4, 1893, with charter members as follows:

M. T. Chapin, P. M. Smith, A. R. Dingman, T. A. Davis, J. W. Glass, W. A. Paine, L. Gee, C. E. Beebe, M. Downing, W. Thomas, E. A. Bagley, J. W. Weatherdon, O. D. Abbott, H. Fuller, H. W. Moore, F. Ellicott, E. P. Caldwell, R. Fredericks, E. Hooper, J. G. Chase.

The first set of officers are given as follows:

C. D. H. Ch. R.—M. T. Chapin; Ch. R.—P. M. Smith; V. Ch. R.—A. R. Dingman; F. S.—J. W. Glass; Chap.—J. W. Weatherdon; S. W.—F. Gee; S. B.—M. Downing; P. C. R.—E. A. Bagley; R. S.—T. A. Davis; Treas.—W. A. Paine; Phy.—E. A. Bagley; J. W.—C. E. Beebe; J. B.—W. A. Thomas.

P. M. Smith is present secretary, and L. N. Baker financial secretary.

### Court of Honor.

Alma Court of Honor was organized January 10, 1898, and was officered as follows:

Chancellor—J. M. Montigel; Vice Chancellor—Mrs. J. C. Bright; Recorder—Dr. W. R. Purmont; Treas.—Robert Murkar; Chap.—T. J. Lyon; Con.—Mrs. E. G. Torrey; Guard—Mrs. D. H. Clark.

Officers for 1913: Past Chancellor—Robert Murkar; Chancellor—Geo. Bahlke; Vice Chancellor—Susie Bahlke; Recorder—D. L. Johnson; Chaplain—Ella Lyon; Conductor—Harry Burris; Guard—Arthur Udell; Sentinel—Louis Kehn; Directors—J. M. Montigel, Louis Kehn, Geo. Bahlke.

## ALMA'S INDUSTRIES.

### Beet Sugar Factory.

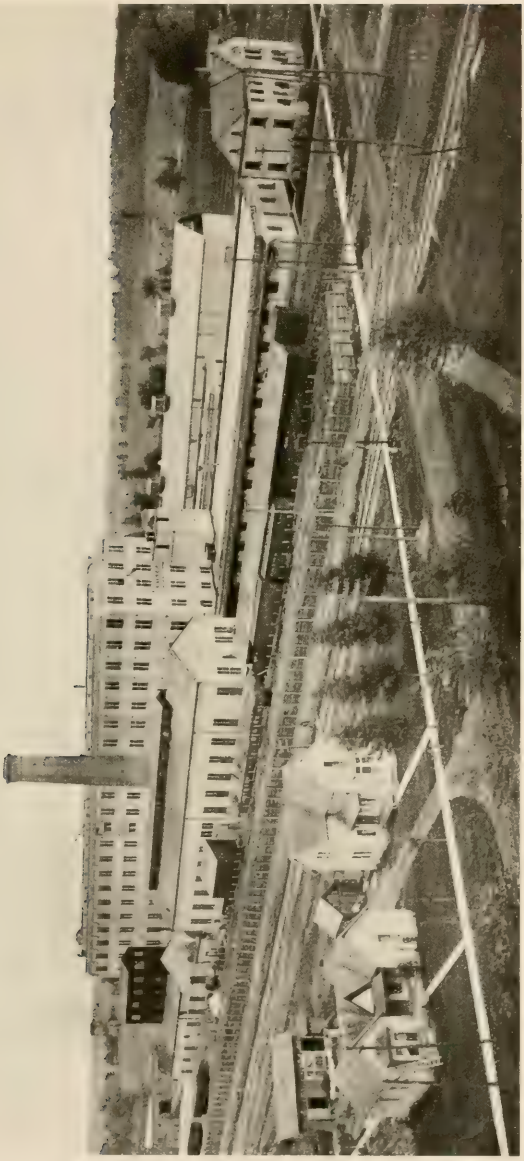
In writing, briefly, of Alma's industrial institutions, it affords me great pleasure to acknowledge valuable aid rendered by Attorney D. L. Johnson. With equal or even greater pleasure I mention the fact that in case there are any errors or inaccuracies the blame, also, may very properly be laid to him.

At Alma is located one of the most extensive beet sugar factories in Michigan, and the first to be established in Gratiot County. The factory was decided upon and its erection was begun in 1898. The agitation of the subject of sugar beet raising was begun in this state in the early '90s. As is well known, previous to that time our domestic sugar was made almost wholly from the sugar cane. The greater portion of beet sugar used in this country, previous to that time was imported from Germany and other foreign countries where it entered successfully into competition with the cane products.

Our Agricultural College took the matter of raising sugar beets in this state under advisement, and after making extensive analyses of Michigan soil, found that the clay soil was admirably adapted to the raising of the beets, especially so in the Saginaw Valley. The conditions of sugar beet culture, especially in Germany, were studied carefully, and the methods of beet sugar manufacture were closely observed. But, after extended research covering a period of several years, our wise men of the Agricultural College decided that, while the soil conditions were splendid for raising the beets in the central portions of the state, the raising of the beets involved such peculiar labor conditions that the industry could not be carried on successfully in this country. They decided that the beets would have to be produced within a radius of not to exceed seven miles from the central factory, and that four miles was the limit for really successful hauling.

Notwithstanding the many discouragements advanced by those who seemed best fitted and qualified to judge of the feasibility of sugar beet raising in this and adjoining counties, there were many who held a different view of the matter, and who believed they could see vast possibilities in the culture of sugar beets. Among those earliest convinced of this was A. W. Wright, of Alma, the man who had already done so much for the material advancement of Alma and the county in general. Action followed closely on decision, and early in the year 1898 arrangements were inaugurated for the erection of a factory at Alma. Experiments in beet raising were carried on and tests of different varieties were made. Ground was broken during that year for the erection of the plant—the Alma Sugar Factory—and the work was pushed well along toward completion during that season. The company was financed largely by Mr. Wright who was made president of the company. Other citizens of the county were invited to join as stockholders, and some contributed as liberally as their means would allow. None of these have ever regretted the investment.

The immense building was erected by the Kelby Manufacturing Company and was completed in ample time to take care of the beet crop of 1899. Expert chemists were employed, some being brought direct from the mills of Germany. Every possible precaution was taken to avoid errors, but they crept in to such an extent that the first few years of sugar making in



MICHIGAN SUGAR CO.—ALMA PLANT.

Gratiot came near verifying the predictions of the Michigan Agricultural College. The company made little complaint, however, taking their medicine with smiles.

The discouragements fell most heavily upon the farmers; those who could least afford to stand the losses; losses brought on, in a measure, by their own errors. Gratiot County farmers were in poor condition for the raising of this crop. Few farms were tiled, and many were covered with foul weeds and seeds, and with worse mortgages. Labor was fairly plentiful, but money to pay with was scarce. Lack of funds with which to take care of the crop ruined many a bright prospect. The work of beet raising was (and is) arduous. The roads, particularly at hauling time, were extremely bad. Every condition surrounding the farmer tended to discourage the raising of beets. The officers of the sugar company, however, had no use for the word failure. They swallowed hard, but kept on smiling. They employed field men to go about instructing and encouraging the farmers. They loaned them money with which to take care of the crop, taking the prospective crop for security. They offered prizes. They did everything possible to decrease the labor and expense and insure success in the cultivation of the beet. The result, now observable to the most obtuse, has fully justified the faith and work of the company.

One of the most important results accruing from the establishing of sugar beet culture in the county is the greatly improved condition of the roads. The time for the heavy hauling came when the roads were generally at their worst, and the farmers were not slow to see that vigorous measures must be adopted to permanently better the conditions. And the Sugar Company was not backward in the matter; in fact, it may be said that it led in the good work. The company—the term in large measure meaning Mr. Wright—took hold of the work. Thousands of dollars were laid out in turnpiking and graveling. The townships adjoining Alma took the fever, and with the State Aid Law to encourage them, began the construction of many miles of the finest kind of graveled roads. These things put the farmers in better humor. They had no especial grievance against the Sugar Company, but the raising of the beets, so far as profits were concerned, had looked like a failure. However, with the improvement of the roads, with better knowledge of beet culture gained by experience, and with the improved conditions of their farms by the thorough culture required, the farmers soon began to see light ahead, and at the present time a large percentage of them justly consider sugar beet raising their most profitable line of agricultural activity. Beet raising has lifted the mortgage from many a farm, and today the farmers of Gratiot County are comparatively independent. They are largely out of debt, and many of them carry comfortable bank accounts and ride in their own autos.

In the meantime, while the changes for the better were going on, as mentioned, methods at the factory were changing and improving. When it was found that the farmers could not haul away the pulp from the mill as fast as it accumulated, a dryer was constructed. This evaporates the water from the pulp of the beets—a by-product—and thus making a valuable article for dairy feeding.

In 1906 several of the sugar companies of the state united their interests into the corporation known as the Michigan Sugar Company, designating each separate plant by its individual name. So, since that year the Alma Sugar Company has been known as the "Michigan Sugar Company, Alma Plant."

The Company's buildings, a cut of which is shown in this connection, are located in the southeastern part of the city. The main building, five stories high and built of white brick, is 300 feet long by 90 feet wide. The boiler house, also of white brick, contains 10 boilers of 300 horse-power capacity. The lime kiln has a capacity of 45 tons of lime per day. The beet sheds, of wood construction, are 500 feet long with four "flumes" of 1,500 tons of beets, each. The sugar storehouse is a one-story brick, 200 feet long and 75 feet wide. The cooper shop is of white brick and has a capacity of 300 barrels per day, and 30,000 sugar barrels are manufactured each year. The pulp dryer, of white brick, two stories high, evaporates 45 tons of dried pulp daily. The office building, of white brick is 30 by 55 feet in size and two stories. Other buildings are the seed house, barns, coal sheds, etc. The entire plant has a floor space of practically 250,000 square feet.

Jotham Allen, a life-long resident of Emerson Township, son of Ransom Allen, one of Emerson's first settlers, is the local manager of the sugar plant. He has been with the company since its inception and by superior merit has reached, and is maintaining, a high place in the executive activities of this important institution.

### Central Michigan Produce Company.

This is a Michigan corporation, organized in 1905, with a capital stock of $100,000. It occupies a large four-story brick structure in the factory district of Alma, where it owns about 15 acres of ground. This company buys and sells dairy products, poultry and eggs. It is a branch of the Swift Packing Company of Chicago.

The history of this business antedates its organization as a corporation by about 15 years. In the early '90s Messrs. A. W. Wright and L. A. Sharp, of Alma, organized the Alma Creamery. This institution was located in the rear of the Alma Roller Mills, and was presided over for many years by Chas. Hutchison. From this place there journeyed, daily, several teams with wagons loaded with empty cream cans to be filled in the course of a one or two-days' trip, from the milk-houses of the dairy farmers of Gratiot and surrounding counties. Thus through summer's sun and winter's freezing blasts the cream was gathered and brought to the creamery.

Gathered from a thousand dairies of varying degrees and shades of cleanliness, its condition was not improved by this primitive method of transportation. But despite this handicap the Alma Creamery was able, after various processes of cleaning and sterilizing, to produce a brand of butter that by its merits commanded fancy prices in the markets. And thus was built up a factory whose product, both in quality and quantity, was probably second to none in the State of Michigan.

With the coming of the cream separator, methods were greatly changed for the better. The primitive practice of gathering cream and hauling it to a central station was doomed. Recognizing the necessity for larger facilities and better equipment, steps were taken for the organizaton of the present company. The company and the business has been prosperous from the start, and is one of the most important institutions of the city, as well as being of inestimable convenience and benefit to the people of the surrounding country. The Central Michigan Produce Co. is manufacturing great quantities of prime butter daily from cream fresh from the separator, brought to the doors of the factory with the speed of the express trains.

This company also took over the egg and poultry business of Frank W. Brown, of Ithaca, and that branch of the company's business runs up into the thousands of dozens of eggs, and thousands of pounds of poultry annually. The company has cold storage capacity probably greater than that of any similar concern in Central Michigan. The business is at present under the efficient management of J. D. Sigler, who has been schooled in the business by that great packing house with which the company is connected.

The Central Michigan Produce Co. of Alma has ten branch houses and twenty-one receiving stations scattered over Central Michigan, from which it receives a constant flow of those farm products in which it deals.

A recently adopted branch of the business—a great novelty in this part of the country—is the raising and marketing of ducks. From a hatchery located at the plant, thousands upon thousands of ducks are hatched, matured and marketed annually. At the time this is being written—June, 1913—10,000 ducks in all stages of growth may be seen in the pens; a veritable quackery, and no mistake.

The Swift Company is constantly enlarging and beautifying its plant and grounds, in keeping with the general appearance of the city in which it is located.

### The Alma Manufacturing Company.

This company's plant occupies a plat of eleven acres in the east part of the city. It manufactures the famous McVicker gasoline engine, and auto trucks have been added to the output in late years. The company is incorporated, with a capital of $300,000. It dates its existence from 1906, and was promoted mainly by the late A. W. Wright who was its president; Francis



MANUFACTURING CO.'S PLANT.

King vice president; Wm. A. Bahlke, secretary; Howard C. Richardson, treasurer and manager.

The company's buildings are large and commodious, constructed of white brick and two stories in height. When operating at full capacity, 150 men are employed.

### Little Giant Hay Press Co.

This institution was organized and commenced operations in 1907, for the purpose of manufacturing hay presses. It manufactures presses of

various sizes. Soon after locating in its large building in the manufacturing district of the city, it began work on plans for a baling press for waste paper. This branch of the business has become an important feature, and the presses made by this company are to be found in every important city in the country.

The officers are—Pres. and Sec.—H. C. Richardson; Vice-Pres.—James W. Robinson; Treas. and Ass't Sec.—Francis King.

### Alma Motor Truck Company.

This is one of Alma's newer industries. It is a corporation, organized for the purpose of manufacturing a motor truck for commercial uses, and starts off with every evidence of proving a great success, and with ample capital for its needs furnished by Alma's business men. The company is manufacturing a ton truck known as the "Republic".

The concern is amply housed in a brick structure in the eastern part of the city, and with floor space of about 50,000 feet. Officers of the company are—Pres.—Hon. Francis King; Vice-Pres.—Frank Ruggles; Sec.—Charles G. Rhodes; Treas.—George Peery.

An enthusiastic citizen remarks that, "the hum of this factory's machinery is delightful music to the business men and the business interests of the city."

### The Home Lumber & Fuel Company.

The lumber and fuel department of the Alma Grain & Lumber Co. was sold in 1912 to a company of gentlemen from Fremont, Mich., who organized the Home Lumber & Fuel Co. This company has rebuilt the lumber and fuel sheds where the old Hamlin & Green mill stood, and has added greatly to the capacity of the institution. The officers of the company are, President—Wm. Burns; Vice-Pres.—Geo. Burns; Secretary and Treasurer—Harry Gerber.



GRAIN & LUMBER CO.'S PLANT.

### Alma Grain & Lumber Co.

This is the successor to several industrial institutions the lineal history of which extends back more than 40 years. Pierce, Ward & Hall—Isaac Pierce, G. S. Ward and Jas. T. Hall—projectors and proprietors of a lumber, shingle and lath mill in the late '60s and early '70s. Later A. W. Wright, Geo. D. Barton and J. O. Lumsden were proprietors. Still later S. W. Tinker was a part owner and continued in the business many years. Hamlin & Green put in hoop making machinery in connection, and this was a prosperous industry several years. In 1890 Edward Hannah became interested in the business, and the firm of Tinker & Hannah did business several years, and they added the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds, and later they manufactured up-to-date, ready-to-put-up inside finish, a branch of business which they continued until the Alma Grain & Lumber Co. succeeded. This company controls and operates the water power and roller mills, furnishing water and power for the city's fire protection system, and also operates the electric lighting system of the city.

The extensive and valuable plant of the Alma Grain & Lumber Co. is shown in this connection, also a glimpse of the sugar factory and the grammar school building in the distance.

## MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME.

This structure was formerly the Alma Sanitarium. The sanitarium was founded and established by A. W. Wright in the year 1885. The building is near the center of the city, west side of State Street. It is of white brick four stories high, and as a sanitarium was capable of accommodating 200



MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME.

guests. In connection with the institution is a deep well, drilled to a depth of 2,861 feet; by far the deepest medical well in the county if not in the state. A bromide-laden water was found which proved valuable in the treatment of many diseases.

When the Masonic Home at Grand Rapids burned, in 1909, the fraternity was at a loss for a suitable building in which to care for its aged members who had found a home in the Grand Rapids institution, and had been turned out by the fire. Mr. Wright, though himself not a Mason, but well known as a man of benevolent deeds, offered to place the Alma Sanitarium building in the hands of the fraternity for a home. Various and divergent views and interests delayed the acceptance of the magnificent gift for some time, but in 1911 it was finally accepted, and the Michigan Masonic Home was thus established at Alma. The building and its equipment were thoroughly overhauled and repaired under the supervision of P. G. M. Herbert Montague, of Traverse City, who afterward was made superintendent of the Home. The building contains 150 rooms, in addition to the spacious lobby, parlor, two sitting rooms, dining room and kitchen. An assembly room having a capacity for seating 500 people is used for lectures, amusements and dancing.

The building was first occupied as a Home in October, 1911. It was formally dedicated March 29, 1912. As the name implies, the Home is an institution of the Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Michigan, and is under the management of a Board of Control consisting of five members of that body and two members of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Board at present is constituted as follows: Francis D. Clarke, M. W. G. M., Flint; Wm. M. Periett, D. G. M., Detroit; Arthur M. Hume, P. G. M., Owosso; G. Roscoe Swift, P. G. M., Adrian; Lucien E. Wood, P. G. M., Niles; Mrs. Minnie E. Keyes, G. W. M., Olivet; Mrs. Emma L. Boyce, Jackson. Treasurer—Wm. Wente, Manistee; Secretary—Herbert Montague, Traverse City.

## ALMA POSTOFFICE.

Alma's postoffice, located in the Church block, is conveniently arranged for its large amount of business. It is ably and courteously conducted by the genial Charles F. Brown, ably seconded by the equally genial assistant, Ezra L. Smith. Others connected with the office are, Eli Brown, mailing clerk; Frank Parker, stamp clerk; Sarah McNamara, money order clerk.

Alma's first postmaster was Ralph Ely, who kept it in his little store, and as may well be presumed, it was a small affair in itself, but a mighty important institution to the settlers. The date of Mr. Ely's appointment was July 7, 1857. The list of his successors at Alma, with the dates of appointment is as follows: L. J. Mosher, January 18, 1858; James Gargett, August 27, 1858; George E. Gifford, April 18, 1859; Anson R. Arnold, May 10, 1859; James Gargett, April 26, 1861; Lorton Holiday, July 25, 1861; James Gargett, December 5, 1863; Theron A. Johnson, August 17, 1865; Samuel P. Buck, September 14, 1866; Charles M. Scott, December 24, 1866; Almon Yerington, November 4, 1867; Ephraim F. Quinn, March 24, 1879; Townsend A. Ely, July 19, 1881; Derwin Ely, September 7, 1885; Townsend A. Ely, January 9, 1890; William A. Bahlke, January 31, 1894; Charles F. Brown, January 10, 1898. Postmaster Brown is now serving his fourth consecutive term—his sixteenth year, his term expiring March 10, 1914.

Five rural routes radiate from Alma, with carriers as follows: Route No. 1 has John Becker, as carrier; No. 2 is served by Chester A. Walker; No. 3 by Herbert Becker; No. 4 by Eural Race; No. 5 by George Wood.

The City of Alma has free delivery by carriers within its corporate limits, served by three carriers. Those serving at the present time are

Arthur Lippert, Wilbur Price and Sheral Callihan. This service was established May 1, 1907.

The postmaster's salary at the present time is $2,400, with expense for rent and clerk hire mainly defrayed by the postoffice department; and, of course, all rural and city carriers are paid by the department.

## OTHER PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

In referring to the present business interests of the municipalities of Gratiot County, including the small villages and cross-road hamlets, and giving firm and individual names of the proprietors, there is no pretense nor purpose to formulate a business directory in these pages. The sole purpose is to give a list of dealers and business men—not presumed to be complete by any means—for future reference; to be referred to in the coming years, as showing the names of some of the men doing business in this year of grace, 1913. It is believed that this, in the years to come, will be, to many people, a valuable and interesting feature in the local histories of the towns and hamlets under consideration.

### Attorneys.

William A. Bahlke; in Bahlke Block. In practice here since 1886.

Kress & Dunham—Jas. G. Kress, practicing since 1895; John Dunham, admitted in 1911. In Opera House Block.

John D. Spinney, Pollasky Block; practicing here since 1885.

D. Lloyd Johnson, in Bahlke Block. Admitted in 1901.

Chas. H. Goggin, Pollasky Block. Ithaca and Alma practice since 1907.

### Physicians.

E. T. Lamb, in Bahlke Block, East Superior Street. In practice here since 1899.

J. Frank Suydam, in Suydam Building, Woodworth Avenue. Alma practice since 1881.

Ira N. Brainerd, proprietor Brainerd's Hospital, South State Street. In business here since 1886.

Edgar A. Bagley, East Superior Street. In practice here since 1894.

Frank C. Thornburgh, South State Street. Here since 1911.

Cyrus B. Gardner, Pollasky Block. Practiced several years at Riverdale; here since 1910.

### Dentists.

Maynard Pringle, Opera House Block. Here since 1907, coming from Carson City.

Frederick A. Gill, Pollasky Block. Alma practice since 1905, formerly at Grand Rapids.

### Veterinary Surgeons.

R. F. Erwin, 13 years' practice in Alma.

F. R. McNabb, West Superior. Came to Alma in 1912.

### Hotels.

Wright House, corner Superior and State. Wesley H. Parr Landlord since 1911.

Arcada Hotel, corner Superior and Prospect. Geo. W. Pulfrey, owner and proprietor.

Alma Hotel, South State Street; F. E. Moore, proprietor. Building erected in 1873.

Real Estate and Insurance: Thomas J. Clark—1910; Fred H. Rowland, Pres. Burdick Realty Co.—1901; J. W. Robinson; E. R. Besore; Burt, Sharrar & Moore—T. A. Burt, Geo. E. Sharrar, Geo. W. Moore—1908; H. M. Page—1913; Swigart, Sullivan & Bansil—John T. Swigart, 1901; John D. Sullivan, 1911; G. H. Bansil, 1902; Doane & Campbell; P. W. Creaser—1913.

Drugs and Sundries: Charles G. Rhodes—1887; Fred O. Grover—1909; Leonard Mitchell.

Dry Goods, Groceries, Etc.: C. L. & G. M. Delavan—1870; D. W. Robinson—1910; Cushing & Benedict—1900; L. N. Baker—1898; N. E. Saad's Stores—1913.

Groceries: M. A. Medler—1905; Ellison's Grocery—B. W. Ellison, Lloyd Ellison—1873; Murdo McIntosh—1913; R. S. Swartout—1900; Smith Bros.—John A. and Mart J. Smith—1911; Roy H. Miller—1903; George B. Hicok, Sr., George B. Hicok, Jr.—1913.

Hardware: Caple Hardware Co.—1885; Otto Sanderhoff—1898; Smith & Clapp—P. M. Smith, Earl C. Clapp—1889.

Furniture and Undetaking: Crandell & Scott—E. C. Crandell, J. B. Scott—1909; G. V. Wright—1909.

Millinery: Mrs. Sylvia Gaffney—1906; Mrs. W. S. Humphrey—1906; Mrs. S. B. Cook—1910.

Clothing, Shoes, Etc.: George J. Maier & Co.—1908; Economy Shoe Store—A. A. and J. C. Chick—1909; J. L. Miller & Son, Ralph C. Miller, Shoe Store—1913; J. Cohen & Bro.—1909; A. R. Smith, Shoe Store—1913; Fred Slater—1913.

Jewelers: A. B. Scattergood—1898; J. E. Converse—1900; G. B. Porter—1879; J. P. Losey—1908.

Implements, Etc.: J. M. Montigel, foundry business since 1870, implement dealer since 1907.

Restaurants, Etc: Hub Cafe, A. B. Gais and wife—1913; Harry Havens—1913; Gray's—F. E. Gray, Gladys G. Gray—1913.

Meat Markets: C. R. Brewer—1900; P. T. Banghart—1896; Bert Eckert—1906.

Blacksmiths: D. P. Hole—1912; N. T. Fenner—1900; Lee Lybolt—1903.

Barbers: Miner & Button—1910; McPhaul & Whiton—1913; Calvert & Ray; A. W. Davis—1883; Isaiah Woodfin—1884.

Miscellaneous: Illuminating Engineering Co., H. S. Conner, mgr.—1913; David McCarty, Shoe Shop—1906; Luchini Bros., Fruit and Candy—1905; Alma Vandette, E. H. Weese, prop.—1912; W. E. Hammond, Variety Store—1913; J. H. Stickney, Ag't U. S. Ex. Co.; C. E. Noyes, J. R. Watkins, Alma Elevator Co.—1907; Daniel Brown, Bazaar—1913; Claude F. Hicok, Prop. Harness Shop—1912; Joseph and Benj. Burman, Second-Hand Store; John Schick, Feed Barn; E. A. Lindner, Shoe Shop; F. A. Bennett, Bakery; Fred E. Ellicott, Ben. McCullough, Steam Laundry; Carl Walthers, Robert Butler, Sheet Metal Works; S. L. Bennett, Confectionery, etc.; M. J. McPhee, tailor; A. Hunter, Furnaces and Tinning; A. Sanborn, Shoe Shop; A. C. Thornton & Son, Coal and Wood; J. W. Wright, Virgil Hollenbeck, Garage; J. Barney, Wood and Produce Dealer; A. F. Eicher, Livery; J. B. Rigdon, Shoe Shop; O.W. Swisher, Dry Cleaning, Pressing, etc.; Lucius Hollenbeck, Singer S. M. Ag't; E. M. Wood, Architect, Pollasky Block; Wm. Rambo, Garage; C. H. Smith, Baker and Confectioner; A. J. Vibber, Livery; R. M. Hyde, Flour and Feed.

## ALMA COLLEGE.

### First Twenty-Seven Years of Its Existence.

Possibly Alma College should be noticed in this volume as a county institution rather than as a local attraction and an adjunct of the City of Alma. Certain it is that the College is one of the county's most important assets, and the mere fact that it is located in one certain section of the county, as it necessarily must be, is no reason why it may not be prized by the entire population of the county, and in a certain broad sense claimed as a county institution. Nevertheless, as in a local and more restricted sense it is an Alma possession, and as it was Alma enterprise and Alma inducements that secured its location there, the weight of argument seems to justify noticing it in Alma's local department, but with the right of the county at large fully conceded to regard the College with all due pride and satisfaction.



REV. GEO. F. HUNTING, D. D.

On the 11th of January, 1886, a meeting was held by the citizens of Alma to consider a proposition made by the promoters and managers of the Eastern Michigan Normal School and Commercial College of Fenton, Mich., to remove the school from Fenton to Alma. At that meeting a committee was appointed to look into the merits of the proposition. At the same meeting a business men's association was organized, and named the Business Men's Improvement Association of Alma, with Jas. L. Clark, president, and J. O. Lumsden, secretary.

January 19th another meeting was held, when the committee made a favorable report in the matter, recommending the acceptance of Fenton's proposition. This report and its recommendation were adopted and a site for the school was selected—the present location of Alma College, north side of Superior Street, west. Work on the buildings was commenced and pushed along, and on May 14, 1886, the corner stone of the main building was laid, with appropriate and interesting ceremonies, under the auspices of the Masonic Order. The occasion was a notable one on account of the great number of people present, and more especially for the large attendance of Masons from various parts of the state. Deputy Grand Master R. C. Hathaway, of Grand Rapids, conducted the ceremonies and delivered the main address. A heavy rain storm interfered with the ceremonies to some extent. The address was delivered in the opera house.

The copper box deposited in the corner stone contained articles as follows: Historical sketch of the Village of Alma, and a list of its officers. History of the inception and origin of the Central Michigan Normal School and Business College. History of Alma Lodge No. 244, F. & A. M., and list of its officers. Copy of first issue of the Alma Enterprise, date of

September 3, 1874. Copies of current issues of county papers. Card of R. C. Hathaway, 32nd degree D. G. M., F. & A. M., of Michigan. Card of Wm. S. Turck, P. G. H. P., R. A. M., of Michigan. Card of M. Pollasky, H. P., of St. Louis Chapter, R. A. M., and W. M., of Alma Lodge F. & A. M. Photograph of Ammi W. Wright, with biographical sketch. List of officers of special Grand Lodge as follows: R. C. Hathaway, D. G. M. and acting G. M.; Chas. Lathrop, Lakeview Lodge No. 380, D. G. M.; O. W. Avery, Edmore Lodge No. 360, G. S. W.; N. S. Youngman, Lakeview No. 380, G. J. W.; J. M. McKee, Ithaca 123, G. S. D.; A. J. Harrington, St. Louis 188, G. J. D.; Wm. S. Turck, Alma 244, G. Treas.; F. Palmer, Stanton 250, G. Chap.; G. T. Brown, Ithaca 123, G. Mar.; Wm. H. Pratt, Sumner 257, G. Guard; M. Montigel, Alma 244, G. Guard; E. C. Farrington, Ithaca 123, G. Tyler; J. W. Lewis, Ithaca 123, G. Sec.; Wm. W. Comstock, Ithaca, Bearer of Constitution.

Interest in the foregoing details centers in the fact that the building under consideration is now the Administration building of Alma College. And further, the names mentioned are those of prominent local men of more than a quarter of a century ago. Probably a half of them have passed over the River; the rest are with us still, and they at least will appreciate this rehearsal of their doings of twenty-seven years ago.



REV. A. F. BRUSKE, D. D., L. L. D.

In the fall of 1886 Michigan Presbyterians, in casting about for a suitable place for the location of a denominational college, were attracted by the favorable conditions at Alma. The citizens, fully appreciating the advantages of having such an educational institution in their town, offered inducements which brought about the desired result. Arrangements were made which enabled them to turn over the Normal School building and grounds to the Presbyterians, and with other details satisfactorily arranged, Alma secured the College.

At a meeting of the trustees of Alma College held at the Wright House, Alma, March 8, 1887, the following Faculty was designated to take charge of the institution, the date of opening to be the second week of the following September: President—Rev. Geo. F. Hunting, of Kalamazoo; Professor of Mathematics and Principal of the Normal Department—Prof. J. W. Ewing, of Ionia; Professor of English Language and Literature — Rev. Theodore Nelson: Professor of Natural Sciences and Principal of Academic Department—Prof. David Howell, of Lansing; Principal of Ladies' Department and Professor of Latin and French—Miss Mary C. Gelston.

On September 14, 1887, the College was started on its educational career with interesting and appropriate exercises. Jas. L. Clark delivered a speech in the nature of an address of welcome in behalf of the citizens of Alma.

Rev. Theodore Nelson gave a history of the establishment of the College, and addresses were made by Hon. N. B. Bradley, of Bay City, Rev. J. Ambrose Wight, of Bay City, and by President Hunting.

In response to a special request, President A. F. Bruske, of the College, furnished the following for the pages of this volume:

"At the present writing, (spring of 1912) Alma College is in the twenty-fifth year of its life. It was brought into this county by the generosity of Ammi W. Wright and the citizens of Alma. It was immediately preceded by a Normal School. When the property came into the hands of the Presbyterian Church and was converted into a College, there were two buildings and three acres of land. To this there were added twenty-six acres, which constitutes the present large and spacious campus. Aside from this property in real estate and buildings, the College, at its opening, had an endowment fund of $50,000, the gift of Mr. Alexander Folsom, of Bay City. The estimated value of all the property with which the beginning was made, was $90,000.



PIONEER HALL—ALMA COLLEGE.

"It should be understood that while the College is the property of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, it is in no sense sectarian any more than is the University of Michigan. Nor is it a Theological Seminary for the training of ministers of the Gospel. It is simply a school of higher learning, the object of which is to fit young men and women for life in the present high state of civilization. It aims to give the best in education, that the young people may reach the highest stations in life.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

"On the first day of its life, in 1887, Alma College registered thirty-five students, and numbered in its faculty seven professors and teachers. The measure of its growth since then will be indicated by the fact that now, after twenty-four years of life, it has a faculty of twenty-nine professors and teachers, and a student body of three hundred and two young ladies and gentlemen. Instead of two buildings as at the beginning, it now numbers seven buildings, and has an endowment fund of $400,000.

"The first president was Rev. Geo. F. Hunting, D. D., who, after serving the College for four years, decided to resign and go back to the pastorate. He resigned March, 1891, and was succeeded by Rev. August F. Bruske, D. D., L. L. D., who remains in that position at the present time, (spring of 1912.) He has now served longer than any other president of a college in the state.



GYMNASIUM.

"Most of the citizens of Gratiot County have passed along the street fronted by the College buildings, and they may have wondered what so many noble structures could be for. Let us answer by giving pictures and a brief description of them as a visitor will see them in passing on the sidewalk coming out of the town and going west. The first building at the right is Pioneer Hall. It is the home of young men. It is quite inadequate for the wants of all the young men who are in regular attendance, but it serves the purpose of accommodating those who cannot be better housed in the private homes of the citizens. In this structure is the home of the Y. M. C. A., which serves as the center of the religious and moral life of the young men.

"The next building is the Administration Building. It is, with one exception the most conspicuous edifice on the campus. It is even larger than it seems to be. Within it are the chapel, three laboratories — chemical, biological and physical — the studio of the fine arts, room for recitations in piano work, two rooms for the literary societies of the young men, and many recitation rooms. Nearly all of the work of recitation in the liberal arts is conducted in this building.



LIBRARY.

"The two buildings above described are the oldest on the campus. They were here when the College came, having been used by the Normal School.

"Passing on westward the visitor will next see the gymnasium. This structure, devoted chiefly to the physical culture of the young people, does not confine itself to that, for on the first floor are two rooms for the instruction of the kindergartners, and another which is the home of the school

of vocal music. Up stairs is the gymnasium, consisting of a large room in which the apparatus is and where the work is done, and a smaller room where measurements are made which are to tell the story of the physical progress of the student.

"Immediately north of this will be seen a high chimney connected with a one-story brick building of small dimensions. This is the heating plant. All the buildings of the College that are heated at all, receive their heat from this place. This is of the greatest importance, for where steam is used for heating purposes there is always some danger of explosion. Where the heating plant is in connection with any inhabited structure, there is great danger of the loss of life. In Alma College no student is in danger though the greatest possible explosion should take place. The students are all in other buildings.



THE HOOD MUSEUM.

"Passing on, the visitor comes to the only painted building of red brick on the campus. It is the library. This is the great pride of the College. Here are housed over twenty-five thousand volumes of literature, covering the different departments of human thinking, and garnering the wisdom of the ages. Here are libraries of theology, phylosophy, history, biography, science and belles letters. Here are alcoves devoted to pedagogy, law and sociology. Every realm of knowledge important to man has here an exponent. A very pleasant fact. To be noted, also, is the very pleasant fact that there is an annual income to the library of from $600 to $700, which is sufficient to keep the best periodicals in the reading room, and place the freshest volumes that are of permanent value, into the stack room from year to year.



WRIGHT HALL.

"About one hundred feet to the west of the library stands the Hood Museum of Natural History. It is as beautiful on the exterior as it is useful in the interior. It contains many thousands of specimens in the different departments of natural history. It is rich in illustrations of mineralogy, paleontology, ornithology and zoology. It contains the George Crawford collection of birds and the Alexander Winchell collection of minerals and fossils. The latter is probably the most valuable private collection of its kind in the United States.

"By this time our imagined visitor must have looked across the street to the south and seen Wright Hall, the most beautiful building in Alma, and the completest home for young ladies, to be found in any college of the West. This is the spacious home of about one hundred young ladies. It has every modern convenience. It is heated by steam and lighted by electricity, having hot and cold water and abundant bathroom facilities, as well as large parlors for social life, and commodious rooms for the literary societies.

"This description will not be adequate or complete without mention of the Davis Field, the center of athletic interest. Here the contests take place between the colleges, in foot ball, base ball and track meets. Gratiot County is proud of the record of its College upon this field.

"When we consider how great are the advantages at Alma College, and how very small are the expenses, we understand why the College has grown so rapidly in the past, and why we believe that the sons and daughters of the citizens of Gratiot will attend, in ever increasing numbers, this noble institution at their doors."



PRES. THOMAS C. BLAISDELL, PH. D.

In May, 1912, Dr. Bruske resigned as president of Alma College, to take effect the first of the following July, after twenty-one years' service in that capacity. He was succeeded by Thomas Chalmers Blaisdell, Ph. D. Dr. Blaisdell came from Michigan Agricultural College where he had served six years as professor of English. He took charge of the College July 1, 1912, and still remains in that capacity; a popular and efficient head of the institution.

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### Alma College Board of Trustees.

Class of 1913: Clarence B. Chatfield, Bay City; W. O. Hughart, Jr., Grand Rapids; Rev. David Howell, D. D., Dimondale; Robert S. Tracy, Sturgis; John W. S. Pierson, Stanton.

Class of 1914: Rev. Louis S. Brooke, Howell; Francis King, Alma; Ira M. Hatch, Wilmette, Ill.; Sarah H. Lancashire, Alma; Leonard Laurense, Detroit.

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Class of 1916: Edgar A. Bagley, M. D., Alma; Chas. Moore, Detroit; John F. Seeley, Caro; Rev. Chas. A. Lippincott, D. D., South Bend, Ind.; Lester A. Sharp, Alma.

### Officers of the Board of Trustees.

James M. Barkley, chairman; Francis King, vice-chairman; Clarence B. Chatfield, treasurer; Albert P. Cook, secretary and assistant treasurer.

### Ladies' Advisory Board.

Mrs. Wm. A. Bahlke, Mrs. Jas. W. Robinson, Mrs. Chas. G. Rhodes.

### Alma College Faculty.

The faculty of Alma College, at the present time—for the College year, beginning October, 1913—is composed as follows, the figures showing the dates when individual services began:

Thomas C. Blaisdell, Ph. D.—President and Professor of English; 1912.

August F. Bruske, D. D., L. L. D.—Professor of Ethics; 1913.

John T. Ewing, A. M.—Alexander Folsom Professor of Greek and Latin; 1889.

James E. Mitchell, A. M.—Ammi W. Wright Professor of History and Political Science, and Dean of the Faculty; 1897.

Frank N. Notenstein, Ph. D.—Ammi W. Wright Professor of Mathematics and Physics; 1900.

Jay Clizbe, D. D.—Synod of Michigan Professor of Biblical Literature; 1897.

Mrs. Mary M. Fancher—Instructor in French, and Dean of Women: 1912.

Marie Haefliger, A. B.—Instructor in German, Wells Foundation; 1912.

Francis E. West, M. S.—Wright-Davis Professor of Chemistry, and Secretary of the Faculty; 1901.

Hansford M. MacCurdy, Ph. D. — Nathan B. Bradley Professor of Biology and Geology; 1906.

Albert P. Cook, A. M.—Principal of the Academy, and Instructor in Mathematics; 1902.

Geo. B. Randels, Ph. D.—Professor of Psycology and Pedagogy; 1911.

Glenn Y. Warner, B. S.—Instructor in English Speech, Gelston Foundation; 1912.

Caroleen Robinson—Principal of the Training School for Kindergartners; 1909.

Reese F. Veatch—Principal of the School of Music, and Instructor in Voice; 1900.

Grace D. Roberts—Instructor in Piano and Pipe Organ; 1909.

Minnie M. Cheesman—Instructor in Piano and Music Building, and Normal Methods; 1904.

Leora Johnston—Instructor in History of Music and Voice Culture; 1910.

Ruth Schultz, A. B.—Instructor in Latin and Greek; 1912.

Cyrus B. Gardner, M. D.—Medical Examiner for Gymnasium work; 1912.

E. Henrietta Bjoin—Director of Physical Training for Women; 1912.

W. C. Bleamaster, B. S.—Director of Physical Training for Men; 1912.

Marie Cornwell—Principal of the School of Art; 1913.

Florence Ward—Model Kindergartner; 1913.
Alvin L. Barton, A. B.—Instructor in Violin; 1913.
John Anderson—Assistant in Voice; 1913.
Theo. M. Amsbury—Assistant in Piano; 1913.

### Departments.

Alma College embraces five divisions: The College, the School of Pedagogy, the Academy, the School of Music and the School of Art.

Courses of instruction in the College: Greek Language and Literature; Latin Language and Literature; English Language and Literature; History and Political Philosophy; Economics and Social Science; English Speech; Mathematics; Physics; Chemistry; Biology; Geology; Astronomy; German; French; Philosophy and Religion; The Bible and Theism; Psychology and Pedagogy; Physical Training for Women; Physical Training for Men.



A. P. COOK, A.M., SEC. & ASST. TREAS.

The School of Pedagogy deals with and instructs in Educational Psychology, History of Education, School Law, School Systems, special methods in common branches, including Kindergarten; special methods in High School subjects, and the organization and management of schools.

The Academy provides facilities for securing an exact and adequate preparation for entry into college work, its courses and methods being similar to the work of the eleventh and twelfth grades in the high schools. Graduates of this Academy are prepared to enter the Freshman Class of any college of standard grade.

The School of Music offers four courses of study: Pianoforte, Voice Culture, Pipe Organ and Violin.

The School of Art instructs in Drawing and Perspective in Pencil and Charcoal; Drawing from Objects and Casts; Sketching and Drawing from Still Life; Grouping and Composition; Sketching from Life in Pencil and Charcoal; Painting from Life and Nature.

### The Year's Expense.

From the College Bulletin for 1913: "In the College the regular expenses for the year are about $240, distributed thus: Tuition, $40; incidental fees, $10; room rent, $36; table board, $117; books, $20; laundry, etc., $17. For rent, board, books, laundry, etc., much more may be spent, while some students will spend somewhat less. Personal expenses will be what the habits of the student demand."

### Alma College Alumni.

**1891:** Bernice Hunting, Alfred Field Pratt, Bertha May Trask.
**1892:** Mary Cook, Ralph C. Ely, Francis Wayland Epley, Katharine Slater.

1893: Chas. E. Blanchard, Matie C. Hill, Josephine Hodges, Mary O. Hunting, Bessie McLean, Jas. E. Mitchell, Lucy Plum, Herrick J. Ransom.

1894: Esther Marsh, Frank Marsh.

1895: Ralph Flewelling, Arthur L. Toner, Ambrose B. Wight.

1896: Clara Booth, Louis S. Brooke, Fred Fullerton, Wm. A. Howe, Anna Girmus, Winifred F. Heston, Elizabeth Jones, Edward Clark Marsh, Joseph T. Northon, Richard Sidebotham.

1897: Kendall P. Brooks, Gratia Dunning, Letta E. Burns, Jacob Klasse, A. John Van Page.

1898: Birdsey Scott Bates, Anna Girmus, Winifred F. Heston, Frances Adams, Paul Hale Bruske, Jas. I. Crane, Sherman Landon Divine, Elmer Eckard, Maurice Grigsby, W. Frank Knox, Wm. Henry Long, Franklin Warren McCabe, Mertha Peters, Chas. Ernest Scott, John Bartlett Stevens.

1899: Maud Bishop, Frances Thorne, Weston T. Johnson, Harry Erastus Porter.

1900: Jacob C. Foote, Geo. A. Hill, David Magaw, Mary W. Plum, Geo. Basil Randels.

1901: Henry P. Bush, Carolyn A. Butler, Winifred F. Carl, Donald S. Carmichael, Annabelle Chisholm, Amos R. Eastman, Daisy L. Hard, Harry E. Reed, Watson B. Robinson, Chas. W. Sidebotham, Winifred G. Trapp.

1902: Wesley Bradfield, Wm. E. Brock, John N. Booth, Wm. J. Ewing, Egbert E. Fell, Agnes Hope, Alice Rebecca Marsh.

1903: Lucius S. Bagley, Wm. Ray Baker, John Y. Brook, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Pearl Fuller, Pauline Hazelton, Arthur J. Helmer, Sadie Messinger, Myrtle Ione Nicholson, Hugh Norman Ronald, John S. Shiner, Essy Hooper, Henry H. Soule, Laura B. Soule, Margaret K. Taylor, T. Geo. Timby, Wallace F. Webber, Alice B. Thompson.

1904: J. Wirt Dunning, Frank R. Hurst, Bertha Higbee, Jas. L. McBride, Leora M. Morton, Elizabeth Schmidt, Kate Bair, Martin J. Stormzand, Nellie C. Stringham, Raymond G. Swigart, Herbert A. Wilcox, Wm. E. Winton, Jr.

1905: Levi J. Butler, Orson Chas. Chapman, Caroyln Hastings, David A. Johnson, Jas. Norman King, Leola Lauderbach, Louise Townley Stange, Jerome Earl Webber.

1906: Wm. Skinner Cooper, Lillian Crandell, Harold Garfield Gaunt, Elizabeth Anne Hunt, Beryl Kefgen, Howard Potter, Fred Judson Soule.

1907: Paul J. Allured, Gretta Bagley, Erle H. Casterlin, Mayme Hayes, Susie L. Hawes, Minnie Kinnaird, Oliver J. Smith.

1908: Harry J. Bastone, Francis W. Cobb, Edith L. Cook, Helen B. Cook, Robert Craig Jr., Harry W. Helmer, Elvena G. Hoover, Geo. P. Horst, Herman N. Morse, Gladys Nelson, Ruth O. Pierson, Lester W. Sharp, Geo. D. Sutton.

1909: Grace Brown, Byron J. Chapel, Maynard A. Cook, Harry A. Craig, Lois L. Fraker, Hazel Fraser, Mark L. Marshall, Theodore Nelson, Stella I. Pollard, Emma M. Swigart, Harlow W. Whittemore.

1910: Hazel S. Blair, Elsie E. Bond, Royal R. Campbell, Cass Chase, Myrtie Creaser, Alexander Duncanson, Stanley A. Graves, Frank B. McComb, Agnes R. Redman.

1911: Ethel G. Carey, Theron E. Chapel, Hurd A. Drake, Jean I. Dykes, Kathleen I. Gillard, Selma O. Hahn, Florence L. Hood, Pearl S. Huber, Leslie P. Kefgen, Adelbert H. Lindley, Bessie F. Seaver, Isabel Stevens, Robert von Thurn.

1912: Louanna Dorothy Baker, Eleanore Bittner, Vinnie Cecile Booth, Laura Alice Brown, Loretta Blanche Clum, Robert Howard Cook, Foster Allen Fraker, Gladys Leona Gorton, Ruth Elizabeth Hovey, Robert Frank Hume, Leon William Lauderbach, Hattie Belle Mills, Carrie Elizabeth Neilson, Gail Enid Peacock, William Young Pohly, Carrie Louise Rowland, Anna Laura Sebring, Ernest Wilburn Sebring.

1913: Margaret Pollock Boag, George Joseph Brelmyer, Marion Beryl Broderick, Susie Lute Brown, Andrew Clifford Edgerton, William Arthur Ewing, Wade Lawrence Frost, Clara Elizabeth Hanel, William Allen Hooper, Emily Maud Hooper, Marion Easter Hartness, Leon A. Kolvoord, John Lee D. B. Landon, Bernice Edna Latson, Oral Mirvin Meisnar, Chalmers A. Monteith, Marguerite Rachel O'Neill, Ruth Marian Robbins, Marian Rounsifer, Claud Webster Satterlee, Della Struthers, Edward Archibald Thompson, Rex Edward Van Duzen, Lester von Thurn, Bernice Walker.



# ITHACA VILLAGE.

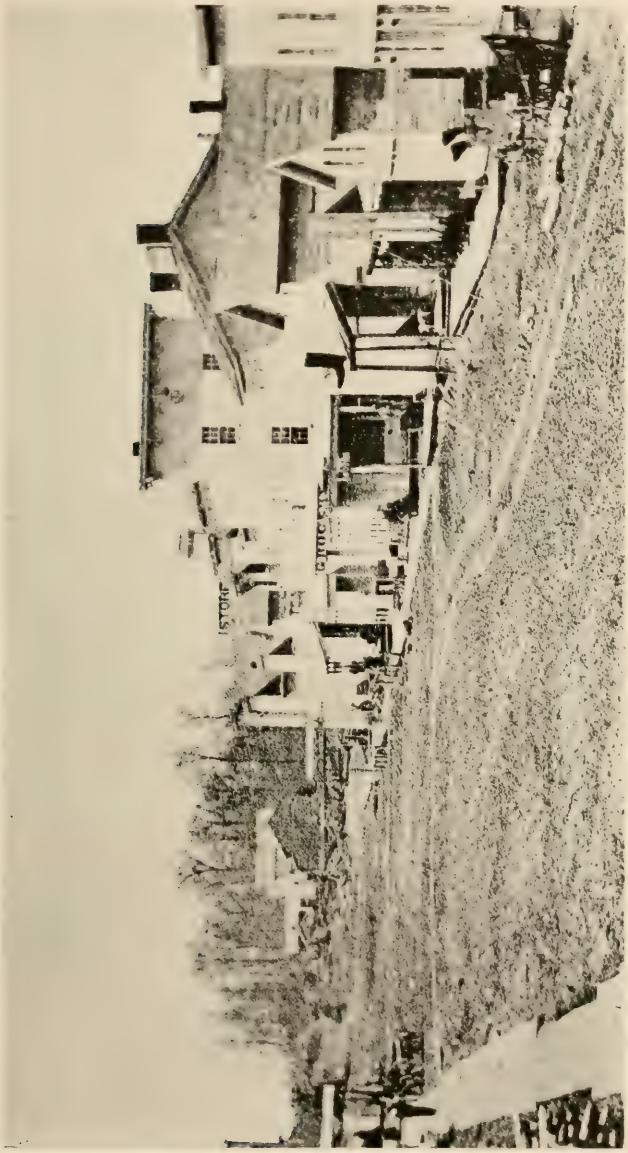
## Settlement—Elections—Biographies, etc.

Ithaca has several advantages to recommend it over many towns of Central Michigan of equal and much larger size. Among those advantages may be mentioned the exceptionally fine and fertile surrounding farming lands, ranked with the best in the country. Another advantage lies in its location in the exact center of the county; and this condition is directly responsible for the chief advantage it possesses—the advantage of being the county seat of, perhaps—and probably—the best agricultural county in the state. Many of the salient features of interest, and much early history of the village are referred to incidentally and collaterally in other portions of this work. Ithaca was one of the earliest points of settlement in the county, and consequently, the facts of history already given in this work relative to the settlement of the county, the establishment of the county seat and the many other official matters referred to, have furnished the reader with many details of Ithaca's early history that it will not be necessary to repeat only in so far as may be required to make the narrative clear and understandable.

One thing can be said of Ithaca that will apply to but few towns in the country, and that is, it has no waste lands within its borders nor within a radius of many miles. True, there were originally some "swales" and "cat-holes" scattered about, not to mention the big swamp on the west. But the removal of the forests, and the diligent attention of the settlers and the drain commissioners have done their perfect work, and now not a foot of untillable land can be found within a scope of territory of large area. Some haughty and jealous—or perhaps overly sympathetic—people of other towns have sometimes been inclined to scoff at Ithaca as an "inland town"—no lake, no river; nothing but "green fields and whispering woods." How sad! It is conceded that a stream of water has some merits to commend it; and even a lake has attractions. But Ithaca people are inclined to be pretty well satisfied with the beautiful well water that is forced out of the ground and into their houses and places of business at a nominal cost. Probably no resident of Ithaca would willingly trade conditions regarding water advantages with any river or lake-bordered town in the state. A redundancy of river water would tend to make one forget that there was anything better to be desired, and thus life would lose much of its enjoyment. And moreover, a lake or a river takes up valuable space that otherwise could be devoted to agricultural purposes. And furthermore, the absence of lakes and rivers goes far toward preventing drownings, accidental or otherwise.

So here we have the optimistic defy and defense of the denizen of the "inland town", against the patronizing sympathy of those who have never thought that there might be two sides to the matter.

When, in 1853, John Jeffrey came from Niagara County, N. Y., and located a large tract of land now occupied by the Village of Ithaca, he must have had the sensible idea that the exact center of the county stood a good chance of being selected as the proper place for the location of the county seat. Doubtless too the gently rolling tract, showed agricultural possibilities that were alluring. There may have been other considerations, but the two were sufficient anyway, and others need not be sought. He




CORNER MAIN AND CENTER STREETS, LOOKING WEST 1869.

did not immediately occupy his land, but was engaged elsewhere until 1855, when he came on and began making improvements. During that year other settlers began to make their appearance. Lucius C. Knapp took up a tract of land, now the fine farm of Hon. B. F. McNall, one and a half miles north of Ithaca. John Knight settled on what is now the farm and home of D. D. Smith, a mile north of Ithaca. Simon Nott occupied a portion of section 36, cornering in Ithaca. He was a bachelor and lived in a shanty about where now stands the residence of Hon. Wilbur Nelson. A Mr. Avery also had a shanty north of Ithaca about where is now located the John Kinkerter residence. Avery entertained travelers and land-lookers in his shack, and his "hotel" was a great convenience even though it did not offer all the conveniences of a public house. Thomas and Robert Reed did some chopping that fall—1855—for John Jeffrey, the land cleared being now a part of the business section of Ithaca. Robert Reed was afterward a well-known resident of Newark for many years, while Thomas Reed settled in Emerson. Thomas Vance, who later became a resident of North Star, and Roger Blinn, also did a job of chopping for Mr. Jeffrey during that winter, their job covering the ground now occupied by the Court House.

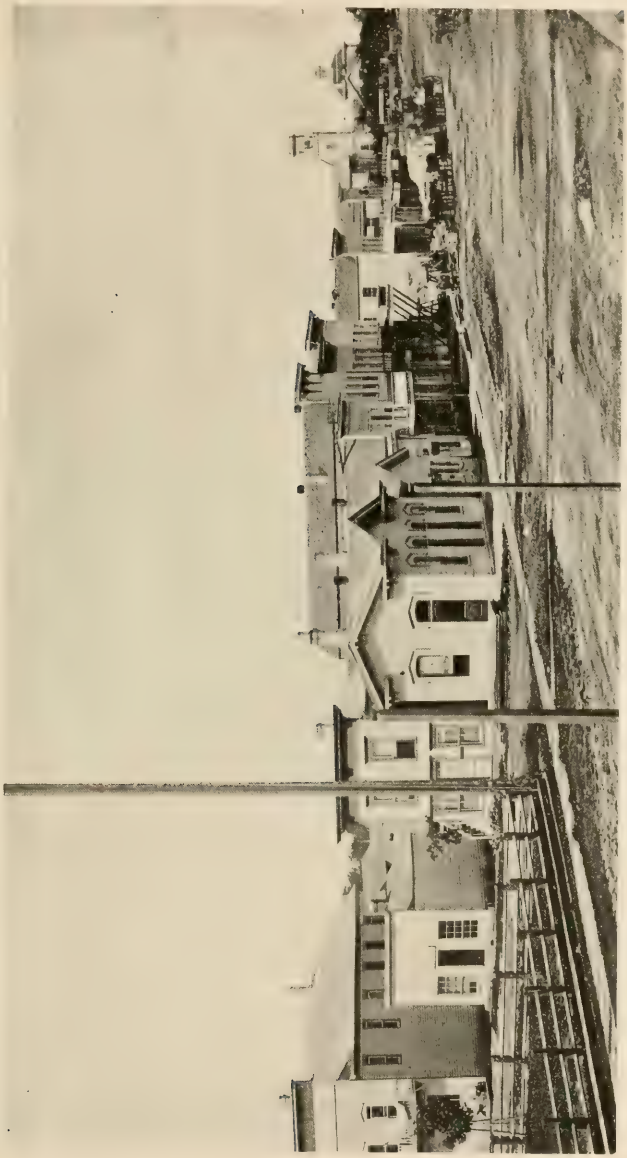
Late in the fall of 1855 John Jeffrey put up a small frame building, after clearing away the timber and brush, on the spot now occupied by the Seaver Hotel. The front part of the building was designed to be used for traffic in such supplies as were needed by the settlers, and the back part was occupied as a residence by L. C. Knapp and family. It was at this residence of Mr. Knapp that the board of supervisors convened in special session February 11, 1856, and commenced work on the settlement of the county seat question, which was concluded on the 4th day of March following, and re-affirmed by resolution of the board at its January session, 1860. This last action being taken for the purpose of complying, as fully as possible, with the peculiar wording of the act of the legislature, organizing the county; more fully noticed elsewhere.

The original plat of Ithaca, surveyed in February, 1856, by S. S. Hastings for John Jeffrey embraced territory bounded by Crosby Street on the south (Ann Arbor railroad right of way), North Street on the north, Pine River Street on the west and (practically) Ithaca Street on the east, and covered about 80 acres of territory. The Court House square occupies a position about in the center of the tract. Upper Ithaca was platted the same winter by Simon Nott, and consisted of the southeast forty acres in Arcada Township, with Pine River Street on the east and Center Street on the south.

What was called Northeast Ithaca was platted by H. W. Benham January, 1868. It lies north of Center Street and adjoins the original plat on the east; Chas. B. Fraker, surveyor. The plat was somewhat revised May 5, 1873, so as to make St. Johns street continuous through the village and without a "jog" at its Center Street intersection. It may be well to say, here, that Center Street is the principal business street, running east and west.

Charles E. Williams platted a small addition on the north side of Center Street from Union Street (quarter line of section 31, Emerson) east about 120 rods; Dan. W. Altenburg, surveyor.

Parmer R. Phillips' addition, platted March 31, 1880, is a small parcel lying north of Arcada Street and west of Pine River Street; Ransom J. Fraker, surveyor.



CORNER MAIN AND CENTER STREETS, LOOKING WEST 1879.

Frank Gwinner's addition, platted June 4, 1884, lies on the south side of Center Street, east of St. Johns Street, with Union Street as its eastern boundary.

Jeffrey's second addition, platted by John Jeffrey's heirs June 12, 1885, is a tract between Pine River and Maple Streets extending from Center Street on the north to Crosby street on the south.

T. S. Barnes' addition, platted March 5, 1886, consists of territory lying north side of Center Street between Barnes and Union Streets and extending north about 80 rods.

N. Church's addition is located north and east of Barnes' addition and was platted June 28, 1888.

December 15, 1892, J. Lee Potts and Jas. B. Crawford platted 40 acres lying east of and adjoining Frank Gwinner's addition, south side of Center Street. Surveyed by J. W. Harrod and recorded by Register Wm. T. Pitt.

Wm. T. Naldrett platted a small addition lying south of the Baptist Church, May 13, 1904.

Previous to the meeting of the board of supervisors in special session, February 11, 1856, Mr. Jeffrey brought Surveyor Sidney S. Hastings over from St. Louis, to his settlement in the center of the county, and had a village plat surveyed and duly laid out into lots, blocks, streets and alleys. So when the site was designated it was definitely known just what ground was taken, and where to drive the stake, though the whole tract and its surroundings was not much better than a howling wilderness. This particular spot in the wilderness was called "Gratiot Center."

Following the permanent location of the county seat at Ithaca, and partly in consideration therefor, Mr. Jeffrey erected a two-story log building about on the site now occupied by the Methodist Church building. This was for the use of the county for court purposes, sessions of the board of supervisors, and for the county officers to hold their respective offices; all to be thus used until such time as the county should be able, or see fit to erect its own suitable buildings upon its own public square. The lower story of the log building was all in one room and was the part used for court purposes and for the board of supervisors. The upper story was partitioned off suitably for use as offices. In the winter of 1857 Wm. S. Nelson taught the first school ever taught in Ithaca, and the court room in the log court house was used for the purpose. At the session of the supervisors commencing January 7, 1861, provision was made for the erection of a county building on the Court House square, for the use of the county officers. The sum of $250 was appropriated and the building was put up, with H. T. Barnaby, John Jeffrey and F. D. Weller as a building committee. The edifice was of wood, 16 by 32 on the ground and one story high. It stood on Center Street, with its side to that street. In the middle of the broad-side was an open entry about six feet square. A door to the right led into a room about 16 feet square occupied by the county clerk and judge of probate. At the left of the entry was another room of similar size in which the treasurer and register of deeds did business. This building did duty until the Court House, erected in 1871, was ready for occupancy. The old building was then moved to Pine River Street, south, and anchored on the west side of the street, remodeled somewhat, and now houses the bicycle repair business of J. H. Markman. Behold, it may be seen unto this day; a relic of the primitive days.

Early this spring—1856—came John J. Bush, from Howell, Michigan and erected a small log house on the spot now occupied by the W. T.

Naldrett residence southwest corner of Center and Elm Streets. Mr. Bush put in a small stock of merchandise. He soon sold out, however, to John Knight and Frank Miller, the latter being prosecuting attorney, elected the previous fall. Application had been made for the establishment of a post-office, and, the application having been granted, John Knight had been appointed postmaster. The postoffice was named "Gratiot Center", and that remained its name until the spring of 1857, when it was changed to "Ithaca."

In the summer of 1856, Wm. W. Comstock, who had located in Washington Township the previous year, bought the west half of block five from Mr. Jeffrey. On the corner now occupied by the old Voigt, or Mathews House, but a little back from Main Street, he erected a hewed log building to be used as a residence and hotel, and in the following October it was ready for the traveling public. This was the "Ithaca Hotel." A year or two later Mr. Comstock put up a frame building in front of the log part,



CORNER MAIN AND CENTER STREETS, LOOKING WEST—1913.

and this hotel remained in use as such until 1879, when, the property coming into the hands of Hiero B. Fox, the hotel was rebuilt, and the result was called the Fox House. The main part of the old hotel was moved to the north and made to do duty as a part of the Fox House; and it still serves its purpose as a part of the present Hotel Mathews, or Voigt.

After W. W. Comstock disposed of his hotel at the northeast corner of Center and Main Streets, where the Hotel Mathews now stands, he built a two-story hotel building on the opposite corner, west, the building facing the east. Afterward, this building having been destroyed by fire, he erected a three-story hotel building on the same spot, in 1879. This building was afterward known as the Des Ermia House; the same in which originated the big fire of July 10, 1890, and which went down to ashes with the rest. As yet no building has been erected to the vacancy.

So the seeds were planted which were to bring forth the good Town of Ithaca as we see it today. Its growth and improvements have gone steadily

forward from the first, fairly keeping pace with the progress of improvements throughout the surrounding country, but with no artificial boom periods to be followed by stagnation, and certainly not by anything like retrogression. As the surrounding country was settled, cleared and improved from its wild condition, finally reaching the proud position of being recognized and asknowledged as belonging to the very best section of the state, Ithaca has as steadily and as surely progressed and is now justly entitled to its reputation of being the most desirable and up-to-date town of its size in Michigan.

In the fall of 1857 John Jeffrey, Francis Nelson and Lafayette Church associated themselves together and built a grist and sawmill on block one, north side of Emerson Street, on land owned by Mr. Jeffrey. They continued to operate the mills until 1863, when the mills were bought by Columbus Levering who proceeded to overhaul and put them in first-class condition. In March, 1864 he traded the mill property to W. W. Comstock for wild land on section 30, North Star, which he transformed into one of the best farms in the county. Mr. Comstock conducted the mills with varied experiences several years, having one boiler explosion and two disastrous fires during the time. He sold to Rice, Sutliff & Perry, a firm afterward changed to Rice, Sutliff & Randall. The mills continued in operation with some variations in ownership—J. W. Everett and Henry Kinkerter among the number—and with fluctuating success until 1890, when Jas. Moore bought the property, tore away the old mill and erected several neat frame dwellings on the block.

After disposing of the mill property on block one as stated, Mr. Comstock erected a flouring mill at the southeast corner of Main and Emerson Streets; in other words, on the northwest corner of block five. A shingle mill was annexed. After a time Mr. Comstock sold to Aaron Thompson and he, later, sold to Wagner & Turnbull. In 1878 this mill property was bought by J. H. Seaver, who continued its operation until 1882, when he disposed of it to Wm. F. Thompson who transformed it into a sawmill and a factory for the manufacture of butter tubs. Mr. Thompson did a large volume of business in the manufacture of butter tubs, and the institution became an important addition to Ithaca's industries, and so continued for many years. In April 1903, Mr. Thompson disposed of the plant to Armour & Co., of Chicago. This firm soon afterward bought the Althouse stave mill property in the west part of town, consolidating the two branches of business at the location of the last-mentioned factory. The company largely increased the capacity of the plant, and, on a guaranty of employing from 100 to 200 hands, and remaining in business at least five years, a subscription of nearly $3,000 was raised by Ithaca citizens and donated to the company. The company remained and did an immense business until the fall of 1910, when, owing to the scarcity of available timber suitable for the purposes of the factory, the plant was removed to Hill City, Minnesota, where timber was plentiful, and where the factory is still in operation.

### Important Buildings Erected.

Some facts as to the erection of some of the more important buildings of the village are here given; also some of the industrial institutions of the town: In 1875 Geo. Richardson built the first brick building ever erected in Ithaca. It was built for a drug store and has always been used as such.

Since 1894 it has been the home of Goodwin's drug store—C. E. & F. W. Goodwin several years, and later, T. A. Goodwin. It is 22 by 80, two stories, and has extensive additions in the rear.

In 1876 the commodious residence now owned and occupied by Chas. G. Graham, was built by Mrs. Louisa Jeffrey, at a cost of about $5.000.

In the year 1880 the three-story brick block, southwest corner of Main and Center Streets, known as the Jeffrey block, was erected, J. H. Seaver having the management of the enterprise, for the Jeffrey estate.

J. P. Whitman built his business block, together with the livery barn in the rear, in 1881.

Nelson & Church built the double-store brick building, so long the business place of Nelson & Barber, in 1878. Church's Opera House occupied the second and third stories. Henry McCormack now utilizes the entire space, Opera House and all, for the accommodation of his department store.



CORNER CENTER AND PINE RIVER STREETS, LOOKING EAST—1913.

In 1880 Nathan Church put up the building now occupied by the Ithaca Savings Bank. It was built for the use of Church, Bills & Co.'s Bank, and was occupied by that bank from March, 1881, until it closed its doors in November, 1892.

In 1879 Wm. C. Beckwith put up the brick building now and for many years occupied by the Gratiot Journal. It was built for a furniture store, the upper story being used as a lodge room by the Masonic Order.

This same year—1879—David Reichard built his farm house, in the southeastern suburbs of Ithaca, now owned and occupied by Mr. Purden.

Rev. J. E. Long built his residence just east of Ithaca in 1881.

The block on the northeast corner of Center and Pine River Streets, was erected in 1883 by J. H. Mygrants and R. Smith.

In 1885 R. M. Steel, of St. Johns and Chas. E. Webster, of Ithaca, built the block of three stores on the southeast corner of Center and Pine River streets, now occupied by the Ithaca National Bank, the Ithaca Bazaar Co. and Winget's meat market.

In 1887 the R. M. Steel block was built, for many years occupied by Pinney & Horr, hardware; now by the hardware firm of A. E. Pinney & Son.

In the fall of 1888 ,following a big fire that destroyed the wooden structures occupying the grounds, a string of brick buildings was erected on the south side of Center Street by R. M. Steel, O. H. Heath, W. D. Scott and C. M. Brown; the business places now of H. B. Parrish, Alverson & Hannah, Sam. Kirschhimer, C. M. Brown and J. A. Brader. Brown's Opera House is located in the Brown section of the block.

In 1883 Nelson & Barber erected a grain elevator on the east side of Pine River Street, south, the site now of the Ithaca Coal & Lumber Co.'s buildings. The elevator was destroyed by fire, together with an adjoining building, March 27, 1892.

In 1889 a block of two small stores was built on the north side of Center Street, by N. Church and I. N. Coleman; now occupied by Kinsel's bakery and a fruit store.




ITHACA ROLLER MILLS AND ELEVATORS—NELSON'S ELEVATOR AT RIGHT.

Work was commenced on the brick hotel building on Pine River Street, south, in the fall of 1889; W. W. Fraker was the owner.

In 1890, a frame store building, erected on the northeast corner of Center and Jefferson Streets by W. C. Beckwith, was moved by J. H. Seaver to the southwest corner of Center and Pine River Streets, two store rooms were added to it on the west, all two stories high. The whole was then veneered with brick. The whole block is now the commodious and popular Hotel Seaver.

In 1892 John B. Rowell & Co. commenced the erection of a big agricultural implement house on Pine River Street, south. C. M. Brown soon bought it and has continued the implement business ever since. Geo. Davis is associated with him, the Brown-Davis Co. being the result, and they long since added a general line of hardware to their business.

In 1892 O. H. Heath, his son, Elmer J. Heath, and Byron H. Sawyer, erected their fine residence buildings on Jefferson Street, south.

The immense 10-cent feed barn on Pine River Street, north, was built by Julius C. Peck in 1893.

The DeMay block was built by Dr. J. H. Demay in 1889. Now occupied by J. H. Watson, drugs; and by Yost & Hamilton, general merchandise.

Henry Kinkerter put up the store building now occupied by J. L. Barden, in 1891, in place of the building destroyed by fire April 1, 1890. Also the building occupied by A. S. Barber & Co., clothing, was put up the same year.

The burnt-over territory left by the great fire of July 10, 1890, was largely built over in 1891 and '92, the elegant blocks of Dr. I. N. Manfort and Lewis & Yost being built in the summer of 1892; now occupied by H. E. Lewis, general merchandise, and H. T. Blank, jewelry.

The Switzer block, in which is located the Netzorg department store and the barber parlors of Parker & Doan, was erected in 1906, covering



GLEANER-FARMERS' ELEVATOR.

the ground made vacant by the burning, November 16, 1905, of the last remaining wooden buildings in the business section of Center Street.

The stave and heading manufacturing business was inaugurated in the spring of 1883, when Josiah C. Richards & Co. built a factory building in southwest part of town. The enterprise proved of a great deal of importance to Ithaca and the surrounding territory, employing a large force of workmen and making a market for timber with which the county was yet well supplied. Early in 1884, Clarence W. Althouse, a capitalist from Flint, took a controlling interest in the factory, the name being then changed to Richards, Althouse & Co. After about two years, C. W. Althouse became sole owner, at least so far as local interests were concerned. The plant was destroyed by fire March 11, 1895, but was rebuilt the same year, Ithaca citizens subscribing a bonus of $2,000. In December, 1903, the plant was

bought by Armour & Co. and was thereafter used by that firm in the manufacture not only of butter tubs, but all manner of receptacles for their great variety of products.

In 1883, after selling the mill property on Main Street, north, to Wm. F. Thompson, Mr. Seaver acting for himself and others, built the flouring mill on Pine River Street, south, which was burned December 18, 1899. The mill was a brick-veneered frame structure. In 1900 the present fine, solid-brick flouring mill was erected on the site of the burned building. The mill is modern and complete in all its details, and has up-to-date and ample elevator buildings in connection. It is owned and operated by a stock company known as the Ithaca Roller Mills, with a board of directors and officers as follows: President—Wm. F. Thompson; Vice-president—F. H. McKay; Treasurer—F. H. Horr; Secretary and General Manager—Jas. B. Crawford; other directors—A. E. Pinney, Chas. P. Yost.

The Nelson Grain Co., an incorporated company, with Wilbur Nelson as president and general manager, is an institution of long standing, and is desevedly popular with the people. When the firm of Nelson & Barber dissolved, in 1893, Mr. Nelson took this branch of the business and has continued it to the present time. As the name implies, the firm deals in all kinds of farm produce. The accompanying illustration gives a good view of the Ithaca Roller Mills, and at the right is the elevator of the Nelson Grain Co.

In 1907 the Independent Elevator Co. was organized, with principal stockholders as follows: A. W. Wright, Geo. S. Young, W. T. Naldrett, of Alma; Henry McCormack and Fred E. Smith, of Ithaca. The company erected buildings and did a thriving business—apparently, at least—until the winter of 1911-12, when it sold its buildings and business to the Gleaners, and "The Gleaner-Farmers' Elevator Co." it has since been. The present board of directors consists of A. J. Dicken, president; Jas. Gibbs, vice-president; B. M. Coffin, secretary; Bert Mellinger, treasurer; R. A. Wood, C. A. Van Deventer, G. R. Aldrich, W. A. Gruesbeck, Lee Townsend. The management is in the hands of C. W. Miller, an experienced and competent elevator man. An elegant view of the company's plant is presented herewith.

C. M. Brown built his automobile garage, Pine River Street, south, in 1909. Built of white brick trimmed with red brick, 40 by 100 feet on the ground, and two stories. It is complete in all its appointments, as well as pleasing in appearance; a credit to the town.

### Changes and Improvements.

At the session of the legislature in 1879, Ithaca Village was constituted an election district by itself for all state and county elections in November, and for special elections, but not for the township electons in the spring. This concession was asked for and granted on account of the inconvenience that the voters were put to in being compelled to travel to the town halls in four townships to vote. Two years later the Township of Ithaca was formed, composed of a section from each of the four townships cornering in Ithaca Village.

Ithaca's first railroad—the stub from Alma—was built in 1882 by local enterprise and capital, and constituted a long and important step in the march of improvements. The road is noticed somewhat in detail under the heading "Railroads." The completion of the Ann Arbor Railroad to Ithaca,

in 1884, was the occasion for much rejoicing. One of the funny tricks of railroad building was practiced on Ithaca when the road was surveyed through, the line being established so as to leave the center of town about three-fourths of a mile to the westward. Negotiations and a bonus, however, served to induce the company to swing the road a little nearer, but the depot, as finally located, was a half mile away. After a while a spur was run westward into town to accommodate the freight traffic. In the year 1897, when the Ann Arbor road drew out of St. Louis, more negotiations and more bonus induced the company to utilize the freight spur mentioned, as its main line, thus bringing the main line into the center of town, where it connected with the stub road which it had bought, and established its passenger depot; thence on to Alma over the stub route. This change was doubtless worth all it cost the town. The company materially improved the grade by excavating a cut through the west part of



CITY BUILDING—WATER WORKS.

town, and built an overhead highway bridge at the Center Street crossing. Thus the company earned at least a portion of the bonus it got. The company, in the fall of 1912, rebuilt its depot building, greatly enlarging and improving it, and building, also, an extensive cement platform. It is but fair to say in this connection, that the depot accommodations were abominable and had been for years. The earnest protest of Ithaca citizens finally had its effect, and the improvements were made.

### Street Paving.

In the matter of street paving, Ithaca took the lead and set an example for her sister towns in the county. After more or less agitation of the matter for 26 years, steps were taken in the spring of 1908 which resulted

in the paving of the business section of Center Street during the following summer and fall. A fine brick pavement was put down on a cement foundation, and all constructed in a scientific manner by competent engineers and contractors. The village council, responsible for this splendid improvement, was composed as follows: President—Frank M. Harrington; Trustees—Chas. G. Graham, Chas. W. Coleman, Geo. M. Whitman, Chas. T. Rogers, Wm. Doran, Chas. E. Webster. The president, F. M. Harrington, is entitled to especial credit and commendation for his careful and constant supervision of all the details of the work as it progressed from day to day. Possibly nothing more than his duty; but he performed that duty with an intelligent fidelity to the interests of his constituents that is worthy of emulation by all public officials.

The cost of the paving improvement was about $9,000.

A still more extensive job of paving was done in 1913, the paving of no less than 11 blocks being undertaken, to-wit: Two blocks on Center Street from Main, east, to Ithaca Street; three blocks on Center Street from Pine River west to the railroad; two blocks on Pine River Street, from Center, north, to North Street; three blocks on Pine River from Center, south, to the Ann Arbor depot; one block on Main between Center and Newark Streets. At the time this is written, November 5, 1913, the work is being pushed along with energy, but whether or not the job will be completed this fall is a problem not now susceptible of a positive solution. The style of this pavement is—a cement foundation with an asphalt and gravel surface. When completed, the improvement will be a credit to the town and those responsible for it and having it in charge. President Hannah and the councilmen seem to be doing their duty nobly in behalf of the village.

## ITHACA VILLAGE ELECTIONS.

Ithaca Village was incorporated in accordance with the provisions of the statute, by resolution of the board of supervisors, unanimously adopted October 12, 1869. The matter was inaugurated by way of a petition presented to the board, signed by a large number of the electors residing within the territory to be incorporated. Following is a list of the petitioners:

W. E. Winton, Wilbur Nelson, E. W. Shaw, Nathan Church, J. H. Cady, A. L. Sutherland, Silas Wooley, C. B. Merrifield, Chas. E. Williams, Theo. Nelson, Geo. E. Whitman, A. B. Bacon, H. B. Wells, Henry Stockford, G. G. Teachworth, Elijah Peck, Wm. C. Beckwith, Wm. W. Comstock, W. D. Scott, Silas B. Bowman, Dan. Taylor, W. H. Smith, R. G. Harpham, Jas. W. Howd, M. R. Pettit, Emery Crosby, D. Stackhouse, Jas. Donaldson, L. B. Sweet, Ira Van Buskirk, Levi R. Hiffner, G. T. Brown, E. N. DuBois, B. F. Shepard, Chas. L. Cady, H. W. Starks, Henry Kinkerter, Fred Kinkerter, W. Berry, Wm. Marlow, E. C. Cummings, L. A. Keyes, J. P. Whitman, A. W. Russell, M. N. Teachworth, Elisha McCall.

The special committee to investigate and report was composed of Supervisors Geo. E. Walker, of North Shade; Wm. R. Morrison, of Elba, and Sam. Wheeler, of Lafayette. The resolution adopted by the board, based on the favorable report of the committee, provided for holding the first election at the school house in Ithaca, November 16, 1869; Wilbur Nelson, W. W. Comstock and E. C. Cummings to be inspectors of election, and the officers elected to hold their offices until the regular election in the following March.

The following is a list of the first officers elected:

**Nov. 16, 1869:** Pres.—Wm. E. Winton; Clk.—Jas. W. Howd; Treas.—W. D. Scott; Trustees—Nathan Church, Wm. W. Comstock, A. W. Russell, Dan. Taylor, Andrew J. Utley, Chas. E. Williams; Mar.—Edward N. Du Bois; St. Com.—C. H. Howd, Henry Kinkerter, B. F. Shepard.

The result of the elections of March, 1870, '71, '72 and '73, is shrouded in mystery, so to speak. The records are lost or very securely mislaid. Clerks Geo. S. Frisbie and Miles A. Nelson have been unable to detect their secret hiding place, if they are yet in existence. From the best information obtainable it is believed that Wm. E. Winton was continued as president in 1870, '71, '72, and that Giles T. Brown was president in 1873; but the memory of the oldest inhabitant fails to divulge the personnel of the other officials. Beginning with 1874 the record thereafter is quite complete.

**March, 1874:** Pres.—Chas. E. Williams; Trustees—B. F. Shepard, N. G. Sutliff, E. McCall; Clk.—Jas. L. Foote; Treas.—D. C. Johnson; Ass'r—C. C. Clark; Mar.—A. A. Wood; St. C.—H. Kinkerter, S. J. Thoenen, M. R. Pettit.

June, '74, Geo. Taylor was appointed marshal vice Wood, resigned.

**1875:** Pres.—S. W. Ambler; Trustees—R. Smith, D. L. Johnson, J. P. Whitman; Clk.—Jas. W. Howd; Treas.—G. C. Smith; Ass'r—Cortez C. Clark; Mar.—Norman Thompson; St. C.—S. J. Thoenen.

July, '75, Henry P. Howd was appointed marshal vice Thompson, resigned.

**1876:** Pres.—S. W. Ambler; Trustees—A. A. Wood, S. J. Thoenen, A. W. Russell; Clk.—Jas. W. Howd; Treas.—G. C. Smith; Mar.—Norman M. Bowen; St. C.—A. W. Russell.

**April 30, 1877:** The village held its election under its new charter on this date. There were six tickets in the field—"Regular", "Economical", "People's", "Poor Man's", "Compromise" and "Red Ribbon". The "Regular" ticket was elected:

Pres.—S. W. Ambler; Trustees, 2 yrs.—N. Church, G. C. Smith, D. C. Johnson; 1 yr.—W. E. Winton, A. L. Sutherland, N. G. Sutliff; Clk.—John L. Sinclair; Treas.—W. Nelson; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—H. Kinkerter; Const.—Geo. W. Pearce. There were 88 votes polled.

**1878:** Pres.—S. W. Ambler; Trustees—W. E. Winton, N. G. Sutliff, Wm. L. Phillips; Clk.—John L. Sinclair; Treas.—W. Nelson; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—N. M. Bowen; Const.—M. R. Pettit.

Ap.: Mar.—Geo. Taylor.

**1879:** Pres.—Giles T. Brown; Trustees—G. C. Smith, N. Church, S. W. Ambler; Clk.—Jas. L. Clark; Treas.—W. Nelson; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—Jas. Donaldson; Const.—L. L. B. Hunt.

Ap.: Mar.—Lothrop M. Lyon.

Later, John W. Lewis was appointed treasurer, W. Nelson failing to qualify.

**1880:** Pres.—G. T. Brown; Trustees—Lewis Hood, W. D. Scott, O. F. Jackson; Clk.—J. L. Sinclair; Treas.—J. W. Lewis; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—Geo. Randall; Const.—N. G. Sutliff.

Ap.: Atty.—Byron H. Sawyer; Mar.—N. G. Sutliff; Eng. F. D.—J. W. Lewis; H. O.—Dr. C. W. Marvin.

Dec., 1880, Joseph H. Seaver was appointed president vice Brown, removed from the village.

**1881:** Pres.—H. Romaine Pattengill; Trustees—Wm. M. Barstow, Geo. W. Pearce, S. J. Thoenen; Clk.—J. L. Sinclair; Treas.—J. W. Lewis; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—Henry C. Mead; Const.—N. G. Sutliff.

Ap.: Atty.—B. H. Sawyer; Mar.—H. C. Mead.

April 5, '81, R. Smith was appointed trustee vice W. D. Scott, resigned.

**1882:** Pres.—H. R. Pattengill; Trustees—David Reichard, W. E. Winton, Alanson J. Brown; Clk.—J. L. Sinclair; Treas.—J. W. Lewis; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—H. C. Mead; Const.—N. G. Sutliff.

Ap.: Atty.—John H. Winton; Mar.—Henry C. Stafford; H. O.—Dr. C. W. Marvin.

April 4, '92, Nap. B. Fraker was appointed trustee vice Barstow, removed from the village.

**1883:** Pres.—Marvin R. Salter; Trustees—Wm. B. Scattergood, Frank Kellogg, J. H. De May; Clk.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk; Treas.—J. W. Lewis; Ass'r—John M. Trask; St. C.—A. H. Johnson; Const.—Chas. V. Bostwick. Later, E. S. Lane was appointed trustee vice Kellogg.

Ap.: Atty.—Edward L. Walbridge; Mar.—H. C. Stafford; H. O.—Dr. W. D. Scott.

**1884:** Pres.—M. R. Salter; Trustees—O. F. Jackson, A. A. Wood, B. H. Sawyer; Clk.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk; Treas.—Alvedo S. Barber; Ass'r—A. W. Russell; St. C.—A. H. Johnson; Const.—M. R. Pettit.

Ap.: Mar.—Jesse O. Pettit; Ch. F. D.—J. W. Lewis.

**1885:** Pres.—Wm. B. Scattergood; Trustees—Edward S. Lane, H. C. Mead, J. H. De May; Clk.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk; Treas.—A. S. Barber; Ass'r—M. R. Salter; St. C.—N. G. Sutliff; Const.—W. W. Fraker.

Ap.: Atty.—E. L. Walbridge; Mar.—Jesse O. Pettit.

**1886:** Pres.—Byron H. Sawyer; Trustees—John M. Everden, Frank M. Scott, Ira Bovee; 1 yr.—Geo. A. Lawrence; Clk.—Geo. S. Van Buskirk; Treas.—Geo. Randall; Ass'r—M. R. Salter; St. C.—N. G. Sutliff; Const.—W. W. Fraker.

Ap.: Atty.—E. L. Walbridge; Mar.—Harvey R. Sutliff; H. O.—Dr. J. P. Carpenter.

**1887:** Pres.—Jonathan Nicholson McCall; Trustees, 2 yrs.—A. S. Barber, T. S. Barnes, J. P. Whitman; 1 yr.—W. E. Winton, Wm. M. Barstow, R. Smith; Clk.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Treas.—Wm. H. Beasley; Ass'r—A. J. Brown; St. C.—N. G. Sutliff; Const.—John A. Hart.

Ap.: Atty.—E. L. Walbridge; Mar.—Harvey R. Sutliff; Ch. F. D.—O. F. Jackson; H. O.—Dr. J. P. Carpenter.

**1888:** Pres.—Wm. B. Scattergood; Trustees—A. S. Barber, J. H. Seaver, J. Lee Potts; 1 yr.—T. S. Barnes; Clk.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Treas.—Wm. H. Beasley; Ass'r—Wm. M. Barstow; St. C.—N. G. Sutliff; Const.—J. A. Hart.

Ap.: Atty.—J. H. Winton; Mar.—Jas. Owen; H. O.—Dr. W. M. Weller.

**1889:** Pres.—Orlin H. Heath; Trustees—R. Smith, C. E. Webster, J. C. Shaw; Clk.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Treas.—Amos I. Ewen; Ass'r—W. R. Wight; St. C.—N. G. Sutliff; Const.—Miles E. Heath.

Ap.: Atty.—J. H. Winton; Mar.—Jas. Owen; H. O.—Dr. W. M. Weller.

**1890:** Pres.—Willard M. Weller; Trustees—Frank H. Horr, David Reichard, M. Foster Chafey; Clk.—Adelbert P. Lane; Treas.—A. I. Ewen; Ass'r—W. R. Wight.

Ap.: Atty.—John T. Mathews; Mar.—Frank M. Keyes; Ch. F. D.—O. F. Jackson; H. O.—Dr. W. D. Scott.

**1891:** Pres.—John M. Everden; Trustees—Frank W. Brown, Chas. H. Baker, Henry E. Lewis; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—Chas. A. Price; Ass'r—Chester W. Martin; St. C.—Fred J. Russell; Const.—Willard O. Town.

Ap.: Atty.—J. T. Mathews; Mar.—J. A. Hart; H. O.—Dr. J. P. Carpenter.

**1892:** Pres.—John M. Everden; Trustees—F. H. Horr, A. J. Brown, M. F. Chafey; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—Chas. A. Price; St. C.—J. L. Voress; Const.—J. A. Hart.

Ap: Atty.—M. R. Salter; Mar.—J. A. Hart; H. O.—G. Lee Webster.

**1893:** Pres.—J. M. Everden; Trustees—H. E. Lewis, F. W. Brown, J. H. Seaver; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—Chas. A. Price; Ass'r—C. W. Martin: St. C.—Jas. E. Marquette; Const.—J. A Hart.

Ap.: Atty.—M. R. Salter; Mar.—J. A. Hart; Water Com.—Geo. P. Stone, A. S. Barber, M. R. Salter; H. O.—Chas E. Webster.

On bonding for water works—yes, 232; no, 86.

**1894:** Pres.—Frank H. Horr; Trustees—A. I. Ewen, Wm. C. Beckwith, R. J. Fraker; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Ass'r—C. W. Martin; St. C.—S. J. Thoenen; Const.—John H. Watson.

Ap.: Atty.—M. R. Salter; Mar.—Ralph E. Pettit; Water Com.—Geo. P. Stone; H. O.—J. A. Hart.

**1895:** Pres.—F. H. Horr; Trustees—A. I. Ewen, R. J. Fraker, J. N. McCall; 1 yr.—C. A. Price, W. Nelson, M. F. Chafey; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—J. P. Gibbs; Ass'r—H. C. Barstow.

Ap.: Atty.—J. Lee Potts; Mar.—R. E. Pettit; St. C.—S. J. Thoenen; H. O.—G. A. Lignian.

**1896:** Pres.—Frank W. Brown; Trustees—Frank P. Merrell, Inman N. Cowdrey, A. J. Brown; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—Frank W. Brooke; Ass'r—H. C. Barstow.

Ap.: Atty.—J. L. Potts; Mar.—Fred J. Russell; Water Com.—C. W. Martin; H. O.—G. A. Lignian; Review—H. E. Lewis, A. S. Barber.

**1897:** Pres.—Nap. B. Bradley; Trustees—C. A. Price, P. D. Pettit, Theo. Ryckman; 1 yr.—H. B. Orbison; Clk.—A. P. Lane; Treas.—F. W. Brooke; Ass'r—F. W. Brown.

Ap.:—Atty.—J. L. Potts; Mar.—Hart Baker; Water C.—F. P. Merrell; Ch. F. D.—A. P. Lane; Review—A. S. Barber, A. E. Pinney, F. P. Merrell; H. O.—G. A. Lignian.

**1898:** Pres.—Wilbur Nelson; Trustees—A. E. Pinney, J. P. Gibbs, F. H. McKay; Clk.—Jas. G. Kress; Treas.—Frank M. Harrington; Ass'r—F. P. Merrell.

Ap.: Atty.—J. M. Everden, Mar.—A. J. Brown; Water C.—A. S. Barber; H. O.—J. Henry Oakes; Review—J. H. Winton; Teamster—F. M. Keyes.

**1899:** Pres.—Jas. B. Crawford; Trustees—John W. Kernen, Elmer J. Heath, Watson J. Clark; Clk.—M. R. Salter; Treas.—Jesse L. Barden; Ass'r—F. M. Harrington.

Ap.: Atty.—J. L. Potts; Mar.—Hart Baker; Water C.—J. P. Gibbs; Review—H. E. Lewis, John H. Winton; H. O.—N. G. Sutliff; Teamster—Will Peck.

**1900:** Pres.—J. M. Everden; Trustees—A. E. Pinney, F. W. Brown, J. P. Gibbs; Clk.—M. R. Salter; Treas.—J. L. Barden; Ass'r—F. P. Merrell.

Ap.: Atty.—K. S. Searl; Mar.—Hart Baker; Water C.—F. P. Merrell; Review—I. N. Cowdrey, R. J. Fraker; H. O.—Dr. Willard Monfort; Teamster—Will Peck.

On bonding for $10,000 for sewerage construction—yes, 351; no, 58.

**1901:** Pres.—Kelly S. Searl; Trustees—F. H. McKay, N. G. Sutliff, John W. Kernen; Clk.—M. R. Salter; Treas.—J. L. Barden; Ass'r—F. M. Harrington.

Ap.: Atty.—J. M. Everden; Mar. and St. C.—H. C. Moore; Teamster—Will Peck; Review—M. R. Salter, H. J. Crawford; Water C.—A. S. Barber; H. O.—Dr. Fred McCandless.

**1902:** Pres.—H. Chauncey Barstow; Trustees—Jonathan Gidley, H. E. Lewis, R. E. Pettit; Clk.—M. R. Salter; Treas.—Jesse E. Fuller; Ass'r—F. M. Harrington.

Ap.: Atty.—J. M. Everden; Mar.—Hugh J. Packer; Review—M. R. Salter, J. B. Crawford; Teamster—Will Peck; Water C.—Hart Baker; H. O.—Dr. W. Monfort.

**1903:** Pres.—Wm. A. Leet; Trustees—Julius B. Kirby, J. H. Kernen, N. G. Sutliff; Clk.—J. L. Barden; Treas.—Lloyd Webster; Ass'r—F. M. Harrington.

Ap.: Atty.—J. M. Everden; Mar.—Hugh J. Packer; Ch. F. D.—John W. Kernen; Review—F. H. Horr, J. B. Crawford; Teamster—Will Peck.



ON JEFFERSON STREET, SOUTH.

May 25, '03, Trustee Kirby resigned and F. H. McKay was appointed to the vacancy.

**1904:** Pres.—Chas. E. Webster; Trustees—R. E. Pettit, Elwood F. Doty, F. H. McKay; 1 yr.—B. Hart Baker; Clk.—Theron A. Goodwin; Treas.—Harry B. Parrish; Ass'r—J. W. Kernen.

Ap.: Atty.—J. M. Everden; Mar. and St. C.—Frank Munson; Teamster—Frank Price; H. O.—Dr. W. Monfort.

**1905:** Pres.—Jas. P. Gibbs; Trustees—J. W. Kernen, Fred W. Griswold, B. Hart Baker; Clk.—T. A. Goodwin; Treas.—David G. Colwell; Ass'r—Orin G. Tuttle.

Ap.: Atty.—J. Lee Potts; Mar.—Frank Munson; H. O.—Dr. Will Monfort; Review—J. B. Crawford, F. M. Harrington.

**1906:** Pres.—Chas. G. Graham; Trustees—Chas. E. Goodwin; Chas. T. Rogers, Alf. L. Hutchinson; Clk.—Edgar N. Church; Treas.—C. D. Peet; Ass'r—O. G. Tuttle.

Ap.: Mar.—Frank Munson.

**1907:** Pres.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; Trustees—Geo. M. Whitman, Chas. G. Graham, Chas. W. Coleman; 1 yr.—Wm. Doran, John B. Zarbaugh; Clk.—Wm. E. Winton, Jr.; Treas.—C. D. Peet; Ass'r—Henry Read.

Ap.: Mar.—Watson J. Clark. Aug. 22, 1907, Geo. H. Clow was appointed marshal in place of Clark, resigned.

**1908:** Pres.—Frank M. Harrington; Trustees—Chas. T. Rogers, Wm. Doran, C. E. Webster; Clk.—Herbert L. Ringle; Treas.—A. P. Lane; Ass'r—Henry Read.

Ap.: Atty.—J. T. Mathews; Mar.—Geo. H. Clow; St. Com.—H. G. Curtis; H. O.—Dr. W. Monfort; Review—O. G. Tuttle, J. H. Seaver.

**1909:** Pres. — Fred S. Van Buskirk; Trustees — Fred Broughton, Adelbert E. Lewis, Joseph W. Harrod; Clk.—Geo. S. Frisbie; Treas.—A. P. Lane; Ass'r—Geo. M. Whitman.

Ap.: Atty.—J. T. Mathews; Mar.—Geo. H. Clow; Review—J. W. Kernen, J. H. Seaver; H. O.—Dr. W. Monfort.

Jan., 1910, Marshal Clow resigned and Chester E. Rogers was appointed to the vacancy.

**1910:** Pres.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; Trustees—F. H. Horr, Elon P. Potter, Fred A. Randall; Clk.—Geo. S. Frisbie; Treas.—Egbert R. Van Duzer; Ass'r—Geo. M. Whitman.

Ap.: Mar.—C. E. Rogers; St. C.—Sam. Walker; H. O.—Dr. W. Monfort; Review—D. C. Gibbs, O. G. Tuttle.

Dec., 1910, Harvey R. Munson was appointed trustee vice Randall, removed from the village.

**1911:** Pres.—Fred S. Van Buskirk; Trustees—A. E. Lewis, C. Saul Netzorg, Harvey R. Munson; 1 yr.—J. Gidley, (vice E. P. Potter), Chas. Kernen, (vice F. A. Randall), Clk.—Geo. S. Frisbie; Treas.—E. R. Van Duzer; Ass'r—Geo. M. Whitman.

Ap.: Mar.—C .E. Rogers; St. Com.—Sam. Walker; H. O.—Dr. Willard Monfort.

**1912:** Pres.—Edward Hannah; Trustees—Roy Cowdrey, Harry B. Parrish, Peter McAdam; Clk. — Geo. S. Frisbie; Treas. — Jonathan Gidley; Ass'r—Geo. M. Whitman.

Ap.: Mar.—C. E. Rogers; St. Com.—Sam. Walker; H. O.—Dr. E. H. Foust; Atty.—J. Lee Potts.

**1913:** Pres.—Edward Hannah; Trustees—A. E. Lewis, H. R. Munson, Leslie D. Reeves; Clk.—Miles A. Nelson; Treas.—J. Gidley; Ass'r—Geo. M. Whitman.

For the gas franchise: Yes, 244; no, 37.

Ap.: Mar.—C. E. Rogers; Nightwatch—Chas. W. Coleman; H .O.—Dr. E. H. Foust; Teamster—Ed. Gladstone; Review—W. Nelson, D. C. Gibbs; Building Inspectors—Fred Broughton, John Sprague, Hart Baker; Fire Wardens—A. P. Lane, Horace Coleman; Poundmaster—Chas. Stafford.

Fire Department officers confirmed: Chief—Ralph E. Pettit; Ass't Ch.—H. B. Parrish; Sec.—Robert Russell; Treas.—F. H. McKay; Trustee—Geo. O. Davis; Fire Mar.—C. W. Coleman; Foreman Hose Co.—Horace Coleman; Foreman H. & L. Co.—W. Henry Barstow; Dels. to M. S. F. A.—Frank Price, Rob. Russell; Alternates—Ed. J. Parker, Chas. Kernen.

April 15, 1913, Ed. J. Parker was appointed trustee in place of H. R. Munson, deceased.

### Presidents.

Wm. E. Winton, Nov., 1869, March, 1870, '71, '72, '73.
Chas. E. Williams, 1874.
Schuyler W. Ambler, 1875,'76,'77,'78.
Giles T. Brown, 1879, '80.
Joseph H. Seaver, ap. Dec., '80.
H. R. Pattengill, 1881, '82.
Marvin R. Salter, 1883, '84.
Wm. B. Scattergood, 1885, '88.
Byron H. Sawyer, 1886.
J. N. McCall, 1887.
O. H. Heath, 1889.
W. M. Weller, 1890.
John M. Everden, 1891, '92, '93, '00.
Frank H. Horr, 1894, '05.
Frank W. Brown, 1896.
N. B. Bradley, 1897.
Wilbur Nelson, 1898.
Jas. B. Crawford, 1899.
Kelly S. Searl, 1901.
H. C. Barstow, 1902.
Wm. A. Leet, 1903.
Chas. E. Webster, 1904.
Jas. P. Gibbs, 1905.
Chas. G. Graham, 1906.
Fred S. Van Buskirk, 1907, '09, '10, '11.
Frank M. Harrington, 1908.
Edward Hannah, 1912, '13.

### Village Clerks.

Jas. W. Howd, Nov., 1869, '75, '76.
Uncertain, 1870, '71, '72, '73.
Jas. L. Foote, 1874.
John L. Sinclair, 1877, '78, '80, '81, '82.
Jas. L. Clark, 1879.
Geo. S. Van Buskirk, 1883,'84,'85,'86.
Jas. P. Gibbs, 1887, '88, '89.
Adelbert P. Lane, 1890, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97.
Jas. G. Kress, 1898.
M. R. Salter, 1899, '00, '01, '02.
Jesse L. Barden, 1903.
Theron A. Goodwin, 1904, '05.
Edgar N. Church, 1906.
Wm. E. Winton, Jr., 1907.
Herbert L. Ringle, 1908.
Geo. S. Frisbie, 1909, '10, '11, '12.
Miles A. Nelson, 1913.

### Treasurers.

W. D. Scott, Nov., 1869.
Uncertain, 1870, '71, '72, '73.
Dan. C. Johnson, 1874.
G. C. Smith, 1875, '76.
W. Nelson, 1877, '78, '79.
John W. Lewis, ap. 1879; '80, '81, '82, '83.
A. S. Barber, 1884, '85.
Geo. Randall, 1886.
Wm. H. Beasley, 1887, '88.
Amos I. Ewen, 1889, '90.
Chas. A. Price, 1891, '92, '93.
Jas. P. Gibbs, 1894, '95.
Frank W. Brooke, 1896, '97.
Frank M. Harrington, 1898.
J. L. Barden, 1899, '00, '01.
Jesse E. Fuller, 1902.
Lloyd Webster, 1903.
Harry B. Parrish, 1904.
David G. Colwell, 1905.
C. D. Peet, 1906, '07.
A. P. Lane, 1908, '09.
E. R. Van Duzer, 1910, '11.
Jonathan Gidley, 1912, '13.

### Assessors.

E. C. Cummings, Nov., 1869.
Uncertain, 1870, '71, '72, '73.
Cortez C. Clark, 1874, '75.
A. W. Russell, 1877, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '84.
John M. Trask, 1883.
M. R. Salter, 1885, '86.
A. J. Brown, 1887.
Wm. M. Barstow, 1888.
W. R. Wight, 1889, '90.
C. W. Martin, 1891, '92, '93, '94.
H. C. Barstow, 1895, '96.
F. W. Brown, 1897.
F. P. Merrell, 1898, '99.
F. M. Harrington, 1901, '02, '03.
J. W. Kernen, 1904.
Orin G. Tuttle, 1905, '06.
Henry Read, 1907, '08.
Geo. M. Whitman, 1909, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Marshals.

Edward N. Du Bois, Nov., 1869.
Uncertain, 1870, '71, '72, '73, '77.
Alfred A. Wood, 1874.
Geo. Taylor, ap. June, '74; '78.
Norman Thompson, 1875.
Henry P. Howd, ap. July, '75.
Norman M. Bowen, 1876.
L. M. Lyon, 1879.
N. G. Sutliff, 1880.
H. C. Mead, 1881.
Henry C. Stafford, 1882, '83.
Jesse O. Pettit, 1884, '85.
Harvey R. Sutliff, 1886, '87.
Jas. Owen, 1888, '89.
Frank M. Keyes, 1890.
J. A. Hart, 1891, '92, '93.
Ralph E. Pettit, 1894, '95.
Fred J. Russell, 1896.
Hart Baker, 1897, '99, '00.
A. J. Brown, 1898.
H. C. Moore, 1901.
Hugh J. Packer, 1902, '03.
Frank Munson, 1904, '05, '06.
Watson J. Clark, 1907.
Geo. H. Clow, ap. Aug. 22, '07; '08, '09.
Chester E. Rogers, ap. Jan., 1910; '10, '11, '12, '13.

## ITHACA BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### EVERDEN.

John M. Everden, the subject of this sketch, is essentially a Gratiot County product. His whole life has been spent in this county. He has seen Gratiot County grow from its earliest infancy to its present mature and enviable standing among its sister counties of our beautiful state; to a condition where it has no superior in the state, in agricultural wealth and productiveness. The early pioneers chose well when they selected this county as their future home in which to rear and educate their children. Could they have been permitted to draw aside the curtain which veiled the future from their eyes, and beheld Gratiot County as it now is, in all its beauty and wealth, its fine farms and elegant homes, cities, towns, schools and colleges, how truly could they have said, "Mine eyes have beheld the beauties of that wondrous land. Now, Lord, let thy servant depart in peace."

John M. Everden, born in Ingham County, Mich., October 5, 1852, is the son of Oscar A. and Harriet Jane (Phelps) Everden. The parents moved with their family into this county in February, 1855, locating on sections 27 and 28 in Emerson Township, where, in the previous fall, they had purchased 120 acres of land. The father was a native of Chautauqua County, N. Y. His early life was spent on the Erie Canal, where he was captain of a boat. His mother was a Flower, she being a great granddaughter of Sir John Flower, of Staffordshire, England, who died in 1734. Oscar A. Everden and Harriet Jane Phelps were married at Port Byron, N. Y., in 1847. The former was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1820; the latter in Cayuga County, N. Y., August 29, 1829. Their home, for the two years following their marriage, was on the boat running on the canal between Buffalo and Albany. In 1850 they moved to Michigan, locating in Ingham County, where they lived till February, 1855, when they came to Gratiot County. They were three days on the road, moving into "the woods." The first night they spent at "Gardner's Tavern", which was between St. Johns and Maple Rapids. They spent the following night at the home of Mr. Kinsel, in Newark Township, and the next night they

stayed at the home of Obed Thorp, on section 27, Emerson Township, a half mile from their prospective home. They remained with the Thorp family three weeks while the husband and father was building a small log house on his land. This was no insignificant problem when it is considered that he had no nails and no lumber excepting that from one small dry goods box. The house was "cobbed up" and covered with "shakes", which were held in place by poles running lengthwise, on top of the shakes. The shakes were split from green white oak timber; were usually about thirty inches long and from one-half to an inch in thickness. They made a fairly good roof, and if carefully made, the roof was usually proof against snow and rain. The one door of which the house boasted was made of the boards from the dry goods box. Cross-pieces were hewn from pieces of basswood. To these cross-pieces the small boards from the box were carefully pinned with small wooden pins. The door hinges were of wood, as also was the door latch. A small hole in the door held the "latch string"; and in those good old days the latch string was always out to everyone who came. The floor was made of "puncheon"; basswood logs split through the center and the faces hewn with a broad-ax so they were comparatively smooth. Placed faced side up, side by side, they constituted the floor. This log house was about twelve feet wide by sixteen feet long, one story high, with a small garret in which seed corn, hickory nuts and butternuts were usually kept during the winter.

Oscar A. Everden served his township as supervisor during the years 1857 and 1861. In 1858 he moved his family to St. Louis and entered the employ of Richard G. Hillyer, who was operating a saw and grist mill, and also lumbering on a small scale. Mr. Everden remained in St. Louis for about two years in charge of the business of Mr. Hillyer. St. Louis was at that time only a little hamlet, made up mostly of log houses. The residents, as far as may now be recalled, were Richard G. Hillyer, Geo. W. McHenry and family, Mrs. Lewis M. Clark and family, Elias W. Smith and family, Sidney S. Hastings and family, Frederick D. Weller and family, Sylvanus Groom, Mr. Punderson and wife, John Broadhead and Ed. Cheesman. The little old house in which F. D. Weller then lived still stands where it did. "Indian Town" was just below St. Louis, on the river, distant about a mile and a half. At that place was a Mission Church in charge of a German Lutheran missionary by the name of Meissler. James Gruett was the interpreter. The Indians were a remnant of the Chippewa tribe. Their nominal chief was Naugeesick. The Indians lived mostly in log houses. The Mission had a large log church building in which Sunday services were regularly maintained. The service was quaint but impressive. Notwithstanding there were several hundred of these Indians, they were peaceable and law-abiding, and usually very courteous in their intercourse with the white settlers.

Late in 1859 Mr. Everden moved his family back to his old home in Emerson, where they remained for about three years, when he again moved to St. Louis and engaged in mercantile business, in which he continued until 1866 when he sold the business and in the spring of 1867 returned to his former home in Emerson. He remained there about a year when he sold the farm and purchased an eighty-acre farm two miles north of Ithaca. This continued to be the home of the family until the marriage of the children and the advancing age of the parents necessitated a change.

Oscar A. Everden was a Master Mason. He was one of the charter members of the St. Louis Masonic Lodge, and served as its worthy master



JUDGE JOHN M. EVERDEN.

for a number of years. He also helped establish other Masonic lodges in the county, and during his life he was prominent in the councils of the order. He died in June, 1903, at the ripe age of 84 years, at the home of his son, Oscar M. Everden in St. Louis, Mich. He left surviving him, his wife—Harriet Jane Everden—and three children—Mrs. Cassie Smith, of Portland, Oregon, Oscar M. Everden, of St. Louis, and John M. Everden, of Ithaca. Harriet Jane Everden, the mother, died at the home of John M. Everden, in Ithaca, December 31, 1908, at the age of 80 years.

More than 50 years of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Everden are wrapped up in the history of Gratiot County. They saw the county grow and develop from a wilderness to a county of fertile fields, fine orchards and beautiful homes. They had participated in and aided in that growth and development. They had helped as they could in that growth, and in making this county a joy and a comfort to thousands of people. Who shall say that they did not serve their appointed mission in life!

Oscar M. Everden, son of Oscar A. and Harriet Jane Everden, died at his home in St. Louis, June, 1905. He left a wife and one child, Raymond J. Everden. At the time of his death he was the owner and publisher of the St. Louis Republican Leader. Raymond J. Everden, son of Oscar M. and Anna (Bahlke) Everden, died at the home of his mother, in St. Louis, August 30, 1906.

John M. Everden, at the age of eighteen years, began to teach school, usually teaching during the winter and farming during the summer. Politically he is a Republican. During his boyhood days he was schooled in Democracy, his father being a Douglas Democrat. But as he grew to manhood, political lines were so drawn that he allied himself with the Republican party, which appeared to him to represent the true progressive spirit of the times. He was elected township superintendent of schools, under the old township system, when he was twenty-one years old. He was supervisor of Emerson in the years 1877, '78 and '81.

April 19, 1883, John M. Everden was united in marriage to Jennie E. Van Buskirk, at East Saginaw, Mich. She was born in Syracuse, N. Y., September 20, 1862, daughter of Ira and Demarias Van Buskirk, of Ithaca, Mich., and a sister of William and Fred S. Van Buskirk, of the same place. She died at Ithaca, September 29, 1891. Only those who knew her best knew her earnestness and fidelity in all the relations of life.

In the spring of 1885 Mr. Everden moved to Ithaca where he has continued to reside till the present time.

November 12, 1895, Mr. Everden was married at Buffalo, N. Y. to Frances Greenwood Husted, of Buffalo. She was born in Buffalo, daughter of Frank and Angie (Greenwood) Husted of that city. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Everden—Angie, born November 27, 1896, died October 12, 1897; Jennie Edith, born February 28, 1899.

Mr. Everden has served as a member of the village council of Ithaca for six years, and as village president three years; also as village attorney four years. He is a Master Mason, being a member of Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., of which he was Master eight years. He is also a member of the Council and Ithaca Chapter R. A. M., and served as Thrice Illustrious of the Council three years, and also High Priest of the Chapter three years. He is also a Knight Templar, being a member of Ithaca Commandery No. 40, over which he has presided three terms as Eminent Commander. He is a member of Bay City Lodge of Perfection, Bay City Council Princes of Jerusalem, Saginaw Chapter of Rose Croix, and Bay City Consistory S. P. R. S. He has taken all of the Masonic degrees to and

including the 32nd. He is also a Shriner, being a member of Saladin Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. Order of the Shrine of Grand Rapids. A member, also, of the Maccabees and Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Everden began to study law after his removal to Ithaca, and was admitted to the bar in 1887. He was elected circuit court commissioner in 1888, but resigned before his term expired. In 1892 he was elected judge of probate and served one term. He was unanimously renominated in 1896, but was defeated at the election, the county going democratic by about 800 majority, the issue being "Free Silver." He ran ahead of his ticket by about 300 votes, but he could not overcome the free silver vote. In the campaign of 1906 he was nominated and elected by the Republican party of his county as prosecuting attorney, and was re-elected in the fall of 1908 to succeed himself. At that election he carried, by a good majority, every township and voting precinct in the county. He became the party's candidate for the same office in 1912, and was elected by a substantial majority.

Mr. Everden comes from the "plain people." He was educated in the plain country schools. He gathered the wisdom and knowledge that fell from the lips of country school teachers. In every position to which the people have called him he has not failed them, but has served them and their interests faithfully and well. His one purpose has always been to do his duty.

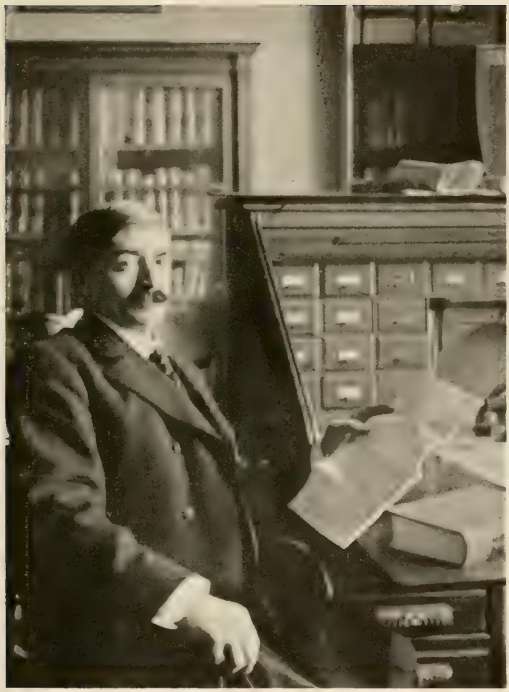
He owns a farm of 100 acres in Arcada Township, and a comfortable home in Ithaca.

## SEARL.

Kelly S. Searl was born February 1, 1862, at Fairfield, Shiawassee County, Michigan, his parents having emigrated to that place from Ohio in the early fifties. His father, Chauncey D. Searl, is a native of Vermont and is still living on his farm near Elsie. His mother was Harriet E. Kelley, a native of Ohio, but now deceased. Mr. Searl attended the district school until about 15 years of age and then attended the village schools at Elsie and Ovid, finishing his literary education at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, after which he taught school for several years in order to earn enough money to pay his expenses in taking his law course at Ann Arbor. In 1884 he entered the law department of the university, from which he graduated in 1886.

In March, 1887, he opened a law office at Ashley, and after practicing there for three years, moved to Ithaca where he has since resided. While engaged in the practice of law he justly earned the reputation of being one of the leading lawyers of Gratiot County. He has always been an ardent Republican, and when, in 1899, the people of his county insisted that he should allow his name to be presented for Circuit Judge, he gave his consent and was the candidate of his county in the Republican Judicial Convention held at St. Johns. Judge S. B. Daboll, who had occupied the bench in that circuit for about ten years, was the choice of the Republicans of Clinton County. Each county having twelve delegates, a deadlock ensued, lasting about two weeks, and the convention being unable to make a choice, it was adjourned sine die. No nomination being made, the candidate upon the Democratic ticket, George P. Stone, of Ithaca, was elected without opposition.

In 1905 the Republicans of Gratiot County, by practically a unanimous choice, again nominated Mr. Searl as their candidate for Circuit Judge, and at the same time the Republicans of Clinton County nominated Hon. Charles



JUDGE KELLY S. SEARL.

M. Merrill. At the convention held at Alma another deadlock developed, but after voting for about ten days the Clinton County delegation cast its entire vote for Mr. Searl and he was unanimously nominated; and at the election in April he was elected over Judge Stone, his opponent, by a majority of upward of five hundred.

After holding this office for the first term, he was unanimously chosen in the primaries for re-nomination, and at the same time Judge Stone was again nominated by the Democratic party. After a lively campaign between these two men, each of whom had held the office for one term with satisfactory results, Judge Searl was elected by a majority of 1,035 in the spring of 1911, and still holds the office.

Up to the present time 35 cases arising in the 29th Judicial Circuit and passed upon by Judge Searl have been reviewed and decided in the Supreme Court, and out of this number 29 have been affirmed and six only reversed. In Clinton County no case has ever been tried a second time on account of the granting of a new trial in the Supreme Court, excepting the case of



JUDGE SEARL'S RESIDENCE.

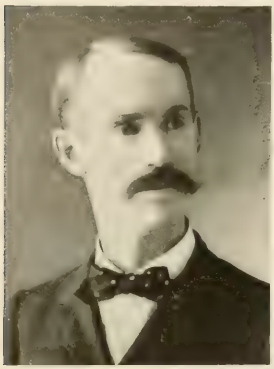
Graham vs. the D. G. H. & M. R. R., and in this case a verdict of $10,000 upon the second trial, was affirmed by the Supreme Court. In Gratiot County but one case has ever been reversed, but no re-trial resulted.

During his residence in Ithaca and before going upon the bench, Judge Searl was for many years a member of the School Board and held the office of Village President. He is a member of the M. E. Church and of different branches of the Masonic Order, the Odd Fellows, K. of P. and K. O. T. M. M. He was married September 30, 1885, to Miss Maggie A. Smith, daughter of Wm. W. Smith, of Mason, Michigan, and they have three children—Ethel M., Hazelbelle and William C. Searl—aged, respectively, 22, 20 and 18. The eldest daughter is principal of the Quincy High School, she having graduated from the State Normal School at Mt. Pleasant. The other daughter is an expert musician, and the son is still in High School.

Judge Searl's portrait, together with a view of the fine family residence on Jefferson Street, south, are interesting adjuncts to this brief biographical sketch.

## HARRINGTON.

Any history of Gratiot County would be distinctly incomplete without mention—more or less extended—of Farnk M. Harrington, now, and for more than 20 years a resident of Ithaca. He is the second son of Andrew J. and Kate B. (Kemp) Harrington, formerly and for many years well-known citizens of Gratiot County. Andrew J. Harrington was born in Waterloo, N. Y., May 12, 1832, son of James and Mary (Burnett) Harrington. He served during the Civil War, from 1861 to 1864, as a musician in the 8th Mich. Vol. Infantry. Kate B. (Kemp) Harrington, now deceased, was a daughter of Jacob M. and Harriet (Hoy) Kemp, and was born in West Liberty, Ohio, August 14, 1840. She was married to Andrew J. Harrington, December 25, 1856, at Williams Center, Ohio. They removed to Isabella County, Mich. in 1858, and became residents of Ithaca, Gratiot County, in 1859.



FRANK M. HARRINGTON.

Two children came to the union of Andrew J. Harrington and wife—George L., born in Coe Township, Isabella County, Mich., February 8, 1859, and Frank M., our subject, born in Ithaca, Mich., October 15, 1860. George L. Harrington is a dentist, residing, and in active business, in Preston, Minnesota.

Frank Marvin Harrington resided with his parents until 18 years of age, receiving a common school education. He then spent a year at Bartlett Commercial College, at Lansing, Mich. "On the 19th of June, 1879," to use Mr. Harrington's own language in furnishing some of the facts for this sketch, "I arrived at St. Louis, where, with only 35 cents in my pocket, I began to carve out my future by selling and delivering groceries and acting as all-around utility man for Kemp & Son. After running their business for five years and getting the firm in shape to retire, I bought a half interest in a planing mill at St. Louis, then known as the A. J. Harrington & Son Lumber Company." Later, the firm, changing its name to the Harrington Table Co., moved to Alma. After about six months our subject, who was secretary of the company, withdrew from the firm.



MRS. F. M. HARRINGTON.

August 27, 1885, Frank M. Harrington was married to Mina A., second daughter of Joseph B. and Deborah E. (Mecum) Vliet, of St. Louis, Mich. Two children have been born to this union—Beatrice, born in St. Louis, November 14, 1886, and Marian, born in St. Louis, March 23, 1890. Beatrice, now Mrs. David G. Rockwell, of Detroit, has one son, F. Harrington Rockwell, born July 15, 1907. Marian

was married to Alva N. Brader, October 10, 1912. They are residents of Grand Rapids.

Mrs. F. M. Harrington has two brothers—Ernest L. Vliet, a farmer of Pine River Township, and George A., a merchant at St. Louis.

In June, 1889, Mr. Harrington removed with his family to Ithaca to take a position in the furniture and undertaking establishment of William Pullen. After a time he severed his connection with Mr. Pullen and entered the employ of Postmaster A. D. Pettit, as clerk in the postoffice, where he remained about a year, resigning to accept a position as salesman with Lewis & Yost, Ithaca, dealers in general merchandise, in which position he remained nine years, resigning to form a co-partnership—February 1, 1902—with J. L. Barden, under the firm name of Harrington & Barden, Furniture and Undertaking. This firm continued in business until October, 1909, when Mr. Harrington sold his interest to Mr. Barden, and at about the same time bought what is known as the Jeptha Earl farm in Newark Township. In January, 1910, he took a position in the office of Register of Deeds George W. Long, as recording clerk, a position which he held three years. During the summer of 1913 he occupied his farm, engaged in farming and in rebuilding his farm house.

Mr. Harrington's disposition and manner is of the genial, friendly sort. Practically all who know him well may justly and truly be called his friends. What is known as "the blues" cannot exist long where he is present. A man, also of honor and integrity, his townsmen have many times called him to positions of responsibility. He served Ithaca Village two years as treasurer, three years as assessor and one year as president. He was supervisor of Ithaca Township in 1901-2-3, a period which included the finishing of the new Court House. As resident member of the building committee and its secretary, his duties were many and his labors strenuous, but he filled the requirements faithfully and well, and he can consistently be given the credit of doing his full share in the work of giving Gratiot County the best public building of its kind in Central Michigan.

It was during Mr. Harrington's incumbency of the office of village president—1908—that the first section of pavement on Center Street was put down, and it is but justice to say that the work, in all its details, received his close attention and faithful supervision.

It seems appropriate, in closing, to remark, that Mr. Harrington is a born musician; it runs in the family. His father, before him, could—and can—draw music from any unpromising thing capable of producing a noise; so Frank came honestly by his musical ability. He has been, for many years, a bandmaster and director of orchestras, well known as such throughout central and northern Michigan.

Mr. Harrington is a Republican in politics. As a lodge man, he is an active member of Ithaca Knights of Pythias No. 65; Knights of the Modern Maccabees No. 128; F. & A. M. No. 123; R. & S. M. No. 33; R. A. M. No. 70; K. T. No. 40; and is a Modern Roman. Mrs. Harrington is a valued member of Chapter No. 56, O. E. S., and is a past worthy matron of the order.

Mrs. Kate B. Harrington, Frank M. Harrington's mother, died at the home of her son George, in Preston, Minn., February, 1913. She was brought to St. Louis for burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Andrew J. Harrington survives, aged 81 years.

## PECK.

Elijah Peck settled in Newark Township in 1856, and in the fall of that year commenced an office-holding habit which stuck to him for a period of about eighteen years with scarcely a break. In 1856 he was elected register of deeds and was re-elected in '58 and '60. In 1862 he was transferred to the treasurer's office, holding it two terms, and in 1868 was elected judge of probate, holding that office one term—four years. Just what he did in '66 and '67 the record makes no mention, but in 1857 he held the office of township clerk of Newark which seemed to help in piecing out matters to some extent. Levity aside, however, all information now available makes him out a reliable and useful citizen, and certainly he had the confidence of the people in an unusual degree.



ELIJAH PECK.

Elijah Peck was born in Orangeville, Wyoming County, N. Y. December 25, 1820. He lived to the ripe old age of 87 years, three months and four days, passing away at the home of his son, Rufus S. Peck, at Ludington, Mich., March 29, 1908. He was a charter member of the First Congregational Church, of Ithaca, an organization that was dissolved some years ago.

## McCALL.

Jonathan Nicholson McCall was born September 28, 1857, in Nelson, Portage County, Ohio. His parents on both sides were farmers. His father was William Wallace McCall, his mother, Mary A. McCall. His paternal grandfather, Joseph McCall, came from Middleton, Connecticut, to Ohio, in 1820, and settled on a farm in Nelson Township where he resided until his death. His maternal grandfather, James Knowlton, came a little later from Blandford, Mass., and settled in the same township. The McCalls were of Scotch ancestry, and came to the New England States in an early day, a branch of the family subsequently moving to New York.

The subject of this sketch attended the country schools, Nelson Academy, Garrettsville High School and, in 1875, entered Mount Union College, at Alliance, Ohio. Here, with the exception of the first two terms, he bore the entire expense of his education, by teaching and working on the farm. He graduated with the class of 1881, of which he was the valedictorian. During part of his course he acted as a tutor in the college. He was the business manager of the first college paper ever issued by the college. Immediately after graduation, he became principal of the schools at Northfield, Ohio. The next year he accepted the superintendency of the schools at Windham, Ohio, and the following year was further promoted by election to the superintendency of the Newton Falls schools. Here he remained until the spring of 1885, when he was called to the supervision of the schools at Ithaca, Mich., where he has ever since resided. He systematized the schools, revised the course of study, and in the spring of 1888, secured their admission



JONATHAN NICHOLSON McCALL.

to the list of schools approved by Michigan University. Mr. McCall continued as superintendent until 1892, when he resigned, to enter the newspaper field, and purchased the Gratiot County Herald.

From a Democratic weekly of about a thousand subscribers, Mr. McCall transformed the Herald into an independent paper and, about two years later, into a Republican paper, which it has since continued to be. In the fall of 1905, E. J. McCall, a brother, purchased a fourth interest in the Herald and took the active business management, J. N. McCall having been appointed postmaster of Ithaca, March 10, 1903, and finding it necessary to devote a large share of his time to the duties of this office. Under the management and guidance of McCall & McCall the Herald has steadily grown in influence and circulation until now it covers the entire county, has a circulation of over 5,000, and is recognized the state over as one of the best weeklies in the state.

Mr. McCall has repeatedly been a delegate to county and state Republican conventions, and was alternate delegate-at-large from Michigan to the National Republican Convention at Philadelphia, in 1900. For many years he has been prominent as a speaker, not only in his own county but in the employ of the State Central Committee of his party. Prior to his appointment as postmaster, he served for ten years as a member of the Republican county committee. He was a delegate to the Republican congressional district convention of 1900, and presented to that body the name of Hon. A. B. Darragh, of St. Louis, and aided in securing his nomination, and in his election to congress. He served as chairman of the congressional committee, and as chairman of the judicial convention which nominated K. S. Searl for judge of his circuit, and served as chairman of his judicial committee.

For twenty years Mr. McCall has been a member of the Michigan Press Association of which he was president in 1900, and for many years a member of the executive committee. He has held similar positions in the Republican Newspaper Association of the state. In the spring of 1900 he was a delegate of the State Press Association to the National Press meeting at New Orleans. In 1905 he and his oldest son, Webb, took the celebrated Press trip of 4,000 miles to Halifax and, in 1907, in company with his wife, oldest daughter, Irene, and infant son, Harlan, took the celebrated all-water trip to Quebec and up the Saguenay.

Though always interested in politics, Mr. McCall has never sought election to any political office. He has, however, served as president of his village, on the village council, and as a member of the school board. March 3, 1903, he became postmaster of Ithaca by appointment from President Roosevelt. He has been twice reappointed without opposition.

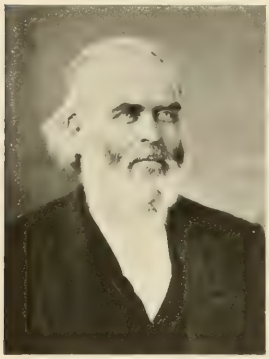
Fraternally Mr. McCall is a member of Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., in which he has held all the offices, including that of master; of Ithaca Chapter, R. A. M. No. 70, of which he has been high priest; of Ithaca Council R. & S. M., and of Ithaca Commandery K. T., and past worthy patron of Myrtle Chapter O. E. S. He is also past chancellor of Ithaca Knights of Pythias, a member of Rising Star Lodge, I. O. O. F.; of the Loyal Guards and of the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. McCall was first married August 24, 1882, to Margaret Frances Webb, of Tallmadge, O. To them was born one son, Wallace Webb, August 20, 1890, who graduated in June, 1913, from Michigan University and is now business manager of the Herald. Mrs. Margaret McCall died March 31, 1893. Mr. McCall was again married November 13, 1894, to Miss Harriet Watson Richardson, of Ithaca, Mich. Ten children have resulted from this

union: Harriet Irene, born August 22, 1895; Thelma Margaret, born Dec. 25, 1896; Jonathan Watson, born September 28, 1898; Romaine, born August 8, 1900; George Knowlton, born July 13, 1902; Genevieve, born October 3, 1904; Harlan Richardson, born September 17, 1906; Mary Jean, born January 2, 1909; Duane Sherwood, born December 29, 1910, and Joseph Nicholson, born September 8, 1912.

## BECKWITH.

William C. Beckwith, pioneer, hustler, faithful official and popular citizen of Gratiot County, was born in Utica, N. Y., August 8, 1827, son of Joseph P. and Sophronia (Coolidge) Beckwith. He learned the business of furniture making in his youth, pursuing his trade in Rochester, N. Y., and later in Canada. In 1858 he came to Ithaca, arriving April 9th, and soon thereafter bought 120 acres of land on section 29, of Emerson Township. This he proceeded to improve, with energy and perseverance. In the fall of 1862 he was elected county clerk, and was re-elected in '64, '66 and '68, thus having the unusual distinction of filling that office four consecutive terms.



WM. C. BECKWITH.

In 1870 Mr. Beckwith started in the business of manufacturing furniture, and in building operations. In 1870 he had the job of erecting a county court house, the old building that did duty until the present stone structure was completed in 1901. In 1870 he erected a factory building for his purposes on the site now occupied by the Journal building, and it was destroyed by fire in 1874. Later he built another building for his use on North Street; a building torn down only recently to make room for residence buildings. He also built the present Journal building.

Mr. Beckwith was married July 7, 1848, at Colchester, Delaware County, N. Y., to Emily, daughter of William S. and Rachel Lane, who was born August 30, 1826, at Neversink, N. Y. Children born to them were eight in number, only two of whom are now living—Mrs. Alfred Holcomb and Mrs. Walter L. Hilbourn, of Ithaca.

Mr. Beckwith died at his home in Ithaca, October 2, 1894. The wife and mother, Mrs. Emily Beckwith, survived until May 15, 1909, passing away at the age of 83 years.

## JACKSON.

Oscar F. Jackson, for nearly forty years a prominent and well-known resident of St. Louis and Ithaca, was born in Westminster, Canada, May 11, 1846. His parents were Andrew and Elizabeth (Hammond) Jackson, the former born in Vermont, the latter in England. They became residents of Lapeer County, Mich., in 1857, where Oscar F. finished a common school education. At the age of 17 he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company K, 4th Mich. Cavalry, and remained nearly a year in

the service. On his return from the army he learned the tinsmith's trade which he afterward followed, generally in connection with the hardware trade.

Mr. Jackson removed to St. Louis, this county, in April, 1871, and there, in the employ of Wessels & Scriver and in partnership with A. F. Wright, he continued in business until January, 1879, when he removed to Ithaca and entered into the hardware business. Later, going out of business in Ithaca, he removed to Grand Rapids and was in the employ of a hardware firm in the capacity of traveling salesman until incapacitated by the illness which resulted in his death September 5, 1908.

Mr. Jackson was a very active and energetic business man, and one who made many friends. He held responsible official positions both in St. Louis and Ithaca, and was the Democrat candidate for county clerk in 1880. He was always active as a fireman, chief of Ithaca's fire department many years, and holding high official positions in the State Firemen's Association.

Mr. Jackson was married in Lapeer September 4, 1870, to Cynthia S., daughter of Edward C. and Rebecca Nye, born April 20, 1853. Children born to them are Lillian, Arthur and Hazel.

## WINTON.

William E. Winton, now deceased, one of the best-known and most highly respected citizens of Gratiot County for more than fifty years, was born in Madison County, N. Y., December 17, 1820, son of William and Desdemona (Leach) Winton. The father was a native of Scotland, coming to America at the age of 23 years and settling in Madison County, N. Y. He died at Manchester, Mich., January 21, 1858.



WM. E. WINTON.

William E. Winton came to Michigan in 1837, settling in Livingston County, where, on November 27, 1842, he was married to Miss Sarah Ramsdell. Three children were born to them—Sarah J., Mary D. and John H. The latter survives, being now a resident of Detroit. Mrs. Winton died June 22, 1852, and on the 4th of April, 1859, Mr. Winton was married to Miss Mariette Thompson, of Corunna, Mich.

Mr. Winton received a common school education, studied law and in 1858 was admitted to the bar at Howell, Mich. In the spring of 1860 he removed with his family to Ithaca when the town was but a hamlet. Since that time, nearly up to his death, he was identified conspicuously with the interests of the village and county, being an active factor in the upbuilding of the county, in every sense—materially, morally, intellectually and religiously. He was in active practice of his profession until recent years when the approach of extreme old age and the pressure of other cares and duties induced his withdrawal from active practice.

In the course of his extended career as a resident of the county Mr. Winton was called upon to serve his fellow-citizens in various important capacities, some of the most important being the following: Prosecuting attorney in 1864 and '66; judge of probate in 1872; circuit court com-

missioner several terms; member of the village council and of the school board many years; first village president at the incorporation of the village in 1869.

In politics Mr. Winton was a Republican; belonged to the Masonic fraternity and was a devoted and active member of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Winton passed away at his home in Ithaca, Monday, February 3, 1913, at the ripe old age of 92 years, one month and 17 days. The wife survives at the age of 82 years.

John H. Winton, the only survivor of William E. Winton's children, was born May 31, 1852, in Livingston County, Mich. He was admitted to the bar at Ithaca, April 8, 1881. May 31, 1881, he was married to Annie S. Sickels, daughter of Judge William and Isabel B. Sickels. Two children were born to them—William and Beulah. John H. Winton and wife have resided in Detroit about five years.

## GRAHAM.

This brief sketch gives some of the most important details in the life history of Charles G. Graham, now and for the past twenty-five years one of Ithaca's best-known and most popular citizens. Mr. Graham was born in Wathena, Kansas, June 3, 1869. His father was George W. Graham, a native of the State of New York. His mother, whose maiden name was Emily G. Scrafford, was born in Bellevue, Ohio. Other children of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Graham are Curtis Graham, born in 1867; Mrs. Grace Westgate, born in 1871; Georgia B. Ellery, born in 1874. All were born in Kansas. Curtis Graham is a farmer, residing near Rockford, Mich. Mrs. Grace Westgate is a resident of Salida, Kansas. Mrs. Georgia B. Ellery resides at Belding, Mich., and is a teacher in the schools of that city. The mother, Mrs. Emily Graham, resides at Belding with her daughter, Mrs. Ellery.

Charles G. Graham chose for his life-work the business of a traveling salesman, and with slight interruption he has followed it to the present time. His first job in that line, and long before he had reached his majority, was selling shoes for T. W. Cosgrove & Co., of Kansas City. In 1888 he accepted a better job with Locke, Huliet & Co., of Chicago, selling dry goods in Michigan. Coming to Ithaca in the course of business, he met, and in due time—June 26, 1889—married Miss Mina A. Hasse, born in Ovid, Mich., daughter of Frederick L. T. Hasse and Henrietta (Twining) Hasse, the former born November 10, 1836, the latter born May 15, 1840. Mr. Hasse was a merchant tailor and dealer in clothing and gents' furnishing goods, coming to Ithaca from Ovid in 1886, and doing business in the Steel-Webster block for several years. He died in Ithaca November 26, 1908. Mrs. Hasse died August 4, 1913; both passing away at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Graham.

Mrs. Mina A. Graham has one sister, Mrs. Mae (Hasse) Sweetman, wife of Charles A. Sweetman, now residents of Detroit. Mr. and Mrs. Sweetman have one son—Reginald.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Graham have been residents of Ithaca, continuously, since their marriage. They are the parents of three daughters. Ela H. (Graham) Flumerfelt was born March 27, 1890, and has a son, Charles G. Flumerfelt, born March 31, 1910. Gladys P. Graham was born September 14, 1891; resides with her parents. She took a five-year course at the M. A. C., graduating in the class of 1913. Audrey F. Graham, born October 11, 1893, was married June 1, 1913, to John West and resides in Grand Ledge, Mich. Her husband is in mercantile trade with his father, at Grand Ledge.



CHARLES G. GRAHAM.

Mr. Graham has been for many years manager of the Michigan business of the great wholesale house of John V. Farwell Co., of Chicago, in which position he has been very successful, proving himself to be a valuable adjunct of the firm, and especially popular with its customers. In the summer of 1913 he sold his fine home on Pine River Street, corner of North Street, and purchased the magnificent old Jeffrey homestead, on Center Street, west, and is remodeling it to meet the requirements of this progressive period. When fixed to his taste he will have a residence hard to beat in the county. He also owns a farm of 420 acres, lying a half mile west of the Ithaca corporation limits; a piece of property in which he takes much pride, and which is destined, under his management, to become one of the most valuable pieces of farm property in the county.

In the spring of 1906, Mr. Graham was elected president of the Village of Ithaca. He served one term and declined a re-nomination. He has since served as a member of the common council. He stands high in the Masonic order, not only locally but also in the Grand Lodge, having risen through the grades until—in 1910 and '11—he reached and occupied the high position of Right Eminent Commander Knights Templar of Michigan.

This sketch, dealing as it does with one of Ithaca's most popular families, will be a valuable and welcome feature of this volume in the estimation of their scores of friends.

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## CROSBY.

Emery Crosby was North Shade's third supervisor, having been elected in the spring of 1858. The following fall he was elected county clerk, and served one term. He was a well-known and popular teacher, officiating in the St. Louis school in 1864. He also did something as a preacher. In 1873 he removed to Lafayette and afterward held official positions in that township. He was considered as a man above reproach in private life and as an official.



EMERY CROSBY.

Emery Crosby was born in Albany, N. Y., January 26, 1819, son of John and Harriet (Owen) Crosby, natives of Connecticut. He was married to Nancy M. Miller in 1838, and in 1844 removed to Wayne County, Mich., where he was engaged in teaching and preaching for some time, afterward doing duty in the same lines in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. He removed to North Shade, this county in 1856, locating on section 32. He removed to Ithaca early in 1859 to take up the duties of county clerk, living in Ithaca until his removal to Lafayette in 1873, as stated. While a resident of Ithaca he served as clerk and justice of the peace of Newark Township.

Mr. Crosby and his wife, Nancy M., became the parents of two sons —James F. and L. Virgil. Mrs. Crosby died in 1872, and in 1877 Mr. Crosby was married to Mrs. Elizabeth (Holiday) Morton. He died at the home of his son Virgil in Emerson Township, January 24, 1889. He belonged to the Christian Church, and was also an active member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Masonic order.

## BROWN.

Hon. Giles Tyler Brown, deceased, was born January 28, 1837, in Green Oak, Livingston County, Mich., and was the eldest in a family of four children, of James M. and Betsey (Borden) Brown, who came from Poultney, Steuben County, N. Y., to Green Oak, in 1836, while Michigan was still a territory. The father was the son of James and Mary (Daily) Brown, who, in the early part of the 19th century, were residents of Poultney. The Browns were of Puritanic descent and the Dailys were Scotch-Irish. James Daily, a great grandfather of Mr. Brown, was a pioneer in Western New York, and in 1787 built the first sawmill west of Crooked Lake—now called Kenka Lake.

Mr. Brown's ancestors on the maternal side were all of Puritanic descent. The mother was a daughter of Ezeriah and Sarah (Tyler) Borden. Ezeriah Borden was born at Whitestown, N. Y., about 1786, and was the son of Ezeriah and Hannah (Calkins) Borden, both of whom were born in Connecticut in colonial times, and whose families are traced back in Connecticut history to its earliest settlement. Sarah (Tyler) Borden, maternal grandmother, was a daughter of Peter and Sarah (Palmer) Tyler, both of whom were born in Connecticut. Peter Tyler served his country faithfully during the entire war for American Independence, soon after its close, locating in Steuben County, N. Y., where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Brown's father died in Green Oak in 1851. His mother died in Ithaca in 1892, at the age of 79 years. His only sister, Altana, wife of O. M. Benjamin, died in St. Johns, November, 1865, at the age of 24 years. His brother, Ambrose W., died in North Star, August, 1894. His brother, Alanson J. Brown, and family, are still residents of Ithaca.

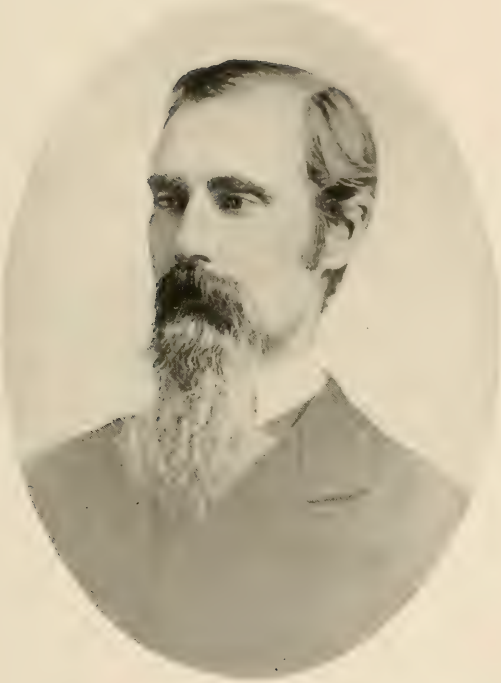
Mr. Brown's father built the first school house—a rude, log structure—in the district where they lived, in Green Oak, and the boy regularly attended the schools, such as they were, for several years. He was 14 years of age when his father died, and he assumed charge of the farm of 80 acres, conducting its affairs for three years. Thirsting for knowledge, he spent the four following years at Ypsilanti, entering first the Seminary, and afterward State Normal School. After teaching two terms in this state, he taught during the year 1859, in Franklin County, Mo. Returning to Michigan, he studied law and taught school alternately.

Mr. Brown was first married March 17, 1861, to E. Jennie Hewitt, of Highland, Oakland County, Mich. She was born in Windham, Conn., in 1836, and was a daughter of Benjamin and Anne (Perry) Hewitt.

He enlisted August 1, 1862, at Green Oak, as a private in Company H, 22nd Mich. Infantry, Capt. Henry S. Dean. Never robust, he was unable to endure the strenuous life of the army, and, after lying sick for weeks at Lexington, Ky., he was discharged for disability, and returned to his home. As his health improved, he resumed teaching, for which service he was always in demand. He was, indeed, an ideal teacher, possessing a certain natural dignity which unfailingly commanded respect and inspired confidence. Both his brothers—Ambrose W. and Alanson J.—were soldiers in the 3rd Mich. Cavalry, the latter serving more than four years.

Previous to Mr. Brown's enlistment he had studied law with R. G. Depew, of Ann Arbor, and in 1863 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating in 1865. During that year he was admitted to practice, in supreme court, in session at Detroit.

In the spring of 1866 he came to Ithaca, opened a law office and speedily entered upon a career of public usefulness. In the ensuing fall he was



HON. GILES T. BROWN.

elected superintendent of the poor and served in that office several years. In November of the same year he was elected circuit court commissioner, and later served again two terms. In the spring of 1867 he was elected county superintendent of schools, serving four years. Two years later he was again elected for two years. In 1882, the law providing for a board of examiners to conduct county school affairs, he was chosen secretary of the board and served several years, the duties of secretary being similar to those of the present commissioner of schools. He was many times a member of the local school board; was the second president of Ithaca Village, holding the office three years; was a justice of the peace many terms; was the second secretary of the Gratiot County Agricultural Society and one of its prominent promotors.

In 1876 he and his wife assisted in the organization of the Gratiot County Pioneer Society in which he was always interested, many times planning for, or contributing to its interests. He was a friend and patron of the Ladies' Library Association, and member of the Shakespeare Club, organizations of importance to Ithaca thirty-five years ago when there were but few private libraries.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Brown was elected judge of probate for four years, and doubtless would have been re-elected but for the fact that at the Republican senatorial convention at Mt. Pleasant in the fall of 1880, he was nominated for state senator. This honor was entirely unsought and came as a surprise to him. He made a triumphant campaign against the Greenback and Democratic candidates, being elected by a good vote, running considerably ahead of his ticket in his own county; which, by the way, was not unusual when he ran for office. In 1881 he was prominently mentioned for circuit judge, and was enthusiastically endorsed for that position by the Gratiot County convention.

Mr. Brown became a member of the Masonic fraternity as soon as age would permit and always cherished its tenets. He was also a prominent Odd Fellow, having been noble grand of Rising Star Lodge and a member of Canton No. 11, Patriarchs Militant. He organized and named Moses Wisner Post No. 101, G. A. R., and was its commander for six years. It was named for the colonel of his regiment, ex-Gov. Moses Wisner, of Pontiac, who died at Lexington, Ky., soon after Mr. Brown's discharge. Fondly cherishing the memory of close friends who lost their lives in the service, Memorial Day had a peculiarly solemn significance for him, and most truly did he exemplify in his life the motto—"Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

It has been well said that "Mr. Brown was one of the most potent legal and educational forces in Gratiot County." In 1866 the county had but few scholastic advantages, and he, fresh from the University, and well versed in modern methods, ungrudgingly gave his best thought to the improvement of the schools. While county superintendent he conducted, annually, normal classes for teachers, of six weeks' duration, which were of untold benefit, and advanced the standards to equal those of any county in the state, while they were invaluable and far-reaching in the inspiration given for attainments in higher education. In 1868 he published "The Gratiot School Journal", an educational quarterly, and organized the Gratiot County Teachers' Association, which was the first of its kind in Michigan, and which, from the start, was so educational in its scope as to receive special commendation from the superintendent of public instruction. He directed the programs of this organization for many years, and was always foremost in matters of education and culture; not only the unquestioned **pioneer** in the promotion of educational interest, methods and progress, but the **peer** of any educator in Gratiot County.

When Mr. Brown and family became residents of Ithaca, in 1866, there were no church buildings, excepting the small one owned by the Adventists. The Baptists had been organized since July 18, 1857, but held services in the school house, as did also other denominations. Mr. and Mrs. (E. Jennie) Brown had long been Baptists, and were among the leaders in building the first Baptist Church edifice, which was dedicated in 1867, and furnished the first audience room of any consequence in the village.

Mr. Brown was a collector of choice books ,and was a profound student—not only of literature, but of humanity and of Nature, whom he loved in all her moods. Notwithstanding an unusually busy life, he excelled in literary attainments; a forceful writer and speaker, a good elocutionist, a gifted poet, contributions from voice and pen were often sought and most generously given. He was, however, very diffident about claiming any special recognition of his mental gifts. A bright woman—herself an author—once said to him, "Mr. Brown, if I had half your talent, and you had half my presumption, we would both be famous." Though always a man of affairs, and never free from the problem of "making a living", he left a large collection of poems, highly valued by his friends; and soon to be published.

He was a man of high ideals, rare judgment, unfailing integrity and great kindness of heart. He was especially sympathetic with the unfortunate, and with those who had "hard lines" in life. W. C. Beckwith—a pioneer of revered memory—once said, "If there is a man without a friend on earth, let him go to Giles T. Brown and he will find one." Though fraternal and social in his nature, he was above all else domestic in his tastes, and loved his friends and family devotedly. In his later years, when defective hearing and feeble health caused his gradual withdrawal from more active public life, this love for home became more absorbing; and he was always at his best when any of the absent children came home on a visit. His store of knowledge, accurate memory, keen sense of humor and quick appreciation of a good story, made him a delightful companion. Recently one of his sons said, "Sometimes it seems to me I would give all I possess to hear father again in one of those table-talks." A prominent citizen once remarked, "Mr. Brown is a wonder to me; he can give you information on any subject, or else direct you where to find it."

His death occurred May 20, 1903, and he was sincerely mourned by many friends. But upon the members of the home circle there fell the shadow of an unspeakable sorrow which can never be lifted. He was indeed greatly revered by his family, who tenderly cherish his memory, and prize their heritage far above silver and gold.

The first wife of Mr. Brown—a woman of rare excellence, and greatly beloved—died November 30, 1871, leaving four children, all of whom are living. They are Bayard T., Annie M., Theodore N. and Bessie J. August 17, 1873, he married Sara L. Watson, daughter of John T. and Harriet L. (Wilcox) Watson. Of this union there were six children. The first born, Giles Tyler, died at the age of two and one-half years; the others—J. Brainard, Laura V., Alanson W., Beatrice B. and Sara Lucile, are still living. In speaking of these sons and daughters it seems fitting to say, briefly, that all of them are well educated and useful men and women. All are graduates from the Ithaca High School. And, by the way, it is interesting to note that for thirty-seven successive years the Ithaca schools had one or more pupils from the family.

Bayard T. Brown, having finished in the Ithaca school, taught one year, and was studying in Ypsilanti, when he received from Rev. Theodore Nelson, the appointment of chief clerk in the office of the superintendent of public

instruction at Lansing, where he remained five years. He continued, however, the study of law, and upon admission to the bar in 1890, began the practice of his profession in Detroit, where he still remains. In 1888 he married Gertrude W., daughter of Rev. Dr. E. H. E. Jameson, then of Lansing, and they have five children.

Annie M. Brown is a graduate of Ithaca schools, and of the State Normal at Ypsilanti. She is a successful teacher, having taught in Menominee, Big Rapids and Ithaca for many years.

Theodore N. Brown graduated in Ithaca in 1887, and was stenographer and clerk for some time in Saginaw, and for several years was chief stenographer for the Chicago, St. Paul & Minneapolis R. R. at the headquarters of the company in Chicago. He married May L., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Waterbury. They have one child and are living in Jackson, Mich.

Bessie J. graduated in Ithaca in the class of 1889. She taught in Ithaca and Greenville several years, attended Kalamazoo College one year, and was married to Rev. N. T. Hafer in 1896. He was pastor of Trinity Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., several years, afterward serving a Detroit church, now serving as pastor of a church at Walnut, Ind. They have four children.

J. Brainard Brown graduated in Ithaca in 1895, and had already learned the printer's trade. An illness in 1894 had weakened his constitution, and after graduating he sought restoration in the strenuous, out-door life of a cow-boy, in Colorado. As his health improved he taught school on the plains, and then attended Colorado Springs College three years, and New Mexico University at Albuquerque one year, doing newspaper work during the vacations. In 1900 he entered Crozer Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., and graduated in 1903. He was pastor in Camden, N. Y., four years. He is now pastor of a church, and has done much missionary work in Northern Michigan, where he is joint-owner of lands of considerable proportions, known as the "Brown and Braddock Ranch." He also has charge of a church in Iosco County, besides doing efficient missionary work in the surrounding country.

Laura V. graduated in 1895, at Ithaca. She taught three years in the home school, took kindergarten training in the State Normal at Ypsilanti, and taught in Clare. She was married to Louis H. Braddock in 1901. He is a hardware merchant in Tawas City, and joint-owner of the ranch as above stated. Mr. and Mrs. Braddock have two children.

Alanson Watson Brown graduated in Ithaca in 1898 and from Kalamazoo College in 1902, taking an A. B. degree, and from Chicago University in the fall of the same year. He entered the Theological Seminary at Rochester, N. Y., in 1903, graduating in 1906. He has been pastor in Grand Rapids four years, and is now pastor of the First Baptist Church at Marshall, Mich., where he resides with his family. He married Ettroile Kent, a teacher in the Ithaca High School, and they have two children.

Beatrice B. graduated from the Ithaca High School—the youngest of her class—in 1901. She taught school one year, attended the State Normal at Mt. Pleasant, and was for a time secretary to Dr. E. H. E. Jameson, of Detroit. Dr. Jameson was Baptist district missionary, having supervision over Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. She married Robert P. Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Ward, of Mt. Pleasant.

S. Lucile, after graduation from Ithaca High School, took a preparatory course at Hope College, Holland Mich., expecting to enter Kalamazoo College in September, 1912. She has an unusual talent for music, and possesses the inherent aspirations for culture predominating in the family.

## BROWN.

Sara Lavinia Watson (Mrs. Giles T. Brown) was born February 7, 1851, in the Township of Handy, Livingston County, Mich., and was the ninth child in her father's family of twelve children. Her parents, John Torrence and Harriet L. (Wilcox) Watson, were both natives of New York, the father born in Scipio, Cayuga County, in 1808, the mother in Batavia, Genesee County, in 1817. The grandfather, John Watson, was born October 15, 1755, in what is now Mt. Pleasant, Adams County, Pa., but was then a frontier settlement known as the west part of York County. In 1775 he volunteered in defense of the Colonies and served as a sergeant in what was called the "Flying Camp" during the Revolutionary War. He married Jennie Torrence in 1791, and in 1795 they settled in Scipio. The great grandfather, William Watson, was of Scotch blood, but was born in Tyrone, Ireland, in 1713. He came to America in 1743, and married Rebecca Torrence in 1752. The maternal grandfather, Oliver Wilcox, born in 1770, was of English extraction, but came from Vermont to Batavia, N. Y., in an early day. He was a colonel in the War of 1812 and for a short period was a prisoner of war at Halifax. He was a prominent Mason, and during the Morgan excitement in Western New York, he housed and protected Mrs. Morgan until she joined her kindred.

In 1836 Mr. and Mrs. John T. Watson, the parents of Mrs. Brown, came from Bergen, N. Y., to Michigan, and were among the first settlers of Howell, Livingston County, where Mr. Watson was identified with the educational and municipal interests of the rapidly developed county for twenty years. In 1856 they removed to Milford, and later to Highland, Oakland County, where he died in 1854. He was a man of superior education, and was highly esteemed for his fine Christian character. In 1869 Mrs. Watson removed from Highland to Ithaca, and in 1878 to Breckenridge, where she died in 1894, having survived her husband thirty years.

Of the children of John T. and Harriet L. Watson, one died in infancy, Rial F. and Cora F. died in childhood, D. Brainard, the oldest of the family, died at the age of 25 years in Beloit, Wis., a few weeks before completing his college course preparatory to entering the ministry. John A. was among the first, in 1861, to respond to his country's call, enlisting first in the 2nd and later in the 17th Mich. Infantry, where he won the appointment of lieutenant. He was taken prisoner of war, May, 1864, at Spottsylvania Court House, and suffered at Libby, Andersonville and Florence—nine months all told—all the horrors of Southern prisons. He died February 11, 1865, at Florence, S. C., of which prison it has been said that, "Not enough survived to tell the story." Two months after the son's capture, the father, broken in health for many years, died, and seven months later the soldier boy yielded up his life, aged 28 years. Belle A., a young lady of 24, died in Ithaca, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Brown, December 20, 1879. Mary E., wife of Thos. Crawford, died at her home in Milford, April 2, 1884, at the age of 40 years. Three daughters and two sons are still living—Mrs. Geo. Richardson, of Ithaca; Mrs. Giles T. Brown, of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Irvin S. Phippeny, of Colorado; Wm. O., and Dr. Chas. S. Watson, of Breckenridge, the latter now of Saginaw.

Mrs. Brown, the subject of this sketch, was ten years old when her brother enlisted and was the oldest girl at home during the sad days of the war, and of her father's sickness and death. She well remembers the difficulty with which the brave mother kept the five younger children together; and she and her brother, Will, two years her senior, shared with the mother in all the anxieties, labors, hardships and sorrows. Yes, and as the clouds lifted there were happy incidents also, which cannot be forgotten.



MRS. SARA L. BROWN.

From the time Mrs. Brown learned her A, B, Cs, sitting on her father's lap, she was passionately fond of books. Her father wisely directed the family reading, and at an early age she had read many useful books, as well as some of lighter character. When nine years old she and a school chum of the same age could "spell down" not only their own school, but were the champion spellers of the surrounding schools.

In those days children in well-ordered families were skilled in domestic industries. Sara was happiest when it came her turn to knit "a sock a day," because she could knit and read at the same time with perfect ease. The hose, made of soft home-made yarn, and the long legs seamed half-way down, were superior to any modern production.

Advanced, for her years, in her studies, Mrs. Brown received a good education in the excellent schools of Oakland County. About the time of her 16th birthday, one of her teachers said to her, "Sara, you ought to teach." "Of course, sometime," replied the startled girl. "No, but now; you should have a school this coming summer," said he, and thus it came about that she donned long skirts—for the first—and in the spring of 1867, took examination for a certificate from Superintendent Giles T. Brown, who was then a stranger to her. Her first school was in Lafayette Township, and she was to receive "twenty shillings a week and board around." Though afterward she taught in the best schools in the county she never forgot the satisfaction with which she handled her first earnings, or the amusing incidents of "boarding around." Her sister, Mrs. Richardson, lived in the district, so the boarding around for that term was more of an experience than a necessity, and there was always a relief station near.

Either as teacher or student she continued school life. She had had Normal training before coming to Gratiot, and now the teachers' classes conducted by Mr. Brown, with able assistants, gave opportunity for advanced study; and later she attended the State Normal at Ypsilanti. Her marriage to Mr. Brown, August 17, 1873, was ideal in many ways, particularly on account of the similarity in their tastes and purposes. She counted it an education to be closely associated with one not only versed in literature, but always profoundly interested in public needs, and in matters of State and National scope; while he in turn helped and sympathized with her in all her undertakings.

In early life Mrs. Brown was a member of the Presbyterian Church, but her inclinations led her to join her husband in church fellowship, in the Baptist Church of Ithaca, and she has been identified with its activities ever since. She was church clerk for twenty years and has been a Sunday school teacher for forty years. Interested always in the local mission circle, she was for many years president of the Home and Foreign Mission Societies of the Saginaw Valley Baptist Associatian, comprising about thirty-five churches.

In 1876 Mrs. Brown assisted in the organization of the Ithaca Ladies' Library Association, of which she was first secretary, Mrs. N. Church first president. The weekly meetings were not only a literary center where the best books were discussed, but the ladies aimed, in their entertainments, to give the best, and with that object in view they brought in some of the best artists that could be secured in the entertainment field. This association and the Shakespeare class furnished the first club life of the village, and it was of a rare quality. Uniting with other contemporary forces they gave to the social life of Ithaca a literary prestige that still exists. Mrs. Brown is a graduate of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, belonging to the class of 1891. Excepting for one year of local circle co-operation, she took the four years' course of study by herself, and most of it in the evenings after the children were asleep. She has had also ten years of the

Bay View work, and many times has ignored social pleasures rather than forego systematic study.

Mrs. Brown and her daughters are members of the Woman's Relief Corps and of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is president of the Ithaca Soldiers' Monument Association which in August, 1910, placed a beautiful monument in the Ithaca cemetery to commemorate the devotion of the boys in blue. When Moses Wisner, W. R. C. No. 90, was organized in 1886, she was its president for seven years, and has always been deeply interested in its patriotic work. She was soon active in the State work of the order, and has held many important offices. She has been a member of the National Executive Board and of the Council. She is a ready, entertaining and instructive speaker, often—and always acceptably—addressing Campfires and conventions. In 1891 she was elected president of the Michigan Department of the W. R. C., and while occupying that position originated the plan to provide a home for the dependant mothers, wives and widows of soldiers. She and her husband were members of the joint committee, G. A. R. and W. R. C., which secured the appropriation from the legislature to erect the Woman's Building, of the Michigan Soldiers' Home at Grand Rapids. It was dedicated January, 1894, and the names of Mr. and Mrs. Brown are on the cornerstone. She has often been chairman of the Legislative and Woman's Building Committee, and has been in touch with its affairs since the beginning; but she was greatly surprised in December, 1908, when she was urgently requested by Commandant Geo. H. Turner to become matron of the institution in which she was so deeply interested. The appointment was unsolicited and unexpected, but she assumed charge January 4, 1909, and by a pleasant coincidence, her office is the very room which the Ithaca Post and Corps furnished in 1894, before the problem of maintenance had been fully solved, or the State had assumed entire responsibility. Mrs. Brown, notwithstanding her engagement and duties at the Home, still considers herself a resident of Ithaca.

Mrs. Brown has ever been devoted to her family, and holds the affection of four sons and five daughters as her greatest possession. She was acquainted with the hard work and self-denial incident to rearing a large family, with moderate means; but looking back over the years, she feels that it has been altogether worth while. The death of their beautiful boy, Giles T., Jr.—November 24, 1876—was a great grief, but through all the years she has never relinquished the hope of "seeing again a golden head on which the sun is ever shining."

Mr. Brown's death May 20, 1903, was an irreparable loss, and except for the children, she would have been overwhelmed. To work together, sorrow together, suffer together, never to find one's self shut out when most in need of encouragement; to walk abreast like comrades in arms—how good it makes life! What courage it gives us; the further we go the more closely allied we feel. All the common past binds us together. Such for thirty years was the companionship of Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

## COWDREY.

William P. and Mary (Bruce) Cowdrey were the names of the parents of Inman N. Cowdrey, the principal incidents of whose career are chronicled in this short sketch. The parents were of Scotch descent and were born in Ohio. Inman N., was born in Seneca County, Ohio, March 8, 1848. His mother died in 1849, before he had reached the age of two years. In May, 1857, when nine years old, he removed with his father and his family to

Michigan, settling on a new farm—it was the day of new things in Gratiot County—on section 35 in Newark Township. There the father resided till his death, which occurred March 16, 1883.

When 15 years of age, Inman N. became imbued with the military spirit to the extent that he entered the service of his country, enlisting as a musician in the 1st Mich. Engineers and Mechanics, on the 20th of July, 1863. He took part in the Atlanta campaign, and was present with his command when the City of Atlanta was destroyed. And then onward in that memorable expedition to the sea, and then back through the Carolinas to Richmond. He was honorably discharged November 1, 1865.

Mr. Cowdrey's education, like that of so many others in those days of first things in Gratiot County, was obtained in the old log school house, supplemented by hard study at home nights and at other odd times as opportunity offered. In 1872 he purchased a farm of 40 acres on section 25 of Newark, and in 1876 built a house thereon and moved into it. In the meantime, to-wit, on the 5th day of November, 1874, he took to himself in marriage, Miss H. Alwilda Hibbins in Ohio, where she resided with her parents. She is the daughter of James and Sarah Hibbins, natives of Ohio. The father died December 1, 1895. The mother is still living, a resident of Carey, Ohio. Mrs. Cowdrey is one of a family of seven children—Mary E., Martha E., H. Alwilda, Laura B., Edwin F., Nettie M. and Roberta. Edwin F., Roberta, Laura B. and Martha E. are dead.

Mrs. Cowdrey is the third daughter and was born January 27, 1853. She and Mr. Cowdrey are the parents of three children—Frank C., born July 20, 1877; J. Roy, May 29, 1882; L. Maude, July 5, 1889. Frank C. was married August 27, 1902, to Georgia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Richardson, of Ithaca. Two children have been born to them—George Norman, born April 29, 1907, and Carol Virginia, February 22, 1909. Frank C. and his family reside in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, where he is engaged in the drug business. James Roy, the second of Mr. and Mrs. Cowdrey's children, was married June 10, 1908, to Miss Anna Griffith Orbison, daughter of the late H. B. Orbison and wife former residents of Ithaca. They reside in Ithaca, where he, like his brother Frank, is in business as a druggist. Their son, Richard Henry, was born June 18, 1909. L. Maude Cowdrey was married October 19, 1911, to Earl F. Johnson. They reside in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Were the men of Gratiot County classified and scheduled according to relative merits, the name of Inman N. Cowdrey would stand well up toward the head of the list as a citizen of integrity and honesty. The same may be said of him when the question of prominence is considered. The truth of these assertions are easily made apparent by a brief mention of a few facts of history. For instance: While a resident of Newark he served his townsmen in various official positions ranging from constable upward—justice of the peace, township superintendent of schools, supervisor two terms. Then in a wider field—county school examiner three years, being secretary of the board two years and chairman one year. In 1890, he was elected county clerk, serving one term, and then for the next four years was deputy county clerk. Moving to Ithaca in 1890, he has served one term on the village council, and was for six years a member of the board of education, serving as director two years.

In addition to positions of trust held by Mr. Cowdrey already mentioned, he was for ten years secretary of the Gratiot County Agricultural Society. Recognizing his fitness, the State Board of Agriculture employed him for five winters in Farmers' Institute work throughout the state. Mrs. Cowdrey is a consistent and valued member of the M. E. Church of Ithaca.

In 1879 Mr. Cowdrey bought a 66-acre farm in North Star Township. In 1903 he sold both the Newark and North Star farms and bought 80 acres on section 35, Arcada Township. To this he has added—by purchase in 1908—20 acres adjoining, making him an even 100 acres, which he still owns.

## POTTS.

The subject of this sketch—Jacob Leland Potts—was born in the Village of Simcoe, County of Norfolk, Ontario, October 13, 1853. His family history traces directly back to the German Teutons. When he was in his fourth year his father sold his farm in Canada and bought a large farm in the Township of Pavilion, Kalamazoo County, this state. Soon after coming to this country he declared his intention to become a citizen, and was so well thought of that he was elected to the several offices of clerk, treasurer and supervisor of his township. His father's name was Philip Potts, and his mother's, Fanny A. (Buch) Potts. The family consisted of one daughter—Sabria A.—and six sons—Nathaniel, James Henry, Philip Austin, Jacob Leland, George and Frank E., the latter born after the parents moved to Michigan. Of this family the sister—now Sabria A. Knapp—and five of the brothers, are still living.

Jacob Leland Potts grew up on this farm in Pavilion Township until he reached the age of sixteen years. He drove the cows to and from the pasture, "watched the gaps" in the fence, carried water to the farm hands, played with the dog, and kept eating and growing all the time. He attended school in the little red school house one-half mile distant, learned the three "R's", wrestled, fought and snow-balled with the boys; and, barring one boy, a little older than himself, could put any of them on their backs. When he left the farm he weighed 147 pounds, and, in proportion to his weight and inches, was as strong as an ox.

When he left the farm, his father bought ten acres of land within the corporate limits of the Village of Galesburg, and commenced building a house. The digging of the stone for a foundation and the hauling of the stone fell largely to the lot of Jacob Leland, who found that all his strength was needed for the work. After the house was completed he attended the High School at Galesburg for a while, but did not complete the course.

At the age of seventeen Mr. Potts went for himself, working at odd jobs here and there; and in the spring of 1871, anyone who had looked into the southwest corner of A. W. Wright's sawmill in Saginaw would have seen him struggling with the edgings that came from the "little edger", requiring all his strength, as whole slabs weighing one hundred and fifty pounds would often be thrown in as an edging. In the meantime he was devoting all his spare time to study, and as soon as he had a little "bundle" ahead he would go to school until his money was exhausted, and then go back to work again.

His mother died on the farm January 25, 1864, and his father died exactly nine years later—January 25, 1873—at his home in the Village of Galesburg. Mr. Potts had at this time made up his mind to devote himself to the study of law, but was without means to secure the required knowledge. His education was nothing above or beyond that of the present eighth grade; and it is doubtful if he could have passed in that grade. During the summer of 1873 he devoted all of his time to study, applied for a school, and in the fall, through the good nature of the county examiner of Kent County, received a third grade certificate, and taught the Solon Center school at a salary of $40 per month and board. The following fall he went to the Northern Indiana Normal School, enrolled himself in the Scientific course and received his diploma the following June.



JUDGE J. LEE POTTS.

Mr. Potts then found himself without money, and in debt for money borrowed to enable him to complete his course. Again he got a school and taught until he could cancel all his indebtedness and buy the nucleus of a law library. He then entered the law office of Jacob V. Rogers at Plainwell, Mich., studied Blackstone, Bouvier's Institutes, Kent's Commentaries, and at the end of three years was admitted to the bar at Allegan, Mich. Again he found himself in debt, with no resources to draw from. So in the summer of 1877 he accepted a position at the House of Refuge, in Plainfield, Indiana —the Indiana Reform School for Boys. Here he squared himself again with the world, added to his law library and acquired a knowledge of human nature, and of boy nature in particular, by actual contact with their lives, as he had continually in his care from sixty to seventy as mischievous a lot of lads as Indiana could produce.

That which deserves the most attention in connection with his stay in Plainfield is the fact that there he first met Miss Nellie E. Blodgett, of Plymouth, New Hampshire. She is of Anglo-Saxon descent, and, through the Farrars of England, traces back to William the Conqueror. But it was not lineage that attracted Mr. Potts. It was herself. Mr. Potts was poor in worldly goods, and for a helpmeet wanted a wife who would willingly share his lot till a turn in fortune's wheel would make life seem, and be, brighter both for himself and for her. She was optimistic, and thought in him she could see the ability to make that wheel of fortune turn. The troth was plighted, and they both arranged to leave Plainfield and go to Plainwell, Mich., where they were married September 25, 1879.

Mr. Potts then again entered the law office of Jacob V. Rogers, this time as a partner, rented a house and settled down in a home of his own, after having been adrift in the world for upward of nine years. His earnings were small, but owing to the frugality of his wife they managed to live and keep out of debt. In the spring of 1880 the county seat of Clare County was changed from Farwell to Harrison. This fact caught the attention of Mr. Potts, as he was looking for some new place where a lawyer's services would be in demand. He went there and found that what is now the City of Harrison was then a hole cut in the pine woods with stumps all over it, and with logs and brush heaps filled in between the stumps. There were five buildings in this new city—a log hotel, a frame grocery, a little frame drug store and two or three small buildings.

Mr. Potts at once invested in a village lot, four by eight rods in size, which contained, by actual count, seventeen big green pine stumps. Dodging the stumps he found a spot twelve by twenty-four feet in size on which he erected a shanty, and this constituted his law office, parlor, dining room, sitting room, bed room and kitchen; the whole combination in one room. During the summer Mrs. Potts not only took care of this commodious house, but also taught the village school, while Mr. Potts looked after his law practice, dug out pine stumps and raised a garden. In the early fall, taking the shanty as a nucleus, they built a house over their heads. September 25, 1883, baby Madge came to the home. She was called "Midget" at first, which name soon developed into Madge Ethel, and she remained a constant guest at their house until 1911, when she was married to Floyd E. Barnes, at Ithaca. May 16, 1912, baby Ruth Barnes came to the Barnes home, and she has been christened Margaret Ruth Barnes.

While at Harrison, Mr. Potts was principally engaged in the practice of law. In the spring of 1886 he was engaged by the County of Clare to assist in the prosecution of the notorious James Carr, for murder. Owing to the fact that he was such a notorious character, change of venue was taken from Clare County to the County of Gratiot; and it was while he was

here prosecuting that case that he made up his mind to move to Gratiot. He came to Ithaca in April, 1886, and on the day he arrived he bought the house in which he still lives. He has conducted a loan and real estate business since coming here, with a little law mixed in; and the people have always seen fit to give him his full share of their support and patronage. He served the County of Gratiot as judge of probate from January 1, 1889, to January 1, 1893, and in the fall of 1912 he was again elected to that office, and is now serving his second term.

## BARSTOW.

Wm. M. Barstow, intimately connected with North Star and Gratiot County intersects many years, and whose name was familiar to most residents of the county for about four decades, was born in Madison County, N. Y., November 1, 1826, son of Elias and Sally (Morgan) Barstow. He settled in North Star Township in 1856, and from that time was a prominent factor among his fellow-pioneers. Among the offices entrusted to his keeping were those of treasurer, clerk and supervisor. In 1878 and again in '80, he was elected county treasurer, and thereafter he served as deputy treasurer during several terms. He was always a trustworthy and painstaking official. He served in the Civil War as a member of Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry, and was severely wounded. October 15, 1845, he was married to Eunice McBride who died at her home in Ithaca, November 23, 1887, aged 59. Their children were—Adelbert E., Ellen E., Charles E., Eunice M., Wm. Henry, H. Chauncey and Nellie F. Mr. Barstow was married (second) to Mrs. S. A. (Depue) Clark, December 6, 1888. One son was born to this union—Clarence Morgan—May 31, 1895. Mr. Barstow died July 7, 1906, aged 80 years. (See sketch of A. E. Barstow.) Mrs. Barstow, with her son and her aged father, resides on the homestead, St. Johns Street, Ithaca, an esteemed member of the community.



WM. M. BARSTOW.

## JOHNSON.

Daniel C. Johnson was born in Madison County, N. Y., November 12, 1836, son of Leman A. and Sabrina Rice Johnson. He came to Gratiot County in 1854, locating in Newark Township. In 1860 he removed to section 1 of Fulton Township, where he was engaged in clearing and cultivating a farm until 1869, when he removed to Ithaca, his home the remainder of his life, where he was engaged in mercantile trade and other avocations. He held various township and village offices, was deputy under Sheriff K. P. Peet, and served as postmaster during President Cleveland's first administration. He was a man of especially pleasing personality, good ability, strict integrity, and consequently had a multitude of friends. He died May 22, 1893, his wife and two children surviving.

## SCOTT.

Dr. William D. Scott, a physician of county-wide popularity, and who, as a resident of Ithaca spent all of his years of professional life in Gratiot County, was born in the Township of Essex, Clinton County, November 15, 1841. His father was Samuel M. Scott, a man of prominence who served in the state legislature in an early day, representing Clinton and Shiawassee Counties. His mother's maiden name was Sarah S. Gilmore.



DR. WM. D. SCOTT.

Wm. D. Scott received a common school education, supplemented by a course at the Michigan University, and later at the Rush Medical College, Chicago. In 1863, fortified with his medical diploma he commenced his practice at Bridgeville, this county. In January, 1865, he removed to Ithaca, and there remained until his death. As before intimated he became very proficient as a physician and surgeon, and for many years was generally conceded to be at the very head of his profession in the county, popular with all classes for his skill and success in the treatment of disease, and highly rated by the profession as a counselor and as an authority in abtruse cases, and in cases requiring especial knowledge and technical skill.

Dr. Scott was married at Ithaca, April 25, 1868, to Emma J. Owen. Four children were born to this union—Ella M., Sarah J., Blanche and William M. The latter died in infancy. The wife and daughters survive.

Dr. Scott served for a short time as a soldier in the Civil War, being early discharged for disability. He was a Democrat and a high degree Mason and Odd Fellow. He served several years as a member of the Pension Examining Board of the county, and was several times his party's candidate for county coroner, being elected in the years 1882 and '84.

Dr. Scott died May 9, 1910, and, in accordance with his instructions, his body was cremated.

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## BROWN.

Charles M. Brown, a resident of Ithaca since 1866, was born in Wilson, Niagara County, N. Y., September 10, 1858, son of Merritt J. and Fannie H. (Swan) Brown, both natives of Niagara County, N. Y., the former born May 20, 1826, the latter born March 24, 1832. They were married September 20, 1853, and were the parents of children as follows: Ira W., born July 15, 1854; Cora A., August 30, 1855; M. D. Case, February 10, 1857, died April 4, 1875; Charles M., September 10, 1858; Fannie E., March 28, 1860; George E., February 12, 1862; Nettie M., November 10, 1863; Mary J., December 3, 1866; Alice J., January 26, 1869, died January 14, 1873; Lillian A., September 12, 1870; Fred S., November 14, 1872. The first seven were born in the State of New York, the other four in Gratiot County, Mich.

Ira W. Brown is married to Lizzie Pettit. They reside in Pasadena, California, and have a son and daughter—Charles L. and Kalula.

Cora A. Brown married Perry D. Pettit, (now deceased). Children born to them were Roy E. and Clara J., the latter dying at the age of nine

years. Cora A. Pettit now resides at Flint, Mich. (See sketch of P. D. Pettit.)

Fannie E. Brown married Henry E. Lewis; now residing in Ithaca and have two children—Gladys and Gertrude.

George E. Brown married Meda Hiffner. They reside in Pasadena, California.

Nettie M. Brown married Virgil R. Sutliff. They are residents of Pasadena, California, and are the parents of two daughters—Helen and Louise.

Mary J. Brown married John J. Casement. Their children are Carrie, Edna, Beulah, John and Gwendolin. They are residents of Fenton, Mich.

Lillian A. Brown married Newton S. Bangham. Mr. Bangham is now deceased and she resides in Los Angeles, California.

Fred S. Brown married Lottie Perrine. They reside in Ithaca and have one son—Stanley.

Merritt J. Brown, the father, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. At the close of the war he removed with his family to Michigan and to Gratiot County settling at Pompeii in the year 1866. He remained there about a year and then removed to Ithaca where he spent the remainder of his days, engaged first at his trade, that of a miller, afterward in the business of teaming, principally in the early days before the age of railroads in Gratiot, in hauling merchandise from St. Johns and Saginaw. His death occurred in Ithaca, September 8, 1904. His wife, Fannie, preceded him about 15 years, passing away at her home in Ithaca, August 25, 1889.

Charles M. Brown was married to Isabel J. De Peel, of Emerson, July 21, 1886. She is a daughter of Michael and Calista (Cook) De Peel, who settled in Emerson in 1866. Michael De Peel, who was born in Bayham, Canada, in 1817, died at his home in 1880. Mrs. Calista De Peel passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Isabel J. Brown in Ithaca, December 17, 1909, aged 85 years.

Mrs. Isabel J. (De Peel) Brown is one of a family of ten children—Emeline, Winslow, Robert, Mary, Dora, Millie, Theodore, Louise, Isabel and Hattie.

Charles M. Brown acquired his education in the Ithaca schools, after which he served as clerk in various mercantile establishments in Ithaca for about four years. At the age of 18 he commenced learning the harness-maker's trade with Theodore Ryckman, of Ithaca. In 1882 he bought out Mr. Ryckman, the purchase including the harness business and also the real estate upon which it was located, and where Mr. Brown has since done business, south side of Center Street. August 18, 1888, Mr. Brown's building was burned in the fire that also cleaned out the places of business of Smith Hopkins, Dr. W. D. Scott, Mrs. C. H. Richards and Mrs. C. W. Martin, O. H. Heath and Ed. T. Edwards. By the first of the following New Year a fine new brick block had taken the place of the burned buildings and business had been resumed at the old stand, and it is still flourishing In 1892 Mr. Brown built his hardware and implement block, west side of Pine River Street, now and for many years occupied and the business conducted by the Brown-Davis Co.—C. M. Brown and George O. Davis.

Mr. Brown went into the automobile business in 1909, and the same year erected his fine two-story brick garage, east side of Pine River Street, corner of Newark Street. The repair department is the most complete of any similar establishment in this section of the state. He handles the Buick machine and his sales up to August, 1913, have reached nearly 150. Mr. Brown owns the bank corner of the Jeffrey block, corner of Center and Main Streets, and divers and sundry other items of property. During the past

few years he has erected no less than fourteen dwelling houses besides the three business structures mentioned. Some of the residences have been sold and some he still owns.

So it can readily be seen that Charles M. Brown is one of Ithaca's self-made men. He started with not much but his bare hands, considerable energy and industry, a genial disposition, a lot of business shrewdness, and some other natural assets not easily classified; and here he is now in this year of grace, probably the "best fixed" citizen of Ithaca, with assets the value of which it is believed would require six figures to truthfully express. Of course this is a mere guess and is given for what it may be worth; but it may cost the writer his life when it appears in print.

Mr. Brown has never held political office excepting one year—1882—when he was elected township clerk. The reason is not hard to find—he is a Democrat. He has been chairman of the Democratic County Committee for more than 15 years, and served several years as a member of the State Central Committee of his party; has represented his party in scores of county, district and state conventions, and was a delegate from the 11th Congressional District to the Democratic National Convention at Kansas City in 1900.

Mr. Brown has been quite an extensive traveler, for an active business man. He has been in every state in the Union excepting Oregon and Washington, has been twice to California, and last winter, in company with his brother-in-law, Henry E. Lewis, took a trip to Cuba. He is active in Masonic matters, and Mrs. Brown is just as active as an Eastern Star and as a member of the M. E. Church.

## HAFER.

John Howard Hafer and Rachel (Shaw) Hafer brought a growing family into the county from Hillsdale County, Mich., in January, 1883, striking root first in Emerson Township, one mile north and five miles east of Ithaca. The next October they transplanted to Ithaca Village where the family vine has flourished until these two worthy citizens can now number more than fifty, by birth and marriage, among their descendants, now living.

Besides helping to people their own county, they have colonies in other counties and states. Of the first generation Charles Emerson is a farmer in Midland County. The widow of James Alfred is on a farm in Hillsdale County. Joseph Ellsworth is a farmer in Isabella County. Andrew Johnson and John are railroad engineers in Elkhart, Indiana. Henrietta is the wife of Aaron L. Squire, retired farmer of Gratiot. Nathaniel Thomas is a Baptist clergyman in Walnut, Indiana. Grace is the wife of Fred Munson, a druggist in Springport, Mich. Alice is the wife of Clinton Boyles, a barber, late of Ithaca, now of Owosso.

The paterfamilias was for years a successful potash manufacturer in Ithaca, now for a few years retired. It is evident from the foregoing that the family has been able to turn its hands and other powers to a variety of occupations. In religion, the Baptist denomination has the preference, with broad sympathies for all religious and moral enterprises. In politics, Democracy prevails, but by no means universally.

Besides the golden wedding in May, 1908, there have been few events out of the ordinary in the family history; just a steady growth in numbers, with an occasional death. A succession of years of honest toil and sturdy independence, and the kind of citizenship that makes for private virtue and the public welfare.

In nationality—Mr. Hafer is of German descent, with modifications of the Pennsylvania Dutch sort. Mrs. Hafer combines the English and Welch lineage. And this makes the rest of the family just plain Yankees.

## MATHEWS.

John T. Mathews, the subject of this sketch, was born upon a farm in Orange Township, Ionia County, Mich. His father, Bernard Mathews, was born in Ireland, County Cork, and came to America when six years old, with his mother, brother and sisters, by the sailing vessel "Duncan Gibb," settling in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., at which place Bernard grew to young manhood, and then removed to Rush Township, Genesee County, N. Y., where—in 1840—he was married to Rachael D. Smith, a descendant of one of the founders of the old Dutch East India Company, identified with the early settlement of Eastern New York.

To Bernard and Rachael Mathews were born eight children: Charles S., Mary F., Hiram B., Kittie R., Lodema C., John T., George B. and Nettie A. Mary, Kittie and Nettie are now deceased.

Bernard Mathews (or "Barney" Mathews, as he was familiarly known), and wife, were among the earliest settlers of Ionia County, where, in 1837, Bernard purchased the west half of the southwest quarter of section 35, town 6 north, range 6 west, and about four years later, with his wife and one child, located upon the land, and where the rest of their children were born, and where the parents lived and worked until their deaths, the deaths of both occurring in recent years, at the age of 83 and 82, respectively.

During the first twenty-six years of his life that farm was the home of our subject. Educated in the district school of the neighborhood, the Portland High School and the Michigan Agricultural College, from which institution he graduated with the class of '83, he is primarily a "son of the soil." His early aspirations in a professional way were to the medical profession, but after having spent same time upon the preliminary preparation for that profession, he concluded that the profession of lawyer was more suitable to his tastes, and accordingly he entered upon the study of that profession, and was admitted to the bar as a practicing attorney in March, 1886, at Ionia, by Hon. Vernon H. Smith, Circuit Judge.

In April, 1886, Mr. Mathews selected Gratiot County as the scene of his professional struggles, and established an office at Ithaca, where he has spent the past twenty-seven years.

In 1886 Mr. Mathews was married at Portland, Mich., to Miss Mary Roberts, daughter of David Nelson Roberts and Martha (Owen) Roberts, who were residents of Argentine Township, Genesee County, Mich. David N. Roberts was of English blood and Martha Roberts, his wife, was of Welch descent. Her mother having died in Mary's infancy, Mary lived, up to the time of her marriage, in the home of her half-sister, Isabel (Roberts) Bergen, at Portland. Through such circumstances—John T. as teacher and Mary as his pupil—an acquaintance resulted which finally culminated in love and marriage.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, in the home which they now occupy, have been born four children—Stanley Roberts, Howard Bernard, Eleanor Marguerite and Frances Audrey, all of whom are now living excepting Stanley Roberts, who died at the home in March, 1913, three months prior to the date of his contemplated graduation from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Mathews is of Irish and German extraction, is a Democrat in politics, comes from hardy pioneer stock, refuses to grow old, looks upon the rosy side of every proposition he meets, with his whole family is Presbyterian in religious faith, and fully enjoys a most happy and beautiful home life, and a contented and prosperous citizenship.

The philosophy of Mr. Mathews is, "Cheer up! It might have been worse!" And he is therefore optimistic; in adversity not only hoping for



JOHN T. MATHEWS.

brighter days, but actually looking for them; in prosperity enjoying the full meed, never doubting its perpetuity nor looking for the end.

Although Mr. Mathews is alive to every public activity in his town and vicinity, including schools, churches and other interests of civic life, yet he is known as an intense lawyer, for more than a quarter of a century having been continuously connected with much of the heaviest business interests and litigation of his county and of surrounding counties. He has therefore had a varied and extensive law practice in all of the courts of the state and in the Federal courts. He is now at the zenith of his career, and has the satisfaction of knowing, as he looks down the long, hilly highway up which he has come to his present position, that, although he has enjoyed the struggle, strenuous though it has been, and though it has been worth millions to him, yet he feels like the Jew who thought his one baby was worth a million dollars to him, yet he wouldn't give a cent for another one.

Mr. Mathews appreciates and enjoys his friends, of whom he has many, not only in Gratiot County but throughout the state.

Although a devoted home-maker and home-keeper, Mr. Mathews has found time to devote much attention to church and fraternal relations. He is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, a past presiding officer of every body of York rite Masonry, including the Order of Eastern Star, and a past chancellor of Ithaca Lodge Knights of Pythias. He has never held public office — excepting by appointment — perhaps on account of his political faith and the usual rock-ribbed adverse local Republican plurality.

In addition to his professional work Mr. Mathews is giving much attention of late to the applied science of agriculture. He recently purchased a large tract of land in Arcada Township, and asserts his purpose to there build up a modern dairy farm.

Mr. Mathews is rounding out his 53rd year of life. He gives to the close observer the impression that he has led a balanced life; that although his profession has at times made deep drafts upon his physical and mental powers, yet the reserve strength has been enough to carry him back in a short time to normal conditions. He is now seemingly master of himself, and absolutely "at home" in his environments.

## READ.

Henry Read was born in Kent County, England, February 26, 1848. His father, Henry Read, died two years later, and his mother, Sarah A. (Ranger) Read, came to America when young Henry was three years of age, with her family of three children, Rosa, Henry and Frederick. She settled in Ohio, and afterward married Albert Wheeler. They came to Gratiot County in 1857, settling in Fulton Township where Mr. Wheeler died in 1881. Mrs. Wheeler, mother of our subject, died in Fulton in 1897.

Henry Read followed farming in Fulton. In 1871 he bought 40 acres of land on section 1, afterward adding another 40. He still owns this 80-acre tract, which he has developed into one of the best farms in the township. October 9, 1870, Mr. Read was married to Miss Mary C. Haines, daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Lewis) Haines. She was born in Williams County, Ohio, September 15, 1851. They resided on their Fulton farm until 1896, when they removed to Ithaca. After several years of failing health, and suffering much during the last few months of her life, Mrs. Read died in a Detroit hospital, March 29, 1908.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Read—Fred H., Bessie F., Robert H. and Lewis E. Fred H. resides upon his farm in Fulton Town-

ship, (see sketch); Bessie F., a graduate of the Ypsilanti Normal College, is teaching in the Boyne City schools; Lewis E. is in his senior year in the dental department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor; Robert H. died in infancy.

Mr. Read served eight years as supervisor of the Township of Fulton, and two years as supervisor of Ithaca Township. In November, 1896, he was elected county treasurer on the Democratic-People's-Free Silver ticket. After serving his term he was deputy treasurer four years. In later years he has conducted a general insurance business, and is thus engaged at the present time, in addition to looking after his interests at the farm in Fulton. In 1912 he served as cashier of the Pompeii State Bank for a few months, but resigned on account of the business proving too confining.

July 10, 1912, Mr. Read was united in marriage to Mrs. Allie M. Bush, of Ithaca. They reside on Jefferson Street, south, in the fine home owned by Mr. Read ever since his removal to Ithaca. It seems superfluous to add that they have the esteem and friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

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## SHAW.

John C. Shaw (deceased) was born in the County of Durham, England, February 19, 1826, second son of William and Mary (Camcel) Shaw, natives of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, respectively. For several years William Shaw was engaged in the cutlery factories of Sheffield. He emigrated to Canada in 1831 and died of cholera in Kingston one year later. John C. lived with his mother in Canada until 17 years of age, when he came to Detroit, entering the employ and making his home with Mr. George Duffield, a distinguished resident of that city. The next three years of his life were divided between the splendid home life there afforded and the vocation of a fireman on the Great Lakes.



JOHN C. SHAW AND WIFE.

Mr. Shaw was twice married; first at Troy, Oakland County, this state, on March 3, 1846, to Matilda Berry, adopted daughter of Charles M. Howard, of Detroit. She died in June, 1849, three years after her marriage, leaving two children—Mary W. and Charles H., both of whom are now deceased. In the fall of 1849, he was married, in Wayne County, Michigan, to Nancy Ann Bowen, a native of Canada, who still survives, at the age of 91 years. From the time of their marriage, in 1849, until 1869, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw lived at various points, including Adrian, Monroe, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield and Hamburg. In 1869 they settled in Ann Arbor where Mr. Shaw conducted a dray and coal business. In 1878 they removed to Ithaca, settling on a farm on the

eastern corporation line, 40 acres being within the village limits. There he lived for 22 years, actively engaged in farming operations, and there, May 12, 1900, he departed this life, at the age of 76 years and three months.

Mr. Shaw was an industrious, energetic and aggressive citizen, and a man of the highest integrity. During the entire time of his residence in Ithaca he took an active part in every work or proposition calculated to advance the interests of the community, and his deep convictions and indomitable courage were always manifest and could always be depended upon in any movement against sham, or graft, or wrong-doing of any kind, either in case of private individuals or public officials. These characteristics made him a host of friends among those who love honesty and fair-dealing.

Besides his widow, Mr. Shaw left three sons and three daughters—William A., Matilda B., Elizabeth, Eva M., John F. and Albert M. William A. was born in Farmington, Mich., July 18, 1850. He was married in Ann Arbor to Miss Delia A. Darrow, and is now a resident of Kansas City, Kansas. They have had eight children, four of whom are now living. Walter S. and Andrew are married and live in Kansas. Annie married Claude Spear and lives in Omaha, Nebraska. Frances lives at the parental home.

Matilda B. Shaw was born in Monroe, February 9, 1853, and now lives with her sister Elizabeth, in North Star Township.

Elizabeth Shaw was born in Ypsilanti, October 13, 1854, and was married to Ambrose Humphrey in the spring of 1879. They live in North Star Township and have two children—Arthur S. and Ruth E., now Mrs. Lawrence Iler.

Eva M. Shaw, born in Ypsilanti, September 12, 1856, is married to Joseph W. Harrod, of Ithaca. (See their sketch.)

John F. Shaw was born in Pittsfield, Washtenaw County, this state, July 29, 1858. He was married in December, 1891, to Miss Eliza Humphrey, of North Star. They have had eight children—seven daughters and one son. The son—Benjamin F.—is married to Miss Ella Nelson, of Mecosta County. They are now residents of Blanchard, Mich. Of the seven girls, only three are now living—Mrs. Clyde Orr, Mrs. Floyd Baker, and Mary, who resides with her parents.

**Albert M. Shaw,** the youngest son of John C. and Nancy Ann Shaw, was born four miles south of Ann Arbor, March 19, 1860. When nine years old he removed with his parents to Ann Arbor where he entered the city schools, graduating from the high school in commercial law and bookkeeping in 1877. In the spring of 1878 he came with his parents to Gratiot County. He lived at home, helping in the clearing up and in the cultivation of his father's farm till 22 years of age. July 1, 1882, at Elm Hall, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Ormerod, by Rev. C. T. Van Antwerp. She was a native of England, born in the City of Manchester, February 19, 1864. She came to America with her parents when she was seven years old. They settled in Ohio. Her father—Richard Ormerod—died in that state, August 25, 1878, at the age of 56 years. She came to Gratiot with her mother in December of the same year.

Of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Shaw three are now living. Mamie is the wife of Earle L. Stickney, now of Hill City, Minn. Stephen N. is in the U. S. Navy, entering the service in the spring of 1912. Neal Dow is living at home. Mr. Shaw has a fine farm of 50 acres adjoining the Village of Ithaca on the east; a part of the old homestead which he helped his father clear. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church. He is a Prohibitionist in politics and is hopefully looking forward to catch

a glimpse of the time when the complete prohibition of the liquor traffic will be an accomplished fact.

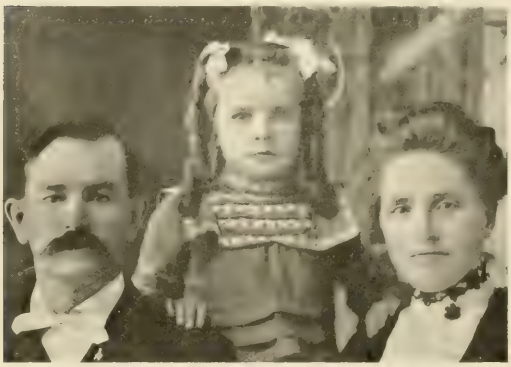
The aged mother, now resides with her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Harrod, and for a woman of her age—91 years—she enjoys good health. She visits her other children, often remaining with them a week or two at a time.

Mrs. Emma Shaw died at her home March 13, 1910; a death greatly mourned by her family and her many friends. Mr. Shaw was married (second) to Mrs. Nettie Foreman, of Ithaca, July 1, 1911. She is daughter of Samuel Smith, of Defiance County, Ohio.

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## PIKE.

Charles Franklin Pike, for many years at the head of the Gratiot County schools, now superintendent of schools at Ford, Mich., was born in Gaines, Mich., June 29, 1872. His father, Charles A. Pike, was born in Rome, N. Y., October 22, 1849. His mother, whose maiden name was Lydia A. Carr, was born January 1, 1854, at Albion, N. Y. They were married at Gaines, Mich., July 2, 1871. Besides the subject of this sketch, their children were Fred C. Pike (deceased), and Flora M. Pike, (now Allworth), a resident now of Denver, Colorado.



CHARLES F. PIKE, WIFE AND DAUGHTER.

During his minority, Charles F. Pike was a resident of Ohio three years. Later he was a resident of Williamston, Morrice and St. Johns, all Michigan towns, in each of which places he was an attendant at the local schools during the winter time and working in mills in the summer months. May 9, 1887, he came to Gratiot County, and was engaged for some time in a stave mill near North Star. In 1887-8 he was a student in the Ithaca High School. In 1888 his parents came to Gratiot, locating in Ashley, and there our subject made his home until he commenced his career as a teacher.

Mr. Pike's first engagement as a teacher was in District No. 3, Hamilton Township, where he taught five months, beginning September 15, 1890, when he was 18 years of age. His next term was in No. 7, Elba Township, where he taught four months. His next engagement was in the schools of Middleton where he remained two years, followed by a campaign of three years at Perrinton, and that followed by a four-years' engagement at Breckenridge. Mr. Pike graduated from the Central Michigan Normal School, located at Mt. Pleasant, and holds a life certificate from that institution.

Mr. Pike's official career began by his election as a member of the board of county school examiners, his term of service running from 1896 to 1900. At the election of April, 1901, he was his party's candidate, (Republican), for county school commissioner, and was duly elected. He was re-elected in 1903 and again in 1907. His final term expired June 30, 1911, after a continuous service of ten years as head of Gratiot County's public schools. His administration of the very responsible office was characterized by energy, enthusiasm and thoroughness, and was productive of most excellent results. His abilities and qualifications along educational lines have been recognized outside of his home county, as is evidenced by the fact that at the meeting of the State Teachers' Association at Bay City in October, 1910, he was appointed a member of the controlling committee of the Michigan Young People's Reading Circle, and was vice-president of the Michigan State Sunday School Association. He was also president of the Gratiot County Sunday School Association. He is an active member of the Masonic Order, being attached to Breckenridge Lodge No. 406, F. & A. M., and to Ithaca Chapter No. 70, R. A. M.

Charles F. Pike was united in marriage to Miss N. Belle Wiltse, at Ashley, Mich., June 27, 1894. She was born in Thomastown, Saginaw County, Mich., May 5, 1874, daughter of Jacob M. Wiltse (deceased) and Climena (Frost) Wiltse. The father was born at Thomastown, November 13, 1839. The mother was born August 13, 1842, at Swanton, Ohio. They were married March 1, 1859, at Thomastown, Mich., and besides Mrs. Pike, were the parents of children as follows: Bion C. Wiltse, of Valdez, Alaska; George L. Wiltse, of Tekonsha, Mich.; Ida M. Adams, Seattle, Wash; John B. Wiltse, Portland, Oregon; Eva M. Wiltse, Vandalia, Mich.; Blanche I. Stanard, Vandalia, Mich. Birdie and Bertie died in infancy.

Mrs. Pike came to Gratiot County with her parents in April, 1889, settling at Ashley, where Mr. Wiltse owned and operated the grist mill. Mr. and Mrs. Pike took up their residence at Ithaca in July, 1901, following Mr. Pike's election as commissioner of schools at the previous April election. July 29, 1911, they removed to Ford, Mich., Mr. Pike having accepted the superintendency of the schools of that town. He has been reengaged each year since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Pike had the great misfortune to lose their only child—Lura Belle—by drowning, in Crystal Lake, Montcalm County, July 31, 1903. She was born at Perrinton, this county, January 24, 1896, and was consequently in her eighth year at the time of her sad death.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Pike appearing herewith, will be warmly welcomed by their many Gratiot County friends.

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## ROWELL.

John B. Rowell, former sheriff of Gratiot County, has been identified with the county and its interests for the past 30 years; and few men are better known throughout the county. He was born in Lysander Township, Onondaga County, N. Y., October 12, 1852, son of Major E. Rowell and Betsey Ann (Tator) Rowell, both born in Lysander, and both born in 1830. The paternal grandfather was born in Vermont, and the paternal grandmother was born in Lysander Township, N. Y. The maternal grandfather and grandmother were both natives of New York State.

Major E. and Betsey Ann Rowell were the parents of three sons—John B.; Eli D., born in 1857; Joel E., born in 1862. The latter died in November, 1909. The father died in February, 1909, the mother having

passed away in December, 1895. John B. Rowell has been twice married. Two daughters resulted from the first marriage. Pearl A. resides in Bordeaux, France; has one daughter—Helen—born in Lysander, N. Y., in March, 1896. The other daughter—Frances—was born in Chicago, in 1878, and now resides in New York City.

Mr. Rowell's present wife—Agnes M. Rowell—was born in Hamilton Township, this county, April 3, 1866, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann (Swailes) Derry, the former born in England, June 26, 1832, the latter born in Wayne County, N. Y., September 13, 1838, the parents of both father and mother being natives of England. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Derry nine children were born: Herbert, born June 27, 1857, in Hamilton Township, now lives in Seattle, Wash.; Albert, born May 29, 1859, in Hamilton, now lives in Ashley, Mich.; Frank, born in Hamilton, July 27, 1861, died March 18, 1899; Emma E. (Derry) Williams, born in Hamilton, September 25, 1863, died February 3, 1901; Willis, born in Hamilton, March 21, 1868, lives in Marshall, Mich.; Lewis, born in Hamilton, August 6, 1870, died January 15, 1902; Anna (Derry) Dibble, born in Hamilton February 12, 1873, died December 13, 1897; Frederick, born in Hamilton, October 29, 1875, lives in Chicago. Thomas Derry, the father, died December 11, 1901, the mother, Mary Ann Derry, having passed away December 8, 1890.

To John B. and Agnes M. Rowell four children have been born: Grace E. was born in Hamilton, April 7, 1889; J. Basil was born in Ithaca, December 27, 1892; John B., Jr., was born in Ithaca, September 8, 1891, and lived but three weeks; Rex R., born in Hamilton, March 10, 1905. J. Basil Rowell was married October 22, 1913, to Eva Feighner, of Flint, Mich.

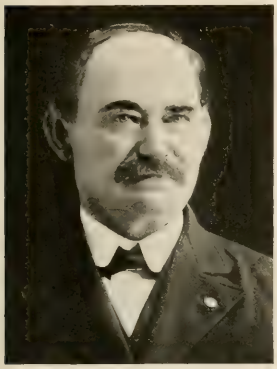
Since becoming a resident of Gratiot County—in 1884—the subject of this sketch has been engaged in several different occupations. He has owned and operated several farms, and now owns a fine farm of 160 acres in Hamilton Township. He was for a time landlord of the Hotel Arcada in Alma. While in California seeking better health for Mrs. Rowell, he conducted a grocery store at San Pedro. Was for seven years a resident of Chicago. Before coming to Gratiot he was for several years in the hotel business in the State of New York.

During the past few years Mr. Rowell has devoted a large share of his time and energies to the profession of an auctioneer, conducting sales all over Gratiot County and many in adjoining counties. It may very properly be stated that he is the pioneer auctioneer of the county, having been in the business since 1880; and he is conceded to be exceptionally successful in that capacity. In proof of this his records show that he has conducted over 750 sales in this and adjoining counties during the past six years. His business integrity, supplemented by his genial and hearty manner, has justly won for him a degree of popularity enjoyed by but few people in the county.

In politics Mr. Rowell is an earnest and active Democrat. He has held the office of treasurer of Hamilton and was justice of the peace four years. At the election of November, 1888, he was the fusion (Democrat and Greenback) candidate for sheriff, but was defeated with the rest of the ticket, though running considerably ahead. In the fall of 1910 he was the Democratic candidate for sheriff, and was elected, receiving 2,085 votes, to 1,924 votes for his Republican opponent. This was a phenomenal run, as the Republican ticket was in the majority by about 1,100 votes. Mr. Rowell is now under-sheriff, under Sheriff W. B. Ennis.

## PETTIT.

Perry D. Pettit, now deceased, was the son of Melancton and Jane (Thorp) Pettit, who were pioneers of the county and prominently identified with its early history. Melancton Pettit removed to Gratiot County with his family from Allen County, Ohio, arriving here May 7, 1855. His great grandfather, David Pettite, (as the name was then spelled) was a Frenchman who came to America at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He married an English woman, and from that union was born David Pettit, Jr., the father of Melancton Pettit, and grandfather of our subject. Melancton was the third son and was born May 30, 1823. On the 5th of August, 1845, he was married to Jane Thorp, daughter of John and Hannah (Perry) Thorp of Allen County, Ohio. The former was of German ancestry; the latter was English.



PERRY D. PETTIT.

Melancton Pettit, on his arrival in Gratiot County in 1855, settled in Emerson Township, and was, as indicated by the date, one of the earliest settlers of the township. Being an energetic and public-spirited citizen, he took a leading part in organizing the township and getting it into running order. In recognition of his merits and his services he was made the township's first supervisor, and was re-elected in 1856. Later — in 1859 and '60 — he served two years more in the same capacity. Politically he was a Republican. He died August 5, 1866. The mother, Jane Pettit, died January 25, 1865.



MRS. PERRY D. PETTIT.

Perry D. Pettit was born at West Cairo, Allen County, Ohio, April 6, 1848. He was one of a family of eight children; the second son in the family. Following are the names and the order of birth: Marion R., May 7, 1846, died April 2, 1894; Perry D., April 6, 1848, died August 25, 1910; Cenah, October 16, 1850; George B., June 2, 1853, died September 26, 1894; Alvin D., December 6, 1856; Jesse O., February 20, 1858; Ralph E., April 19, 1861; Edith M., October 26, 1863, died February 3, 1865.

Perry D. Pettit came with his parents to this county in 1855, his boyhood days being spent in assisting with the operation of hewing out a home in the wilderness, and in attending the district school. Service in the army seemed to attract him a little later, and on the 14th of January, 1864, though not yet 16 years of age, he enlisted in Company I, 4th Mich. Cavalry. He served nearly two years, joining the regiment at Marshall, Tenn., and taking part in most of the battles of the succeeding campaign. Coming back to Louisville, Ky., the regiment was re-mounted and equipped, and then started on the Wilson raid through Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia. Mr. Pettit took part in all the battles

incident to that raid. They captured Selma, Alabama, with 2,800 prisoners. They also captured Montgomery, Columbia and Macon, with all of Gen. Cobb's army. The 428 men then left in the 4th Cavalry were selected by Gen. Wilson, commanding the cavalry corps, to pursue and capture Jeff. Davis, which undertaking they brought to a successful issue on the 10th day of May, 1865, at Irwinsville, Georgia. The regiment then marched to Nashville and was there discharged.

Returning home after his discharge, Mr. Pettit worked at various avocations, for about ten years. On April 6, 1875, he was married to Miss Cora A. Brown, oldest daughter of Merritt J. and Fannie Brown, of Ithaca. She was born August 30, 1855. The father, of Scotch descent, was born May 20, 1826, and died September 8, 1904. The mother was descended from English ancestry, and was born March 24, 1832. She died August 25, 1889.

Mrs. Pettit is of a family of eleven children, as follows: Ira W., July 15, 1854; Cora A., August 30, 1855; M. D. Case, February 10, 1857, died April 4, 1875; Charles M., September 10, 1858; Fannie E., March 28, 1860; Geo. E., February 13, 1862; Nettie M., November 10, 1863; Mary J., December 30, 1866; Alice J., January 28, 1869, died January 14, 1873; Lill. M., September 12, 1870; Fred S., January 14, 1872.

After his marriage, Perry D. Pettit resided on his farm in Emerson seven years and then removed to Alma where he was engaged for a time in the livery business. In 1886 he removed to Ithaca where he resided till the time of his death. Two children were born—Roy E., April 15, 1876; Clara J. December 6, 1877, died October 15, 1886.

Perry D. Pettit was a Republican in politics, and was for many years a man of influence in the party. In recognition of his ability and his loyalty to the party, he was honored with many positions of trust and responsibility. While a resident of Alma he held the office of village marshal four years. In the fall of 1886 his party nominated him for sheriff and he was elected and served four years. In 1892 he was again elected sheriff, and was re-elected in 1894. Thus he held the office of sheriff eight years; the only man who ever held that office more than four years in this county. He was deputy oil inspector four years under the administration of Gov. A. T. Bliss. Besides the important offices mentioned, Mr. Pettit held others of a minor nature, including that of justice of the peace eight years. He was for some time, and up to the time of his death, engaged in insurance, collection and pension business.

Mr. Pettit was a member of Moses Wisner Post No. 101, G. A. R., and of Alma Lodge No. 244, F. & A. M. He and Mrs. Pettit belonged to the O. E. S. at Ithaca. Mrs. Pettit is a consistent member of the Baptist Church at Ithaca. Mr. Pettit was an ardent anti-saloon man. His sentiments on the question of temperance were always an issue in his campaigns, and they always met with popular approval and endorsement at the polls.

Perry D. Pettit died August 25, 1910, at his home in Ithaca, after a short illness with typhoid fever. By his death the county lost one of its most popular, honored and honorable citizens.

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## HELMS.

Gaylord Helms, for the past 17 years a resident of Ithaca, was born in Mt. Morris, Livingston County, N. Y., March 27, 1841, son of Daniel and Katharine (Leddick) Helms. Daniel Helms, the father, was born in Seneca County, N. Y., in 1810, son of Daniel and Martha (Warren) Helms. Daniel

Helms, the grandfather, served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Katharine (Leddick) Helms, mother of our subject, was born in 1814, in Seneca County, N. Y., daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Basom) Leddick. She was married to Daniel Helms in 1835, and nine children were born to them, six of whom are now living. Thomas, the oldest, died at the age of 30 years; Delilah, the oldest daughter, died at the age of 16 years. The living, in their order, are as follows: Gaylord, our subject; Frank, of North Star; Polk, of Kalkaska; Webster, of Charlevoix; Daniel, of Kalkaska; and Nancy Pierce, of North Star.

Gaylord Helms came with his parents to Livingston County, Mich., when five years of age. In 1853, when 12 years old, he came with his parents to Gratiot County. The family settled on section 21 of Fulton Township. After living there about a year they moved to section 11, and later to section 13, same township. Their early settlement in the wilds of Gratiot is conclusive proof, without further evidence, that they were familiar with all the usual experiences of pioneers. The oldest inhabitants are free to say that our subject could, and did, do his full share of the healthful and invigorating labors incident to the times and the necessities of the occasion, such as chopping, logging, splitting rails, etc.; and Gaylord modestly acknowledges the fact himself.

November 21, 1863, Gaylord Helms was married to Miss Jeannette Grace, in Fulton Township. She was born in Farmington, Mich., January 29, 1839, daughter of John C. and Amelia Grace. She came to Gratiot County with her parents in 1855. The father was born in Boston, Mass., and the mother in the State of Maine. Her paternal grandfather, Joseph Grace, was a native of Massachusetts; her paternal grandmother, Susan (Close) Grace, was a native of England. Her grandfather on her mother's side, Benjamin F. Grace, was born in Maine, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Following are the names of the children born to John C. and Amelia Grace: Angelina Coleman, of Farmington, Mich.; Darius C., deceased; Susan Gray, of Ithaca; Edwin, deceased; Jeannette Helms, of Ithaca; Joseph Wallace, of Fulton, and Lucy A. Deline, deceased. John C. Grace died in Fulton, Feb. 7, 1860. Mrs. Amelia Grace died in Fulton, April 4, 1876.

Gaylord and Jeannette (Grace) Helms are the parents of five children, all living. They are—Grace, born April 2, 1865; Katharine, November 1, 1866; Glenn, March 2, 1869; Gladys, January 8, 1876; J. Wallace, December 11, 1882. Grace Helms was married to Sumner J. Wells at Yorktown, North Dakota, March 6, 1889. They reside in North Dakota, and have children as follows: Gaylord N., born January 10, 1890; Glenn H., born March 20, 1895; Gladys P., born December 1, 1896; Sabra E., born November 22, 1899; Sibyl Grace, born March 19, 1904. Gaylord N. Wells, son of Sumner and Grace Wells, was married to Elsie L. Clocksin at Miles City, Montana, July 25, 1909. Katharine Helms was married January 9, 1890, to Thos. H. Kennedy. They live in Billings, Montana. Glenn Helms married Miss Lillian Mygrants, of Emerson Township, September 12, 1895. They have two sons—Howard K., born September 15, 1898, and Gaylord S., born March 28, 1904. They now reside at Raymond, Alberta, Canada. Gladys Helms was married to Ray McCall at Ithaca, October 7, 1903, and they reside in that village. They have four children—Rolla C., born July 19, 1904; Isabella, born October 3, 1905; Katharine Grace, born November 4, 1907, and Helen E., born March 11, 1911. J. Wallace Helms married Miss Harriet O. Halverson, at Courtenay, North Dakota, February 12, 1909. They now live at Milk River, Alberta, Canada.

Daniel Helms, father of Gaylord Helms, died at his home in North Star Township, March 26, 1891. Gaylord's mother, Katharine Helms, died in Fulton Township, September, 1895. They were of the sturdy and substantial sort, and did their full share in the pioneer work of the county.

Our subject saw military service in the Civil War, serving his country as a member of Co. G, 10th Mich. Infantry, receiving an honorable discharge at Louisville, Ky., July 1, 1865. He remained a resident of Fulton Township until the summer of 1881, when he disposed of his possessions there, and moved to Emerson Township, buying an 80-acre farm on section 28, where he resided until October, 1896, when he sold his farm and removed to Ithaca where he has since resided.

Mr. Helms is a man who possesses the confidence of his fellows in a marked degree. While a resident of Fulton they kept him in various positions of responsibility, such as township clerk, school inspector, etc. In Emerson, also, he held several official positions, the most important being that of supervisor which he held six years. Since his residence in Ithaca he has held the position of county superintendent of the poor several years, and is conceded to be an exceptionally careful and conscientious official in that position. He is a Democrat, a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the G. A. R. Mrs. Helms is a member of the W. R. C. and of the Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. Church.

## HARROD.

Joseph William Harrod, for many years a resident of Ithaca, was born in the County of Kent, England, October 17, 1862, being the youngest son in a family of thirteen children, two of whom died in infancy, and two passing away within the past twelve years, leaving nine now living. Jeremiah Harrod, the father of Joseph W., was born August 20, 1809—the year that produced our own Lincoln and so many other illustrious citizens of this and other countries. He lived in England all his life, which ended in the year 1884; a busy and industrious life of seventy-five years, largely devoted to the care and well-being of a large family. A man who valued and sympathized with all that was good, and always anxious to promote the best interests of his fellowmen. Of his parents but little can be given excepting that they were of sturdy Quaker stock from Yorkshire, and that the father was killed when Jeremiah was a lad of about thirteen years. Being thus at an early age thrown upon his own resources, Jeremiah Harrod followed the plan of early sending his own family out to wrestle with the world, and thus to become self-reliant, independent and patriotic citizens.



JOSEPH W. HARROD.

Joseph W. Harrod's mother was Mary (Diss) Harrod, born March 4, 1818, died August 18, 1886. Her's was a life devoted to the care of her family; the best of mothers—godly, patient, cheerful, helpful always. Her father, William Diss, died during her infancy, leaving one son and two daughters,

Mary being the oldest. She was married at the age of sixteen, and lived happily with her husband about fifty years. Her mother, Mary (Hind) Diss-Sayers, died in 1872, and was the only grandparent Joseph W. ever knew personally.

Following are the names and birthdates of Mr. Harrod's brothers and sisters: Mary Ann, wife of Thomas Paice, born May 18, 1835, still living in England with her family—two daughters and one son; Sarah Anne, deceased, wife of Thomas Cummings, born December 30, 1836, died September, 1901; Joshua, born February 13, 1839, died in infancy; Elizabeth Hind, wife of John G. Lower, born September 13, 1841, now living in St. Louis, this county; Ellen Hind, born July 28, 1843, died in infancy; Jeremiah, born December 12, 1845, living in Sydney, Australia, since 1876; Thomas Henry, well-known in Gratiot County, born October 27, 1847, now residing in Mississippi; Jane Macey, wife of James Beagley, born November 19, 1850, living in New Zealand since 1876; Emma, deceased, wife of John Knight, born November 6, 1852, died December 21, 1906; Alice, wife of William Harman, born February 23, 1855, living at Sutton, England; Israel James, born August 9, 1857, living at Wimbledon, England; John Joshua, born November 1, 1860, living at Hayes, England.

Joseph William, the subject of this sketch came to Gratiot County in the year 1880. He was married September 8, 1885, to Eva M., youngest daughter of John C. and Nancy (Bowen) Shaw. She was born in Ypsilanti, Mich. She has lived in Gratiot since 1878, in which year she came to Ithaca with her father's family, settling in the east part of the village. She however, spent three years in Detroit with an older sister. Of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Harrod, two passed away in infancy—Amy, born April 29, 1887, died at the age of three months; Willie, born July 10, 1889, died when but one month old; Joseph Paul, born June 4, 1895, lives with his parents.

Joseph W. Harrod was born in what may be called the fruit garden of England, but owing to the ill-health of his father the family removed to Surrey, settling in a suburb of London where school privileges were better than in Kent. He attended the national and board schools until twelve years of age, passing the required standard. Leaving school he at once secured a position and from that time has earned his own way. He spent four years partly in the grocery trade and partly in house decorating. In 1880 he immigrated to America, and to Gratiot County, making his home with his brother, Thomas H., who had preceded him to this country, and who was engaged in surveying. That business at once attracted his attention and interest, and, together with kindred lines, it became his life-work. He recalls, however, with grateful emotions, "the one winter spent in the Ithaca schools under H. R. Pattengill, that prince of educators."

Mr. Harrod has served two years as county drain commissioner, eight years as county surveyor, and has acted as surveyor and engineer for a large share of the work done in the county, besides a large amount of similar work in adjoining counties. He has been active in the interest of drainage legislation by membership in, and co-operating with, the State Association of Drain Commissioners. For about nineteen years he has been an active member of the Michigan Engineering Society, and has held important positions on committees.

Politically Mr. Harrod is a Prohibitionist. His religious affiliations are with the M. E. Church, of which he has been recording steward for a period of about thirty years, continuously. Mrs. Harrod is a valued member of the same church.

## COMSTOCK.

William W. Comstock (deceased) was born in Leyden, Lewis County, N. Y., May 10, 1823, the fourth son of Ezekiel H. and Lucy (Jenks) Comstock, natives of New England. He came to Michigan in May, 1843, leaving the ancestral home at the age of 20 years. He was united in marriage June 14, 1846, to Margaret M. Carothers, fourth daughter of Wm. and Mary (Thurston) Carothers, natives of New York. They were of Scotch-Irish and of English extraction respectively. Margaret M. was born in Jerusalem, Yates County, N. Y., August 26, 1829.



WM. W. COMSTOCK.

Mr. and Mrs. Comstock were the parents of eight children, as follows: Nettie Comstock, of Ithaca, Mich., an attache of the abstract and register of deed's offices for several years; Addie A., wife of Charles H. Howd, formerly a merchant of Breckenridge and Baldwin, Mich., but now a resident of Ithaca; Eugenia L., wife of Dr. C. S. Watson, of Breckenridge; Wallace M. Comstock, editor and proprietor of the Oconto Reporter, Oconto, Wis. Four children of Mr. and Mrs. Comstock are deceased: Clarence Eugene, born May 15, 1852, died Sept. 5, 1853; Clarence Warren, born July 30, 1855, died Sept. 16, 1858; Ralph Thurston, born Sept. 29, 1862, died August 2, 1865; Carlton Henry, born Sept. 22, 1866, died October 27, 1873.

In December, 1854, Mr. Comstock located a tract of land in Washington Township, Gratiot County, and in the following February, with his family, made the then tedious journey from Hillsdale, Mich., with sleighs, to the almost unbroken wilderness of Gratiot. The household goods were shipped by rail to Jackson and drawn from there across country, which, on account of the poor railway service of those days, did not reach them for three months. It is difficult at this date to give a clear idea of the strenuous life of the early pioneers; of their fortitude, of their heroism. A brief outline of the principal facts will have to suffice.



MRS. W. W. COMSTOCK.

Mr. Comstock was the first supervisor of Washington Township to represent the township on the board of supervisors. In the spring of 1856 he made his first visit to Ithaca to convene with the board of supervisors. Before returning home he purchased some village lots of John Jeffery, who had platted and named the village in March of this same year. In October following, Mr. Comstock had erected and become proprietor and occupant of the "Ithaca Hotel", the first public house, proper, in Ithaca. It was located where the present Mathews House now stands. He had moved his family and belongings to Ithaca during the summer, an undertaking,

by the way, that took two days to accomplish, though the distance was but eleven miles. Darkness of the first day overtook the weary crowd that had fought the mud and pitch-holes inch by inch, at John W. Chaffin's, four miles south of Ithaca, where they were kindly sheltered for the night.

From this time on, Mr. and Mrs. Comstock were among the most prominent and active participants in the development and advancement of the public life of Ithaca. Mr. Comstock was a man of indomitable energy and public spirit. He was extensively engaged in building during those early days. He gave liberally of his time and labor, besides giving financial aid, to many a business venture to insure its success. He was one of the promoters, and later sole proprietor of the first republican newspaper in the county called the "Gratiot News", which plant still survives as the "Gratiot Journal" of today. He was an enthusiastic republican, and was for many years an active politician.

Mr. Comstock was the organizer of the Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., which was instituted February 3, 1860, and was its worshipful master for nine successive years; the acknowledged father of Free Masonry in Gratiot County. He held office successively in Ithaca Chapter No. 70, Ithaca Council No. 33 and Ithaca Knights Templar No. 40. He fitted and furnished at his own expense the first Masonic lodge room, and remained a faithful member of his beloved order till his death. He also helped build the Floral Hall on the public square for the first fair held by the Agricultural Society in 1866, furnishing the material for the same. He was one of the original stockholders and first president of the Ithaca Cemetery Association, and was for many years a prominent member of the Gratiot County Pioneer Society.

On the incorporation of the Village of Ithaca, November 16, 1869, Mr. Comstock was elected as a member of the first board of trustees. He was postmaster at Ithaca during the Civil War, engaging later in lumbering and in mercantile business. He suffered severe reverses by the explosion of a sawmill and the loss of his hotel by fire, both catastrophes within the space of five days, and followed by a later conflagration. But his New England birth and training admitted of no disheartenment, and he pressed on.

His last years were spent on his farm two miles north of Ithaca, where he died April 10, 1902. He was buried in Ithaca cemetery with Masonic honors by the brothers he had known and loved so well.

In all the undertakings of Mr. Comstock's active life, too much credit cannot be given to his noble helpmate—his wife, Margaret M. Comstock, who still survives him, and who, though 84 years of age, is in the full possession of all her faculties. In all the deprivations and sacrifices, hard work and calls for courage, right royally she put her shoulder to the wheel and bore her burdens hopefully and cheerfully. A loyal and devoted wife and mother, and ever inspired with the same interest and enthusiasm as was Mr. Comstock, in all matters of business, as well as in all matters of public concern in the community. It was she who made out the first tax-roll for Washington Township; her nimble fingers that helped make the flag for public occasions; her hands that prepared the viands for which the hotel was noted. It was she who could get up a good meal for thirty guests at a half hour's notice, and could put out a washing while the rest of the household slept.

Mrs. Comstock was one of the organizers of the First Baptist Aid Society, and its president when they earned and purchased their first organ. It is but justice to make note of the fact also, that she is a woman of no mean literary tastes and attainments; has often been a valuable literary

contributor at the meetings of the Gratiot County Pioneer Society, and was its historian for several years. She is also an ardent Mason, having been one of the organizers and a charter member of Myrtle Chapter, O. E. S., its worthy matron four years, and continuously holding some official position in the order.

She is one of the energetic and faithful members of the Ithaca Baptist Church; and it may well and truthfully be said in conclusion, that in addition to the duties and obligations devolving upon her as detailed, she finds time to attend the meetings of the Ladies' Coterie Club of which she is a member, writes essays, reads selections and does her share in entertaining the club. In short, she takes as lively an interest as ever in public and social affairs. Appropriately and truthfully it can be said of her, "She is 84 years young."

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## COMSTOCK.

Miss Nettie Comstock arrived at Leyden, N. Y., December 6, 1847, and was the oldest of eight children born to William W. and Margaret M. Comstock, the following of whom are living: Addie A., wife of C. H. Howd, of Ithaca; Eugenie L., wife of Dr. C. S. Watson, late of Breckenridge, now residing in Saginaw, and Wallace M. Comstock, proprietor of the "Reporter", published at Oconto, Wis. She came with her parents to Gratiot County when but seven years of age, and has been a resident of Ithaca since 1856; consquently has been a witness to, and participator in, the many experiences and vicissitudes of early pioneer life. She received her book education in the schools and normal classes of Ithaca, with a year at Olivet; but she also claims a diploma from the "University of Hard Knocks."



NETTIE COMSTOCK.

Coming from a busy ancestry she assumed the activities and responsibilities of life at an early age, with nearly as versatile a catalogue of vocations as her forbears. Her first position of trust was that of chief caretaker and nurse to the younger children. Then she was found handy as the family scribe. Later the paterfamilias purchased a photographic outfit and it became Miss Nettie's duty to take the faces of the soldiers for "the girls they left behind them." This not proving a financial success, she was installed as postoffice clerk to write and read their letters. The first venture of her own for which she received her first wage, was typesetting in the Gratiot News office, the first county paper. She began teaching in the rural schools at the age of 18, and was employed in the following districts: District No. 3, Washington, two terms; Fulton Center and Wilcox School, two terms; Washington Center, five terms; Bridgeville, one term; Allen District, two terms. In the graded schools she taught in St. Louis one year and in Ithaca four years.

Miss Comstock was one of the original members of the Gratiot County Teachers' Association, was several times its secretary and filled important places on its semi-annual programs as essayist, etc., for many years. She

was also secretary and one of the first members of the Ithaca Baptist Missionary Society, a member of the Ithaca Baptist Church, and with her sisters Addie and Genie, sang in the choir. She was also a charter member of the O. E. S. of Ithaca, and its secretary four years. As clerk in the register of deed's office she served under Rev. Theodore Nelson and Judge DeWitt C. Chapin; and she assisted Mrs. Nathan Church in making the first complete set of abstract books in the county, and was subsequently principal in a similar work for ex-Register of Deeds J. H. Seaver.

In 1881 Miss Comstock assumed the management of the abstract business then owned by Gen. Nathan Church, which position she retained when the title passed to an incorporated company. From 1877 to 1883 she was a member of the household of Mrs. Louisa Seaver. In the spring of 1883 she built her residence on Pine River Street, north, where she now resides and where her mother also has resided since the death of the husband and father in 1902.

Miss Comstock has led a life of steady industry for which she has received the reward of good health and good spirits; and though spending but little time in vacations, has managed to have a pretty good time on the way. She accompanied H. R. Pattengill and a party of teachers on a trip around the Lakes in 1881, and visited the Chicago Exposition in 1893, with other recreations of little importance or interest save only to herself, but which have served to recuperate and preserve the vital forces so that she is capable of performing her accustomed daily tasks without interruption.

## CHURCH.

Gen. Nathan Church was one of the earliest settlers in Gratiot County. He was born near Lyons, Ionia County, Mich., November 22, 1840, son of Rev. Lafayette and Sophronia (Benjamin) Church. When Nathan was seven years old his parents moved to Wheatland, Hillsdale County, Mich., and in 1854, before Nathan was 14 years of age, came to Gratiot County, settling on a tract of land purchased from the government, in Arcada Township. At that time the county was almost an unbroken wilderness. There was one log cabin where the City of Alma now stands, and a single habitation on the bank of the river where is now the City of St. Louis. Where Ithaca is located was then a virgin forest, the "Old Indian Trail" passing on a ridge a half mile to the westward.

Nathan Church's father, Rev. Lafayette Church, a brief sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume, was one of the most active and influential men of the county in its early days, having probably done more toward building up the moral and religious character of the community by organizing Sunday schools and churches, than any other man. Three brothers of Lafayette Church were also Baptist ministers—Rev. Pharcellus Church, D. D., was editor of the New York Examiner and Chronicle; Rev. Leroy Church was editor of the Standard, of Chicago, and Rev. Volney Church was a well-known minister of Vermont and Michigan.

Willard Church, father of Lafayette, and grandfather of Nathan, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving under "Mad-Anthony" Wayne, and was one of the twenty picked men who led the assault on the fort at Stony Point, N. Y. He was afterward captured by the British, and, with seven hundred others, was confined for nine months on the prison ship Jersey. Only sixty survived the terrible hardships they were obliged to endure.

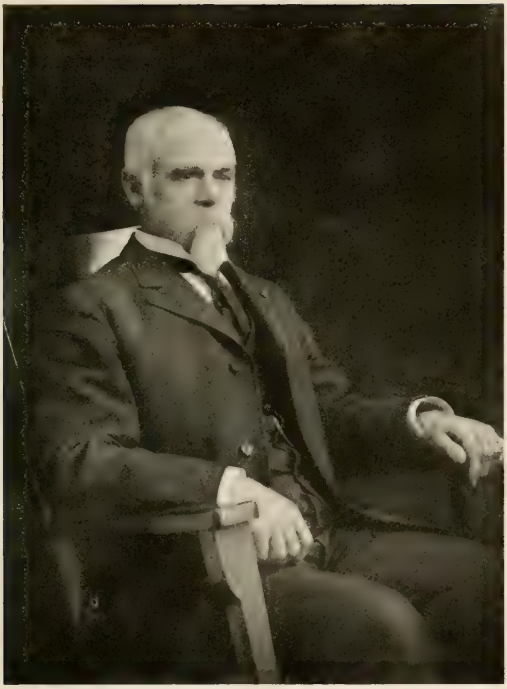
The Church family traces its ancestry back to Richard Church, of Plymouth, born in 1608, and includes many names illustrious in war and peace. Col. Benjamin Church, the most famous Indian fighter of early colonial days and slayer of King Philip, is included in the number.

Nathan attended the common schools of Hillsdale County, and the first school established in Gratiot County. His father, with Francis Nelson and a few other neighbors, joined forces in building a log cabin school house in the woods half a mile from the nearest settler, the roof of which was of "shakes" (flat pieces like barrel staves, split from oak logs) secured in position by heavy poles laid lengthwise of the roof, as nails were not available. The floor was of split basswood logs smoothed off with a broad-ax. The seats, also, were of split logs supported on wooden legs. A mud fire-place and stick chimney completed this temple of learning. A teacher—Lemuel Cole—was hired, and Nathan and the Nelson boys—William, Wilbur and Theodore—brought their axes and during the noon hour, chopped the wood necessary to warm the "temple." Afterward Nathan attended the college at Kalamazoo a year, traveling the entire distance to that city on foot. At that time Jackson was the nearest railroad station. Later he engaged in school teaching, clerking in stores, and also was employed in the county offices at various times.

On the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in the 8th Mich. Infantry, and was soon after appointed a sergeant in his company. He was with his regiment at the bombardment and capture of the forts at Hilton Head, S. C., and the later military movements in that vicinity. In January, 1862, while suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism he was discharged; but improving in health after his return home, he again entered the service, this time as First Lieutenant of Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry. With his regiment he was at the siege of Suffolk, on the expedition to the Blackwater, on the second Peninsular campaign, and was being hurried to Gettysburg by train when the draft riots broke out in New York City. The destination of the regiment was suddenly changed to New York where it remained for nearly three months, maintaining order in that city, and sending detachments to several other cities of the state.

In October, 1863, his regiment was sent to join the Army of the Potomac and was assigned to the 1st brigade, 1st division of the 2nd Army Corps, in which command it served to the close of the war. Our subject was successively promoted to adjutant, captain, major and lieutenant colonel. At the age of twenty-three and a half years he was in command of the regiment. He served much of the time on the staff of that brilliant officer, Gen. Nelson A. Miles, as aid-de-camp, inspector, engineer officer and assistant adjutant general. He had charge of the building of Fort Fisher, the largest fort in the system of fortifications about Petersburg, having 1,500 men working under his supervision for a period of six weeks.

The 26th Mich. had a reputation second to none as a "fighting regiment." Generals Hancock, Miles, Barlow, Macey and others have testified to its unsurpassed valor. It was in the front line in the great assault by Hancock's corps at Spottsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864, and was the first to break the enemy's line after most severe hand to hand fighting, Col. Church, with two sergeants, being the first to enter. Major Gen. Edward Johnson, commanding the Confederate line at the "Bloody Angle", surrendered to Col.—then Adjutant—Church. In this assault nearly 4,000 prisoners were captured, with 22 pieces of artillery and 30 battle flags. In Gen. Lee's most heroic and long-continued efforts to re-take the works, an oak tree 22 inches in diameter, was cut down by musket balls. Gen. Barlow mentions Col.



GEN. NATHAN CHURCH.

Church in connection with this tree in a paper read before the Military National Society of Massachusetts. The historians on both sides admit that this was the most bloody and desperate battle of the war; some say since gun-powder was invented. The 26th Mich. lost 45 per cent. of its men in killed and wounded. The regiment fought in all the battles from the Wilderness to Appomattox, and was on the front line when Generals Grant and Lee were negotiating for the surrender.

A newspaper account by an eye-witness states: "At Sailor's Creek, Col. Church, then on the staff of Gen. Miles commanding the Division, mounted on a white horse, led two regiments—his own and the 140th Pennsylvania—in an assault on intrenchments occupied by a superior force of the enemy, and being the only mounted officer with the attacking force, he reached the works several yards in advance of his men. The prisoners captured in the works outnumbered the attacking party. His gallant conduct on this occasion elicited much comment. Col. Church was not only a brilliant officer of unusually quick perceptions, but was distinguished for being reckless of his personal safety."

Col. Church was twice brevetted for "conspicuous gallantry and meritorious services", and at the close of the war was appointed a captain in the regular army, but he declined the appointment. Gen. Miles, after hostilities ceased and when that officer was sent to command the military district of Fortress Monroe and take charge of Jefferson Davis, applied to the War Department to have Col. Church retained in service, though his regiment was about to be mustered out, and assigned to duty as his assistant adjutant general. By order of the secretary of war this was done, and he acted in that capacity until November, 1865, when, at his own request, he was relieved from duty and mustered out of the service. His duties at Fortress Monroe brought him frequently in close contact with Jefferson Davis.

Returning to the employments of peace, Col. Church formed a partnership with Wilbur Nelson, engaging in a general merchandising business in Ithaca. This enterprise was prosperous, but in 1872 he sold out his interest in the firm to engage in lumbering and real estate operations. In 1866 he, with Daniel Taylor, established the Gratiot Journal, of which he was editor. He was elected county clerk for two terms and was postmaster at Ithaca seven years. He has always been one of the most public-spirited citizens of the county, contributing largely in time and money to enterprises for the public good. His efforts to obtain railroads for Ithaca cost him more than $11,000, besides much labor. In 1877 he established the first banking business in Ithaca, and the second in the county. He built several business blocks and many houses in Ithaca and also in Alma where he owned considerable real estate. Church's Opera House, built in 1879, was the second brick building in Ithaca.

In 1881 Col. Church was commissioned quartermaster general of the state by Gov. Jerome, which office he held two years.

Gen. Church was married December 25, 1866, to Miss Mary H., daughter of Hon. Perley and Caroline (Brown) Bills, of Tecumseh, Mich. She was born May 17, 1848, in that village, and graduated at the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, class of 1866. To this marriage five children were born —Helen, January 5, 1868; Leroy B., July 20, 1869; Clarence N. and Gaylord P. (twins) August 12, 1871, and Edgar N., August 1, 1874. Gaylord P. died when one year old, and Edgar N. December 7, 1907. Helen married Edward Clark Marsh in 1901, and Leroy B. married Melissa Davis in 1902.

Gen. Church has traveled quite extensively in Europe and in Mexico, and has visited the Pacific coast. In 1886 he took his family to Europe, and, renting a house in Paris, lived there for nearly three years. From the balcony of his home he saw the Eiffel Tower constructed. While a resident there an incident occurred that seems worthy of record in this connection. When Jefferson Davis was placed in confinement at Fortress Monroe it was ordered that he be searched. Gen. Church took a suit of clothes from his valise and told Mr. Davis he might change his clothing. In the pockets of the suit he was wearing was a five-dollar gold piece, a Mexican silver dollar, his pocket-knife, keys, and about $300 in Confederate money. Not long afterward Gen. Church was in Richmond and bought another five-dollar gold piece and a Mexican silver dollar. On leaving the army he turned over to the officer taking his place the coins bought at Richmond, keeping as souvenirs, the coins found in Mr. Davis' pockets. These he marked so that they could be identified. The silver dollar he gave to a brother staff officer from Pennsylvania. The gold piece he carried in his pocket for over 20 years, but finally paid it out by mistake. About three weeks afterward he discovered the loss of his souvenir—the last specie the Confederacy died possessed of—and a month later, the identical coin, to his great gratification, came back to him in the ordinary course of business.

Coming now to the Paris incident referred to: The sequel of events show that the Pennsylvania officer who had the silver dollar also lost his souvenir. Twenty-five years after these coins were in Mr. Davis' pocket, Gen. Church and family became acquainted with a certain American lady and her family in Paris. This lady, in some way, had found out that Gen. Church had had charge of Jefferson Davis at Fortress Monroe. So at a reception given by her, at her own home, to which Gen. Church and family were invited, she informed him of what she had learned, and told him that she had the silver dollar that Mr. Davis had when placed in confinement. On his inquiring how she obtained it, she told him that it had been presented to President Johnson, and on his death it came into the hands of his son, who was her first husband. On her husband's death, she had his keepsakes and other belongings. Thus these two souvenirs, after a separation of a quarter of a century from Mr. Davis' pocket, the gold piece inadvertently paid out and missing for nearly two months, and the silver piece having been lost by the army officer or "swiped" in some manner from its owner, turn up together in the City of Paris, in this very extraordinary manner. A lady whom Gen. Church had never heard of before, 4,000 miles from his home, and in a city of two and a half millions of people, telling him that she had the identical silver dollar, the companion piece of his gold coin. Without a doubt "truth is sometimes stranger than fiction."

## NALDRETT.

Charles S. Naldrett, for several years one of Ithaca's best-known and most reliable citizens, occupying his fine village residence on Maple Street, north, is a native-born product of Gratiot County, having been born on the parental homestead, on section 31 of Newark Township, oldest son of George S. and Caroline (Jones) Naldrett. He first saw the light of day February 18, 1858. His father was born in England, October 1, 1834, and came to America with his parents in 1849, settling in Newark, this county, in 1855. He is still living on the farm purchased at that time. The mother of our subject

was born in Ohio, July 18, 1839. They were married in Gratiot County, January 15, 1857. Their children were Charles S., Ida M., Clement, Laura J. and Lydia J. Clement and Laura J. are deceased. Ida M. is married to Thomas Creaser and resides in Middleton, this county. Lydia J. is housekeeper for her father on the old homestead, the mother having passed away March 15, 1907. (See sketch of Geo. S. Naldrett.)

Charles S. Naldrett was united in marriage to Miss R. Catharine Levering, in North Star Township, Febraury 14, 1882. She is a daughter of the late Columbus and Eliza (Smith) Levering, early and prominent settlers in North Star Township. (See sketch of C. Levering.) Before her marriage Mrs. Naldrett was a popular and successful teacher in Gratiot County's public schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Naldrett are the parents of one son, George Levering Naldrett, born in Newark, April 8, 1892. He was married November 19, 1912, to Ela Graham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Graham, of Ithaca, and is now, (spring of 1913), a resident of Muskegon, Mich.

Our principal subject—Charles S. Naldrett—was engaged with his father in agricultural pursuits and in attendance at the district school during his



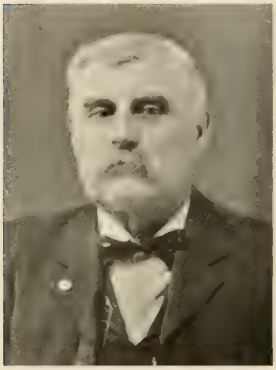
CHARLES S. NALDRETT, WIFE AND SON GEORGE.

minority. Later he engaged in farming on his own account. After the founding of Middleton Village and the erection of the elevator at that point, he was employed in that institution as its manager for a period of about 15 years. In 1906 he went into the upper peninsula of Michigan, invested quite extensively in the timbered lands of that subdivision of the state and has since been engaged in lumbering there from time to time. He now owns about 2,800 acres of land in that section, a large portion of which is very promising mineral land, being in such close proximity to the copper and iron mining region, as to render it very attractive on account of its rich mineral possibilities which seem only to be awaiting development to unfold and reveal great rches in the valuable metals mentioned. All of Mr. Naldrett's friends familiar with the promising conditions are sure that he is extremely fortunate in his real estate holdings in the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. Naldrett is an active member of the Masonic Order, and Mrs. Naldrett belongs to the O. E. S. She is also a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church; and both stand high in the esteem and good-will of the entire community.

## PEET.

Kosciusko P. Peet, for many years a resident of Ithaca, was born in Rochester, Lorain County, Ohio, October 19, 1843. His father, John Peet, was born August 5, 1801, on Long Mountain, Connecticut. He was of English and Welch ancestry. He died at Jamestown, Ottawa County, Mich., March 3, 1881. The mother, Betsey (Clark) Peet, was born in Penfield, Monroe County, N. Y., in 1803, and died in Rochester, Ohio, February 4, 1860. Of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Peet twelve grew to maturity.



KOSCIUSKO P. PEET.

K. P. Peet acquired a good common school education, finishing with a year's course at the Savannah, Ohio, Academy. Two of his brothers—Charles D. and Rolla A.—enlisted in the U. S. service, in the Civil War, members of Company B, 1st Ohio Light Artillery. K. P. enlisted in Company I, of the same regiment, August 29, 1864, and, serving till the close of the war, was discharged June 13, 1865. Returning to Rochester, Ohio, he embarked in the business of dairying and stock-raising, in company with his brother Rolla. Selling out, they removed, in the spring of 1867, to Kent County, Mich., where, in Bowne Township, K. P. bought an 84-acre farm. A year later he removed to Lowell Township in the same county, where he bought a farm of 140 acres. Later he removed to Jamestown, Ottawa County, where he resided nearly three years, when, owing to an exchange of property, he came into possession of 320 acres on section 31, Lafayette Township, this county, removing to his new location in the spring of 1876. While a resident of Kent County, Mr. Peet taught several terms of school; also teaching several terms in Gratiot County.



MRS. LYDIA M. PEET.

Mr. Peet's new home in Lafayette was unimproved and covered with timber, consequently the work of clearing and otherwise improving his land and erecting farm buildings occupied his time and attention largely. In company with his brother Rolla, he made a specialty of raising Holstein cattle, and breeding fine blooded horses. They imported the first registered Holsteins ever owned in the county.

While a resident of Lafayette, Mr. Peet was elected to various township offices—supervisor two years, clerk one year, superintendent of schools two years, etc. In the fall of 1882 he was elected sheriff of the county on the fusion (Democrat and Greenback) ticket, receiving 187 majority. In November, 1884, he was re-elected sheriff by a majority of over 500. His administration of the important office was very satisfactory to his constituents. In 1883 Mr. Peet formed a business partnership at Ithaca

with D. C. Johnson to carry on the livery business. For their use in that business they erected the livery barn on Pine River Street, south, now owned and utilized for the same business by Charles Kernen.

In 1891, Mr. Peet was appointed hall master at the Michigan State Reformatory at Ionia, which position he held for more than two years, resigning to accept a position as detective on John Bonfield's staff at Chicago during the World's Columbian Exposition. He resigned on account of sickness. Afterward, for a period of about three years, he worked in a similar capacity for the Ann Arbor Railroad.

K. P. Peet is a member of all of the Masonic and I. O. O. F. lodges in Ithaca. He is a charter member of Ithaca Commandery No. 40, K. T., also of Myrtle Chapter No. 56, O. E. S., of which he is past worthy patron. He is also past major of the Patriarchs Militant, the highest branch of Odd Fellowship.

Mr. Peet was married April 8, 1864, at Adrian, Mich., to Lydia M. Sage, born in Huntington, Lorain County Ohio, January 3, 1847. She was the youngest child of her parents. Her father, Isaac Sage Jr., was born in Marietta, N. Y., and was the father of ten children by former marriages. He died in Harrisville, Ohio, in 1864, aged 54 years. The mother of Mrs. Peet—Clarissa A. (Rising) Sage—was born in Connecticut in 1809, and was the mother of eight children by her first marriage. She died in Ithaca in 1891, aged nearly 82 years. Both parents were of English and Welch descent. Mrs. Peet attended the Academy at Savannah, Ohio, in preparation for a medical course, with the view of becoming a partner of her brother in his Infirmary at Arrow Head Springs, California.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Peet—K. Rolla, at Rochester, Ohio, December 29, 1864; L. Amaret, January 11, 1867, in Rochester; Susie E., December 8, 1868,, in Lowell, Mich.; C D, December 22, 1873, in Jamestown, Mich.; J. Raymond, November 3, 1877, in Lafayette, this county; James Oliver, August 10, 1881, in Lafayette.

K. Rolla Peet died in Ithaca, September 25, 1888, of typhoid fever; J. Raymond died in Ithaca October 22, 1888, of the same disease. James O. Peet was married June 22, 1903, to Anna Louise Killeen, oldest daughter of Rev. Geo. Killeen. They reside at Ithaca and have two children—Georgiana Kosket, aged six years, and Charles D., aged four years. L. Amaret ("Retta"), holds a life certificate from the Michigan State Normal. She followed teaching several years, and served one term as commissioner of schools. She married N. J. Baker, of North Shade, June 19, 1904. He died October, 1905. February, 1912, she married Charles Lee. They reside in North Star. C D Peet was married December 22, 1906, to Cornelia, only daughter of Avolin and Julia Church, of Arcada. They live at Sickels, where C D is engaged in the manufacture of tile. Susie E. Peet resides with her parents.

Mrs. K. P. (Lydia M.) Peet is a very enthusiastic lodge worker. She has not only held many official positions in the local orders, but is a past president of the Rebecca Assembly, a past grand chief of the Pythian Sisters, and has held several minor offices in both state organizations. She was sent as a representative from Michigan to the Supreme Temple, Pythian Sisters, at Louisville, Ky., and New Orleans, La. She has received the decoration of chivalry, the highest honor conferred on a lady by the Patriarchs Militant. She is a past worthy matron of Myrtle Chapter, O. E. S. of Ithaca, and president of Moses Wisner Corps No. 90. She was a charter member of Ithaca Grange, and has been and is now a member of various literary and social clubs. It may be added that she was a member

of the board of control of the I. O. O. F. of Michigan, which, in 1905, selected Jackson as the place for locating the Odd Fellows' Home. She was the first matron of the Home.

This brief sketch will be considered a valuable and interesting addition to the pages of this volume. In November, 1913, K. P. Peet and family removed to the Wm. Sickels farm, near Sickels, a valuable farm recently purchased by C D Peet.

## NELSON.

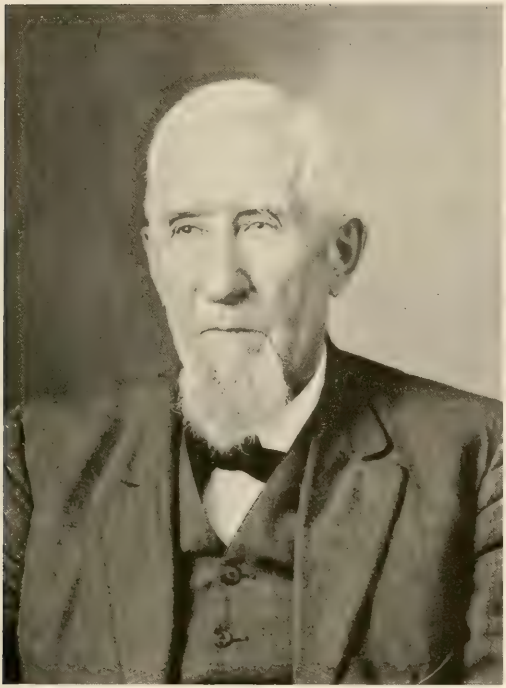
It is not only a pleasure but it is also very much of a novelty, to be able to include in this volume the biographical sketch of a man who was not only a pioneer of Gratiot County's earliest days as an inhabited portion of the state, but is still with us and doing business with as much energy, perseverance and success as many a business man of half his years. Referring to Hon. Wilbur Nelson, of Ithaca, president and manager of the Nelson Grain Company.

Wilbur Nelson is the son of the late Francis Nelson who settled in Arcada Township in 1854, and who was prominent in the organization of the county and for many years thereafter. Francis Nelson was born in Otsego County, N. Y., July 15, 1808, son of Josiah Nelson, born in Massachusetts, September 9, 1773, and Lucy (Rice) Nelson, born in Connecticut, September 22, 1778. Josiah Nelson died December 4, 1847; his wife, Lucy Nelson, died June 13, 1857.

Francis Nelson was married in 1833 to Deborah Cotton, who was born in Batavia, N. Y., February 18, 1815. They came to Michigan in 1835, settling first in Palmyra, Lenawee County, afterward removing to Madison, in the same county. In 1854 they removed to Arcada, this county. Francis Nelson was the first supervisor of Arcada, and was the second judge of probate of the county, being elected in November, 1856, and re-elected in 1860 and 1864. He died March 10, 1897. His wife, Deborah (Cotton) Nelson, died August 15, 1874. Their five children were William S., Wilbur, Theodore, Sibyl and Mary.

Wilbur Nelson, the principal subject of this sketch, was born in Madison, Lenawee County, Mich., January 15, 1839. He was fifteen years of age when he came, with his father's family, to Gratiot County. His education was obtained in the common schools, supplemented by a course at Gregory's Business College at Kalamazoo. On the 12th of August, 1861, he enlisted in his country's military service, becoming a member of Company C, 8th Mich. Infantry, the company composed of Gratiot citizens and commanded by Ralph Ely as captain. Mr. Nelson went out as a sergeant of the company. He took part in many engagements, and was wounded by a rebel bullet in his left side at the Battle of James Island. At Campbell's Station, Tennessee, he was wounded a second time, his right knee being hit by a minie ball. Soon after the battle at Fredericksburg he was promoted to second lieutenant. He resigned his commission and came home January, 1864. He re-entered the service March 20, 1864, as captain of Co. I, 102nd U. S. Colored Infantry, (1st Mich. Colored Infantry) organized at Detroit. The regiment did duty in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and was engaged in many raids and skirmishes.

In November, 1865, the war having closed, Mr. Nelson returned to Ithaca, and, in company with Nathan Church, went into mercantile business, which they conducted until 1872, when Mr. Church retired and was



HON. WILBUR NELSON.

succeeded by Gilbert C. Smith. In 1875 Mr. Smith was succeeded by Alvedo S. Barber. The firm of Nelson & Barber continued in business until 1898, when the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Nelson organizing the Nelson Grain Company which he has managed to the present time, and which still occupies his time and energies.

Mr. Nelson's was one of the leading mercantile firms in Gratiot County during its entire exstence, from 1865 to 1898. It did an immense amount of business in general merchandising and as dealers in grain and all other farm produce.

In 1867 Mr. Nelson was appointed assistant assessor of internal revenue, and served four years, the district comprising Gratiot and Isabella Counties. He has served one term as president of the Village of Ithaca, and has filled many other important local offices. In 1880 he was elected as Gratiot County's representative in the state legislature. In every position to which he has been chosen he has served faithfully and well, making a record at once creditable to himself and to his constituency. He is an ardent and loyal adherent of the Republican party.

Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Cornelia Church, in Arcada, November 22, 1865. She was a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Lafayette Church; born August 3, 1842, in Ionia County. She died March 23, 1878, at her home in Ithaca, leaving two daughters—Mary, born May 8, 1870, and Nellie, born June 29, 1873. On the 13th of June, 1882, Mr. Nelson was married to Mary Hamilton, daughter of Rev. Dillis D. and Eliza (Saunders) Hamilton, of Pompeii, Gratiot County. She was born March 12, 1857, in Rochester, N. Y. Her father was a minister of the Presbyterian Church, coming to Gratiot from Albion, N. Y., in 1868, and settling at Pompeii. He came to Gratiot as a home missionary of the Presbyterian Church, and preached in various sections of the county, including two years at Ithaca. In the spring of 1871 he was elected county superintendent of schools, serving two years. He died July 22, 1876. His wife, Mrs. Eliza Hamilton died December 8, 1874.

Five children were born to the union of Wilbur and Mary (Hamilton) Nelson: Arthur Hamilton Nelson was born August 11, 1883. He was for several years in the United States military service, and died at Manilla, Philippine Islands, October 26, 1911. Gladys was born August 17, 1884; Gaylord, born January 25, 1886; Theodore, born March 26, 1888; Miles A., born October 22, 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are properly reckoned among Ithaca's most worthy and popular citizens, ever lending their aid to all projects and undertakings for the material and moral welfare of the community.

## McKEE.

James M. McKee, residing on section six, Township of Ithaca, eldest son of Anthony and Elizabeth (Cole) McKee, was born January 14, 1836, in Niagara County, N. Y. Both of his grandparents settled in that county about the year 1825, on what was then known as the "Holland Purchase." When the Town of Newfane was organized, the father was elected justice of the peace, and continued in office twenty-six years.

At the age of 17 James M. McKee commenced work at the carpenter's trade. He followed this avocation during the summer months, and in the winters taught district schools for about twenty years, first in Niagara County, N. Y., and afterward in Washtenaw County, Mich., to which place he removed in 1867.

On the 22nd day of October, 1873, Mr. McKee was married to Mary Killin, in the City of Ypsilanti, Mich., Rev. John D. Pierce, first superintendent of public instruction in the State of Michigan, performing the ceremony. Mary Killin, daughter of Patrick and Sarah (Wakefield) Killin, was born in Washtenaw County, Mich., November 17, 1839. The father was born in Ireland and came to this country when quite young. The mother was born in Connecticut and was of German lineage. They both worked in woolen mills until after their marriage, when on receiving a small legacy from Ireland, he removed his family to Washtenaw County, Mich., and settled on 80 acres of new land, which he cleared and transformed into a productive farm. They raised a family of six children, of whom Mary is next to the youngest. The mother dying after the children were grown up, the family was partly broken up. Mary attended the State Normal at Ypsilanti to qualify herself for teaching. She afterward taught district schools summer and winter.

Nine years after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. McKee came to Gratiot County and settled on an 80-acre farm which he had purchased about eight years before of Thomas Vance, who purchased it from the government. Here they have ever since resided. They have worked hard, but they have to show for it a fine farm under a good state of cultivation, with good buildings, a pleasant and comfortable home in every respect, and here they expect to spend the remainder of their days. And it is but justice to say that they have the respect and confidence of the entire community in marked degree.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee have two daughters. Sarah Isabel was born August 6, 1874, and is now the wife of Walter A. Spooner, residing in Ithaca. Bernice was born September 16, 1877. She is the wife of Frank M. Shroyer. Both are graduates of Ithaca High School.

## HOWD.

Charles H. Howd, a resident of Ithaca and a pioneer of Gratiot County, was born in Newark, Wayne County, N. Y., April 29, 1839. He is the oldest son of John W. Howd, a well-known pioneer who was born in Cazenovia, N. Y., May 8, 1812, and died in Ithaca, Mich., May 5, 1885. His mother, Elizabeth (Sutherland) Howd was born August 3, 1812, in the State of New York and died in Ithaca, Mich., March 13, 1911, having reached the advanced age of over ninety-eight years and seven months. John W. Howd and family came to Michigan in 1848, locating on a farm of 120 acres in Branch County. In 1852 they removed to Lenawee County, purchasing an 80-acre farm. In the summer of 1854 Mr. Howd bought of the government 225 acres on section 18, North Star Township, this county, paying $1.25 per acre. He built a log house during the fall and moved in February 23, 1855, with his wife, two sons and three daughters.

Charles H. Howd, our principal subject, located 320 acres of land in Wheeler Township, September 26, 1860. In 1861 he embarked in mercantile trade at Ithaca, dealing in groceries and drugs; the first drug store in Ithaca. In 1870 he moved to his Wheeler possessions, where Breckenridge is now located, and in 1872 opened a general store which he operated until 1882. He was appointed the first postmaster of Breckenridge, May 19, 1873, resigning the position in October, 1885. While a resident of Wheeler Township, he held various township offices, including treasurer and highway commissioner in 1862, and clerk in 1874. In 1893 he bought a hardware store in Baldwin, Mich., which he operated until April, 1897. A disastrous fire July 17, 1896, in which his loss was $3,500, crippled him finan-

cially. He traded the balance of his stock for 100 acres of land two miles north of Ithaca, in Arcada Township, in March, 1897, operating it till October, 1909, when he sold to Frank McNitt and removed to Ithaca.

Mr. Howd was married May 19, 1867, to Cynthia R. Putnam, daughter of Seth R. and Jane M. (Barber) Putnam, born in the State of New York, June 6, 1847. She came to Gratiot in 1864 and became a teacher in the rural schools. A son—Darwin P.—was born to this union February 1, 1871. He was married July 3, 1893, to Dora King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. King, of Breckenridge, and now lives on a farm near Breckenridge. The wife and mother died July 25, 1883. She was a devoted member of the Baptist Church.

The second marriage of Mr. Howd occurred September 2, 1884, to Addie A. Comstock, second daughter of Wm. W. and Margaret M. (Carothers) Comstock. She was born at West Leyden, Lewis County, N. Y., and came to Gratiot County with her parents February 1, 1855. She taught in Gratiot County schools from 1868 to 1883. Three sons were born to this union—Rex T., born July 17, 1885; Laurence C., born August 23, 1887; Irl S., born February 17, 1889; all born in Breckenridge. Laurence C. was married January 29, 1910, to Bertha Ellen Savage. They reside in Waitsfield, Vermont, and are engaged in dairying. The other sons are in the creamery business.

Mr. Howd is a Republican and a Mason. He became a member of Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., December 7, 1864, and of Ithaca Chapter No. 70, R. A. M., in 1870. He and Mrs. Howd are members of the Baptist Church.

## CHAMBERS.

It creates pleasurable emotions, for more than one reason, to be able to place this biographical sketch of the Hon. Clifton J. Chambers in the pages of this volume, among those of many more of the good people of the county. Mr. Chambers has been a resident of the county for more than 35 years, and of Ithaca 11 years. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio, September 23, 1864, son of Aaron J. and Harriet A. (McKee) Chambers, the former born in Ohio, December 9, 1838, the latter born in Ohio in the year 1843. Three children were born to this union—Carrie S., Clifton J. and E. Birdella. Carrie S. is married to B. J. Saxton and resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., and E. Birdella also resides in Grand Rapids.



HON. CLIFTON J. CHAMBERS.

Aaron J. Chambers was for many years a prominent citizen in New Haven Township, acceptably filling several important official positions—superintendent of schools, justice of the peace eight years, supervisor seven years. He has retired from active business and now resides with his son, in Ithaca. The wife and mother died January 11, 1907, at the age of 64 years. Our subject, Clifton J. Chambers, removed to Gratiot County with his parents in 1878, first settling in North Shade and later

removing to New Haven. In the years immediately following he was engaged in agricultural work on his father's farm, in the meantime acquiring such an education as fitted him to teach in the public schools. Besides teaching, he also worked at the carpenter's trade, and in addition to that he cleared and improved a new farm which he purchased, on section 27 of New Haven, and which he still owns.

Mr. Chambers was married October 8, 1890, to Emma A. McWilliams, daughter of Gabriel and Susannah (Sampsell) McWilliams, natives of Ohio. She was born in Morrow County, Ohio, June 16, 1862, the eighth in a family of nine children. After arriving at a suitable age she became a teacher in the public schools, continuing in that capacity until her marriage. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Chambers—Carlton D., born in New Haven, April 29, 1892, and Helen M., born in New Haven, October 7, 1895. Carlton D., a graduate of Ithaca High School, is employed in the office of the Illinois Steel Co., at Gary, Indiana, as stenographer and typewriter. Helen M. is a senior in the Ithaca High School.

Mr. Chambers' fellow citizens, fully cognizant of his ability and integrity, have many times favored him with their confidence and votes. In New Haven Township he acceptably filled the positions of treasurer and supervisor, holding the latter office seven terms, and being chosen chairman of the board of supervisors in the year 1902. In November, 1902, his party—Republican—nominated him for county clerk, and he was elected by a majority of 1,397. He was re-elected in 1904, receiving a majority of 2,102. In November, 1906, he was elected to represent Gratiot County in the state house of representatives by a majority of 733, and was re-elected in 1908 and 1910, by majorities of 1,649 and 887, respectively. A continuous service covering three terms affords conclusive proof that his official course was highly satisfactory to his constituency.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers are active members of the M. E. Church, and hold a high place in the esteem of the entire community.

## MARTIN.

Hon. Chester W. Martin, a resident of Gratiot County since 1875, now American Consul at Barbados, B. W. I., was born in the Township of Batavia, Branch County, Mich., August 11, 1853, son of Ira Martin who was born in Champion, Jefferson County, N. Y., January 12, 1820, and who was married in Lorain County, Ohio, September 28, 1845, to Mary R. Loomis. Previous to his marriage he had purchased land for a home in Batavia Township, Branch County, Mich., and on that farm Mr. and Mrs. Martin settled soon after their marriage, residing there until their death, he passing away April 29, 1897, and she on the 12th day of June, 1903.

The subject of this sketch was the second in a family of six children, all living at the present time: Floyd E., at Indian River, Mich.; Chester W., at Barbados, as before stated; Alice L. (Mrs. Chas. H. Richards), Ithaca, Mich.; John T., Fennville, Mich.; Ira A. and Joseph B., at Coldwater, Mich., the latter on the farm purchased by the father in 1843.

Chester W. Martin received a common school education. Arriving at man's estate, he—in 1875—located in the Village of St. Louis, this county, where, in company with his brother, Floyd E., he embarked in the oak stave business, at that time, and for several years thereafter, a business of much importance in this county. While in pursuit of this business he traveled over nearly every section of land in the county, at that time much of it in a wilderness state, and also extended his operations into the Counties of Clinton, Ionia, Montcalm, Isabella, Mecosta and Newaygo. During that

time—a period of about ten years—he made extended trips for his company into the States of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Mr. Martin, always a Republican, was elected President of St. Louis Village in March, 1886, and in the following November was elected Register of Deeds of Gratiot County, serving two terms. In the spring of 1890 he was elected as Ithaca's Village Assessor and Supervisor of Ithaca Township, and was continued in both offices until he resigned in 1895 to take his seat as State Senator for the 19th senatorial district—Gratiot and Clinton Counties —to which he was elected in November, 1894. In the legislature of 1895 he served on several important committees and was chairman of the committee on taxation. He served as chairman of a special joint committee of the House and Senate, appointed to investigate charges against the superintendent of the Michigan School for the Deaf. The charges were not sustained, and the superintendent is still doing good work as the head of the school.

Having become a permanent resident of Ithaca, Mr. Martin entered into partnership relations with J. Lee Potts for the prosecution of the real estate and abstract business. His first consular appointment—1897—took him to Amherstburg, Canada. Here he purchased a quaint old country place, considered by many to be the finest landmark on the Detroit River, and converted it into a charming home which he and his family were fortuntely permitted to enjoy for nine years. When the Amherstburg post was abolished in 1906 Mr. Martin was transferred to Martinique, an island of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, political uprisings and 200,000 population. During his two years' residence there his was the only English-speaking, and the only protestant family on the Island. The duties of the office were not arduous, and the island proved highly interesting. Delightful visits were made to Trois Islets, the birthplace of the French Empress Josephine, to the quaint little hamlet of Carbet, to Pelee, the still active volcano which in 1902 suddenly burst forth and destroyed the beautiful City of St. Pierre together with about 35,000 people, including the American Consul, his wife and two daughters; and many other places of interest.

August 2, 1908, Mr. Martin took charge of the consulate at Barbados, B. W. I. The district includes—besides Barbados—St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominoca, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. There are but seven other consulates in the world from which more vessels clear annually for the United States.

Chester W. Martin was married at St. Louis, this county, May 27, 1880, to Ida J. Barker, who was born in Wayne County, Mich., November 4, 1856. Her parents were Philander M. and Louise (Merrill) Barker. The father died September 9, 1896. The mother resides with her other daughter, Mrs. H. J. Tuger, at St. Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have one daughter—Maude C.—who resides with her parents, and one son—Chester W., Jr.—who married Marie V. Pool, of Baltimore, and now resides at Akron, Ohio, where he is district sales manager for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Chester W., Jr., and wife have a daughter—Marie Celeste—born October 21, 1911, and a son—Chester W., 3rd, born July 6, 1913.

Mr. Martin is a Mason—member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery at Ithaca; a past master of the Blue Lodge at St. Louis; a past E. C. of the Commandery. He and Mrs. Martin are members of the Order of Eastern Star of Ithaca, Mrs. Martin being a past grand matron of the Grand Chapter of the State.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin "have seen Gratiot County emerge from a new and undeveloped condition to be one of the best counties in the best state of the best country in the world, and are pleased to be of its citizens."

## SEAVER.

Joseph H. Seaver, a resident of Ithaca for many years, and one of the best-known citizens of the county, was born February 6, 1846, in Stockholm, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., son of Joseph and Diantha (Ober) Seaver. The father was born at Crown Point, Essex County, N. Y., in 1825, and died in 1869 in Clark County, Wis. The mother was a native of Essex County, N. Y., born in 1826. She died in Stockholm, N. Y., June 30, 1859. She was of Scotch-German parentage. The father was of Scotch and English ancestry.



JOSEPH H. SEAVER.

Joseph H. remained with his parents until the death of his mother, when he went to live with a man named Ralph Osgood, where he remained until 1863. After that he was employed in various capacities — grocer's clerk, farmer, tanner, aiding in surveying a ship canal in Wisconsin, and in surveying and constructing a railroad in Illinois. He spent some time at Berlin and Cooperville, Ottawa County, Mich.; in the former place as salesman for Miner & Miller in 1867.

In February, 1868, Mr. Seaver came to Hamilton Township, Gratiot County, to take charge of the mercantile and lumbering interests of Robert M. Steel, of St. Johns, remaining in that capacity until July, 1870, when he went to St. Johns and served as bookkeeper for the St. Johns Manufacturing Company. Afterward he returned to Hamilton and had charge of Mr. Steel's interests until the fall of 1876, when he was elected register of deeds of Gratiot County, and removed to Ithaca to give the office his personal attention. In the meantime, and for several years, he had served the Township of Hamilton as supervisor. He held the office of register of deeds four years.



MRS. J. H. SEAVER.

In 1879 Mr. Seaver went into mercantile business at Ithaca in partnership with Daniel C. Johnson, afterward buying out his partner and continuing the business alone. He also bought the Ithaca flouring mill and operated it for some time. The mill was afterward purchased by W. F. Thompson and converted into a butter tub factory. In 1881 he was the prime mover in the formation of a company for building and operating a flouring mill of more extensive and pretentious proportions, and the mill was ready for operations in the spring of 1883. That mill was the predecessor of the present Ithaca Roller Mills, standing on the same site. The mill was burned in the fall of 1899, the present mill taking its place the next year.

Mr. Seaver has been prominently connected with the business and official interests of Ithaca during the entire time of his residence in that

village, aiding with his services and means every project calculated to advance the well-being of the community. In 1889 he organized the Ithaca Milling Company, consisting of himself, R. M. Steel and C. E. Webster, this strong company succeeding J. H. Seaver & Co. in the proprietorship and operation of the flouring mill and elevator.

In 1891, '92 and '93, Mr. Seaver spent most of his time in Oregon, engaged with R. M. Steel in looking land, surveying and in furnishing ties for the Union Pacific R. R. Co. Afterward and for several years he was engaged in farming at Ithaca and vicinity. The summer of 1897 he spent in Pasadena, California.

In 1904 Mr. Seaver went into the employ of Armour & Co. in connection with their woodenware establishment at Ithaca. He acted in the capacity of timber agent, mainly along the Ann Arbor Railroad, from Owosso to Frankfort. As the timber became more scarce and the company saw the time for removal approaching, he was sent out to other states to select a suitable site to which to transplant the factory. In this work he made



J. H. SEAVER'S RESIDENCE.

extensive explorations into Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee. In 1908 he visited Wisconsin on the same errand. In August, 1909, he found in Minnesota the site that seemed most suitable for the purposes of the company. All these prospecting trips and researches were made under the direction of Frank B. Gifford, purchasing agent for Armour & Co., but the technical details were largely left to the experienced judgment of Mr. Seaver.

After deciding upon the new location, the gradual closing out of the business at Ithaca, the removal of the equipage and the erection of new buildings have occupied the time and attention of Mr. Seaver, and he has vibrated between the old and the new many times. The new place is called Hill City and is located in the wilderness 25 miles from Swan River the nearest station on the Great Northern R. R. Building a branch railroad to Swan River station has been another of the duties falling to the

lot of Mr. Seaver, his experience in railroad building, in connection with the activities of R. M. Steel, proving a valuable asset in his favor and to the advantage of his company.

Mr. Seaver was married November 2, 1869, to Augusta M. Steel, at Craftsbury, Orleans County, Vt. She died August 28, 1877, at Ithaca. He was again married, June 18, 1879, to Mrs. Louisa Jeffrey, of Ithaca, who died June, 1907. October 10, 1908, Mr. Seaver was married to Mrs. Anna M. Everden, widow of O. M. Everden, and daughter of Geo. Bahlke, of Alma. The Seavers' fine Ithaca residence is here shown.

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## SEAVER.

Mrs. Louisa Seaver—now deceased—was born March 6, 1835, in Newfane, Niagara County, N. Y. She was the daughter of Geo. and Arvilla (Bromley) Smith. June 30, 1864, she was married to David Baney. Two children were born to this union—Glenn E., born June 12, 1865, and May P., born March 25, 1867. Both of these are now deceased.



MRS. LOUISA SEAVER.

David Baney met his death by a falling tree, near St. Louis, Mich., in the fall of 1867, and the widow, Louisa Baney, was married to John Jeffrey, of Ithaca, December 10, 1868. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey—John, born October 21, 1869, and Ira, born December 24, 1871.

John Jeffrey died March 5, 1874, and the widow, Mrs. Louisa Jeffrey was married to Joseph H. Seaver, June 18, 1879. This union was terminated June, 1907, by the death of Mrs. Seaver, at her home in Ithaca, at the age of 72 years.

It is but the statement of a fact, to say that by the death of Mrs. Seaver the county lost one of its best loved women. Probably there was none better known the county over, and to know her was to admire and respect. Her kind and sympathetic nature, together with her open-handed though unostentatious benevolence, won friends on every hand, and her death was sincerely mourned by all. She was an active member of the Baptist Church; prominent and influential in all efforts and projects for the betterment of the community.

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## BROOKE.

Frank W. Brooke, Ithaca's florist whose home and conservatory are in the northern section of the village, was born in Arcada Township, Gratiot County, October 4, 1864, son of Lewis S. and Lucy (Bordner) Brooke, the former born in Bradner, Wood County, Ohio, September 9, 1838, the latter born at Prairie Depot, Wood County, Ohio, January 25, 1841. Lewis S. Brooke was the son of John and Sarah L. (Brenholtz) Brooke, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born July 8, 1798, the latter February 26, 1799. Lucy (Bordner) Brooke, wife of Lewis S. Brooke and mother of our sub-

ject, was the daughter of Michael and Leher (Buechtel) Bordner, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born February 28, 1812, the latter December 16, 1816.

Lewis S. Brooke's brothers and sisters were Ann, Jennie, Charles, Eli, Alfred. Lucy (Bordner) Brooke had six brothers and sisters—Mary, Rachel, Ellen, Sadie, Alfred, Lewis.

Lewis S. Brooke and wife came to Gratiot County in the late '50s, settling in the northern part of section 24, Arcada Township. After a year or two there, they bought and removed to a farm in the northern part of section 25, the place afterward well known as the Daniel W. Altenburg farm. In 1865 he purchased and moved to a farm on section 31 of Emerson Township, the place now owned and occupied by D. D. Smith. In the fall of 1879 he removed to Ludington, Mich., where he engaged in farming, making fruit-growing a specialty. He died there February 4, 1875, at the early age of 37 years; burial in Ithaca cemetery. His devoted wife, Lucy Brooke, died at Bradner, Ohio, September 24, 1894; burial at Ithaca cemetery.

Mr. Brooke was a man of ability and integrity, winning and retaining the confidence of the people among whom he lived. While a resident of Arcada he served two years — 1862 and '63 — as township clerk. In Emerson he was elected clerk in 1867 and '68, and was supervisor in 1869. After his removal to the Village of Ludington he was elected supervisor of his township—Pere Marquette—and was the incumbent of the office at the time of his death. He was an early member of the Masonic Lodge at Ithaca.

Lewis S. Brooke and Lucy (Bordner) Brooke, his wife, were the parents of children as follows: Charles A., born June 26, 1861, in Arcada; Frank W., born in Arcada, October 4, 1864; Bertha A., born in Ludington, Mich., September 1, 1871; Louis S., born in Ludington, February 13, 1873.

Frank W. Brooke, principal subject of this sketch, was married in Newark, September 15, 1888, to Linnie, daughter of Jacob and Maud (Beck) Eyer, the former born in Germany in 1828, the latter born in Ohio in 1835. Mrs. Linnie (Eyer) Brooke was born February 22, 1866, in Newark, one of a family of eleven children, as follows: Christian, John, Lydia, Reuben, Fred, Linnie, Laura, Lizzie, Sarah, Emma, Elmer.

Frank W. and Linnie (Eyer) Brooke are parents of children with names and birth-dates as follows, all born in Ithaca: Forest L., January 21, 1894; Bernice, January 20, 1896; Howard, January 14, 1898; Harrison H., December 22, 1900; Frances, September 26, 1903, died in infancy. The four children are pupils in the Ithaca schools.

Mr. Brooke's early years were mainly occupied in securing an education in the schools of Ludington, St. Louis and Ithaca. He then learned the printer's trade and spent several years on various newspapers. July 1, 1904, he purchased the greenhouse business of David Kleinhans, and since that time has devoted his energies to that industry and to the raising of small fruits. His business as a florist has steadily increased in volume, in importance and in popularity, and is now second to none in this section of the state. Each year he has added to his facilities, and he contemplates still further and more important additions in the near future.

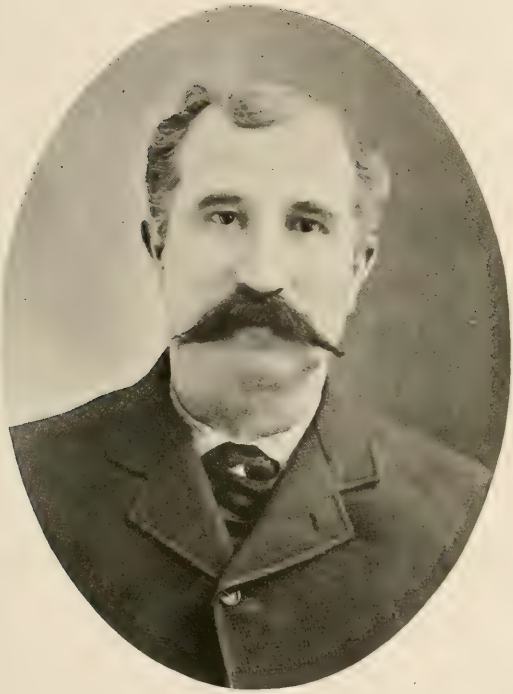
He is a Republican in politics, and served as village treasurer in 1896 and '97, giving entire satisfaction to his constituents. He belongs to the I. O. O. F. and Gleaner orders, and he and Mrs. Brooke are members of the Ithaca Presbyterian Church.

## BARSTOW.

This sketch deals with the history of the late Adelbert E. Barstow, the well-known insurance and loan agent of Ithaca; a man noted and valued for business integrity of a high order, and for many other traits of character which tend to elevate a man to a high place in the esteem, not only of his business associates, but of all with whom he is thrown in contact in all the various walks and activities of life. If this sounds like high praise it seems highly proper and appropriate to remark that it is intended so to be. The reality, however, falls not a whit below the portrayal. This introduction is based not only upon general report and information, but more particularly upon the writer's personal observation and experience.

Adelbert E. Barstow was born October 2, 1846, in Madison County, New York, son of William M. and Eunice C. (McBride) Barstow. The father was born in Madison County, New York, November 1, 1826, son of Elias and Sally (Morgan) Barstow, natives of New York State and Ohio, respectively, and both of English descent. He was married October 15, 1845, to Miss Eunice McBride, daughter of John and Polly (Wilbur) McBride, who was born in Madison County, N. Y., July 30, 1828. William M. Barstow came to Michigan with his family in 1853, settling in Hillsdale County where he remained three years and then came to Gratiot County settling on section 22, North Star Township. Here he experienced most of the hardships and pleasures of life in a new county, but he persevered, and ultimately succeeded in developing a fine farm from the primeval forest. In the course of time he became prominent in township and county affairs, being elected at various times to the offices of supervisor, township clerk, treasurer, superintendent of schools and school inspector, and was elected county treasurer in 1878. In 1880 he was re-elected county treasurer. Later he was deputy county treasurer under several administrations, and also served as supervisor of Ithaca Township after his removal to Ithaca. During the Cival War Mr. Barstow served in Company D, 26th Mich. Vol. Infantry, being wounded in the leg at Spotttylvania Court House. William M. and his wife Eunice were the parents of eight children as follows: Adelbert E.; Mary E.; Ellen E.; Charlie E.; Eunice M.; William Henry; Hiram Chauncey; Nellie F. The mother, Mrs. Eunice C. Barstow, died in Ithaca, November 23, 1887. Afterward Mr. Barstow was married to Mrs. Sophia Clark, of Ithaca. One son, Clarence M., was born to this union. Mr. Barstow died January 3, 1907. A man of high character and good ability who justly enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

Adelbert E. Barstow came to Gratiot County with his parents at the age of ten years. He enjoyed the advantages and other conditions usually coming to the second-crop pioneers. One of his advantages was the privilege of attending select school at Ithaca under the tutelage of the late Giles T. Brown, of Ithaca, and O. G. Webster, now of Maple Rapids. In the years immediately following the seven terms under the instruction of those gentlemen, Mr. Barstow taught thirteen terms of school in different parts of southern Gratiot, six of the terms in his home district. Teaching in the winter and working at carpenter work summers occupied his time and attention till 1880 when he removed to Ithaca and launched out into the insurance and loan business; a business to which he devoted himself constantly up to the time of his death, excepting when on his periodical hunting trips. For he was an inveterate hunter, and probably has to his credit more big game than any other man in Central Michigan. He visited the Rocky Mountains nine times on hunting trips lasting from three to six weeks, each trip. He hunted in Wisconsin one season, and two seasons in New Brunswick. In the latter country he succeeded in landing an immense moose weighing 1,300



ADELBERT E. BARSTOW.

pounds, and carrying antlers with a fifty-three inch spread. On his last trip to New Brunswick he was accompanied by his wife and by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Goodwin of North Star.

In addition to the moose, Mr. Barstow captured a beautiful white deer, one of the rarest specimens of the animal kingdom in America. He also killed two fine caribou, the limit allowed by law. Many deer, antelope, Rocky Mountain sheep, coyotes, and heaven only knows what else have fallen victims to his unerring, or hardly-ever-erring, aim. His office and his "den" at home are crowded with trophies of the hunt. In addition to these is a large collection of relics and curiosities, the total lay-out constituting one of the finest and most complete private collections in Michigan.

Adelbert E. Barstow was married October 2, 1871, to Miss Cassie A. Barton. She was born in Newton Falls, Ohio, October 16, 1845, daughter of William and Catharine (Stickles) Barton. The father was for a time a soldier in the British army and took part in the famous battle of Waterloo. He died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Barstow in Ithaca, June 21, 1888, at the extreme age of 90 years. The mother, who also resided with Mr. and Mrs. Barstow, survived till December 4, 1907, when she passed away at the marvelous age of 104 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Barstow have three living children. Lottie, the eldest-born, died in infancy. Those living are Hattie E., born August 1, 1874; William E., born September 15, 1877; Nellie L., born August 5, 1880. Hattie E., was married October 2, 1902, to Dr. David G. Colwell, a dentist doing business in Ithaca. Their children are John Kenneth, born February 13, 1904, and Bruce Edward, born January 17, 1906. Dr. Colwell died May 26, 1909. William E. Barstow was married June 19, 1901, to Miss Belle Kurtz, of St. Louis, Mich. He is a practicing physician in the last named city. They have two children—Catherine Louise, born April 21, 1904, and Donald Kurtz, born September 6, 1911. Nellie L. was married January 1, 1900, to Theron A. Goodwin, one of Ithaca's leading druggists. Their children are Theodore Adelbert, born June 3, 1901; Harold Barton, May 14, 1903; Robert, May 7, 1905; Paul Barstow, September 4, 1908.

Entering into the insurance and loan business in 1880 Mr. Barstow first opened an office in the Jeffrey block. There he did business for nearly 24 years. Then, in 1905, he removed to the north side of Center Street, into his own building, in rooms over the postoffice. He had purchased the building in 1891. Here he conducted his extensive business operations, ably and efficiently assisted by his brother, Henry, until his health gave away in the spring of 1913. He died June 14, 1913, at the age of 66 years, sincerely mourned by the entire community.

Mr. Barstow belonged to the Masonic and Odd Fellow orders. Mrs. Barstow is a member of the O. E. S. and of the Presbyterian Church.

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## DONALDSON.

Forty-seven years of life in one town ought to entitle a man to be ranked as an old settler; and that's James Donaldson. There are but few who have lived in Ithaca longer than that, continuously. James Donaldson was born July 13, 1839, near Delta, Ohio. His father, Moses Donaldson, was born near Canandaigua, N. Y., February 19, 1816. He came from Scotch ancestry. His mother, whose name was Sally Ann Gibbs, was born near Milan, Ohio, March 26, 1816. Her father, William Gibbs, and her mother, Margaret (Lewis) Gibbs, were both born in the State of New York.

Moses Donaldson and Sally Ann Gibbs were married July 17, 1836, near Delta, Ohio. The union resulted in the birth of two children—William Galusha, born December 4, 1837, and James, born July 13, 1839. Both served their country as soldiers in the Civil War. William G. was a member of the 4th Mich. Infantry, serving three years, four months and 19 days. He died November 20, 1903. James first entered the three months' service, at the first call for troops, and afterward was a member of the 7th Mich. Infantry, serving, in all, four years, two months and 11 days.

The mother died when James was six months old, and the father took as his second wife Miss Antha R. Hutchins, of Lenawee County, Mich. Their children are five in number—Leaveno, Sarah Jane, Laura Ann, Loren and Orville. Leaveno was born May 30, 1846; Sarah Jane, September 14, 1848; Laura Ann, February 6, 1850; Loren, March 17, 1856; Orville, July 27, 1859. All are now living in Los Angeles, California. The father, Moses Donaldson, died in York, Nebraska, February 18, 1894. The mother, Antha R., died September 20, 1902, in Los Angeles.

James Donaldson was married January 6, 1864, in Canandaigua, Lenawee County, Mich., to Mrs. Martha Jane (Hunt) Ferguson. She was born in the State of New York, July 10, 1832, daughter of Abner and Lydia (Briggs) Hunt. Abner Hunt was born in Pennsylvania. He was a soldier in the War of 1812. In the year 1855 he removed to Gratiot County with his family, locating in Emerson Township. He died in Ithaca, June 4, 1870. Lydia, his wife, was a native of New York State. She died at her home in Ithaca September 21, 1869. They were the parents of 14 children, four of whom died in infancy. The names of the other 10 were as follows: Mary Ann, Hannah, Nancy, Erastus, Abner, Martha Jane, Clark, Thomas, Lebbius and Henrietta. All were born in the State of New York excepting Henrietta, who was born in Lenawee County, Mich. All are now dead. Mrs. Martha Jane, wife of James Donaldson died at her home in Ithaca, quite suddenly, Friday, February 14, 1913, aged 80 years seven months and one day, being the last survivor of the family of 14 children. She was a lady held in the highest esteem by the entire community, and her sudden and unexpected death was a great shock to all. She was an active member of the Baptist Church and of the Ladies' Aid Society; a charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Mr. Donaldson has no children. An adopted daughter, Clarissa G. (Ferguson) Donaldson, died in Ithaca, July 30, 1913. She was the daughter of Mrs. Donaldson by her former marriage, and was born January 14, 1854. She was married January 14, 1881, to James W. Burgess, and one daughter —Jennie D.—was born to them May 21, 1883, was married July 4, 1907, to Ray Austin, and has two children—June B., born June 3, 1909, and Marian Hattie, born June 23, 1911. Their oldest child died in infancy. They reside in Cadillac, Mich. The death of Mrs. Clarissa Burgess, coming so soon after the death of her mother, was a shock to the family and greatly regretted by their many friends. Mr. Burgess, who is a son of Hiram Burgess, one of Pine River's pioneers, resides on his farm in Arcada.

In the year 1865 Mr. Donaldson settled near Crystal Lake, Montcalm County, where he remained a year, coming from there—in 1866—to Ithaca where he has since resided. For more than 46 years he has been an interested witness to the varied phases of the life and growth of the village, and he and Mrs. Donaldson have contributed their full share toward making it the popular and enterprising town that it is. Their word and example have been for the cause of right and justice; for the best interests of the community, morally and materially. In politics Mr. Donaldson is mainly

a Republican, but he long ago formed the habit of voting for the man who comes nearest to his ideal, regardless of the name of the ticket he is on; and the habit still sticks to him. He has served the people well in several capacities. He has served as village marshal, and as street commissioner. He was a constable 14 years, and was a deputy-sheriff during the second term of Sheriff E. C. Cook—1871 and '72. He is a charter member of Moses Wisner Post No. 101, G. A. R.; has been commander, and was adjutant about 16 years. For several years he was aid-de-camp on the staff of the department commander, and at the unveiling of the Gen. John A. Logan monument at Chicago, he was one of Commander-in-Chief Lawler's mounted aids.

Mr. Donaldson's business was that of a painter and decorator up to about 18 years ago. At that time he commenced business as a bill poster and distributor, and is still thus engaged. He is a member of the Michigan Bill Posters' and Distributors' Association.

## TUTTLE.

Orin G. Tuttle, for many years a resident of Ithaca and a well-known Gratiot County attorney, was born in Fulton Township, this county, July 19, 1862, son of Albert and Mary C. (De Wolf) Tuttle. Albert Tuttle was born in the State of New York in the year 1834. Mrs. Mary C. Tuttle, his wife, was born in the same state in 1835. They came to Gratiot County in 1860, settling first on section 2, Fulton Township where, and in other localities, they resided until 1870, when they removed to section 7 of the same township, where they resided until the death of the husband and father, Albert Tuttle, in 1898. Mr. Tuttle was one of the prominent pioneers of the township and was selected for various positions of trust and responsibility by his townsmen. He was a leading member of the I. O. O. F.



ORIN G. TUTTLE AND WIFE.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tuttle were the parents of children as follows: Bedie, Orin G., Charles K. and Wilbur S. Bedie was married to Joseph Kellogg and resides in Fulton Township. Mr. Kellogg died in 1912. Charles K. married Anna Hoxie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Hoxie, late of Fulton. They are farmers of Fulton. Wilbur S. Tuttle is single and is also a resident of Fulton. Mrs. Mary C. Tuttle, the mother, resides with her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Kellogg.

Orin G. Tuttle was married August 2, 1888, to Carrie M. Blair, daughter of Thomas J. and Susan (Shoemaker) Blair, of Elm Hall. She was born

in Eaton County, Mich., September 28, 1870. When but three years old she had the misfortune to lose her mother by death. A sister, Effie E., is now the widow of the late Walter Hoxie, and resides at Elm Hall. The father, Thos. J. Blair, was married (second) to Jennie L. Douglas. Their children are Dana, wife of Walter Donegan, of the Soo; Otto M., a farmer of Ferris Township, Montcalm County; William, residing at home. Thomas J. Blair was a soldier in the Civil War. He held many positions of trust and responsibility in his township (Sumner), and always with satisfaction to his townsmen. He was for many years in mercantile trade at Elm Hall. His death occurred at Mayo Bros.' Hospital, Rochester, Minn., October 25, 1913.

After his marriage, Orin G. Tuttle lived two years at Elm Hall. He then removed to Ithaca, his home to the present time. He was for many years at the head of the County School System, starting with the year 1886, when he was elected a member of the County Board of School Examiners. Then in 1889 he was elected secretary of the board under the new law which made that officer the chief executive and head of the school system. Under a change in the law the board of supervisors re-elected him for two years. Another change in the school laws gave the election into the hands of the people direct, and Mr. Tuttle was elected three terms as County School Commissioner.

In the meantime Mr. Tuttle studied law, completing his legal education with a course at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1901, since which time he has been in the active practice of his profession at Ithaca. He has been connected with several cases of note in the county. With others he took an active interest—being a member of the board of supervisors at the time—in the important litigation which was carried twice to the Supreme Court, which resulted finally, through a special act of the legislature, in compelling the county treasurer to place the county funds in the banks offering the best rates of interest, the proceeds to be turned into the county treasury; a system by which the county is the gainer by about $2,000 annually. He has also been identified, affirmatively, with the various endeavors to legally suppress or curtail the liquor traffic in the county; always sure to be found working for measures calculated to enhance and encourage morality and right-living.

Mr. Tuttle was supervisor of Ithaca Township in 1905 and '06. He is a devoted member of the M. E. Church, and has served as Sunday School superintendent twelve years; belongs to the Masonic order. Mrs. Tuttle also is a member of the M. E. Church, and both are justly classed with the best citizens of their town and county.

## CARPENTER.

Dr. James P. Carpenter has been for many years one of the popular and skillful physicians of Gratiot's county seat—Ithaca. He was born in Gaines, Orleans County, N. Y., May 23, 1845. His father, Seymour Carpenter, was a native of New Hampshire, born at Dartmouth, in that state, March 17, 1800. His mother, Jane (Brown) Carpenter, was also a New Englander, born in Hanover, Vermont, March 22, 1811. They were married in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in 1830, and were the parents of five children besides our subject, who was the fourth, namely—Rev. Myron B. Carpenter, Capt. Henry B. Carpenter, Dudley G. Carpenter, Mrs. Olivia J. Woodman, Mrs. Deal M. McLaren. The father died in Windsor Township, Eaton County, Mich., March 8, 1888, on the farm on which he settled in 1855. The mother died at the same place, April 11, 1891.

Dr. Carpenter was married at Holly, Mich., November 12, 1884, to Miss Sara M. Wellings, who was born in Detroit, 1848, daughter of James and

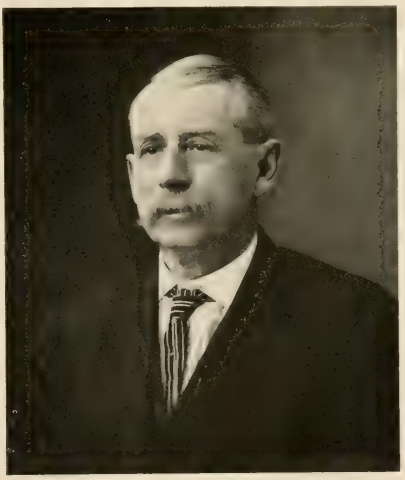
Margaret (Hacket) Wellings, the former a native of England, the latter born in Nova Scotia. They were married in the City of New York in 1833, and had children born to them as follows: James H. Wellings, Samuel H. Wellings, Mrs. Mary E. (Wellings) Sturgis and Sara M. (Wellings) Carpenter.

Dr. Carpenter and wife have one daughter—Alice O. Carpenter—born in Ithaca, August 2, 1888. She graduated from the Ithaca High School, class of 1906; also from the University of Michigan, class of 1910, receiving her degree of B. Ph. She is now engaged in teaching in the schools of her home town—Ithaca.

Dr. Carpenter received a good common school education, studied medicine in Lansing, Mich., and finished with a thorough course at the Detroit College of Medicine, graduating with the class of 1884. He came to Ithaca, March 23, 1882, and that town has been his home and the center of his professional activities from that time to the present. He has the satisfaction of having built up a thriving practice, and of enjoying the confidence and respect of his fellow-citizens. He is a Democrat in politics and an active member in the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Masons; in the latter order is a member of Ithaca Commandery No. 40, K. T., and of the subordinate lodges of the order.

## STONE.

Judge George P. Stone, since November, 1885 a resident of Ithaca, and one of the most prominent figures in Gratiot County history, was born in Wheatland, Monroe County, N. Y., August 18, 1848, son of Levi and Phila (Preston) Stone, the former a native of Massachusetts, son of Elias Stone, the latter a daughter of Capt. Salmon Preston, of New York State.



JUDGE GEORGE P. STONE.

Levi Stone moved with his family to the Township of Bowne, Kent County, Mich., in 1855, when that section of the state was largely in a state of nature, and therefore it may be regarded as an undoubted fact that our subject enjoyed many of the pleasures and endured some of the disadvantages of pioneer life. He managed to acquire a very good common school education, supplemented by the advantages of a year's course of study at the Michigan State Normal at Ypsilanti, and being endowed with an acquisitive and retentive mind he became fitted for teaching in the common schools; a vocation which he followed "off and on" for a period of five years. In the meantime, having determined to adopt the legal profession, he studied law as opportunity offered while teaching school, and in 1873 was admitted to the

bar in Judge Lovell's court at Stanton, Mich. He immediately opened an office at Carson City, Mich., for the practice of his profession, and there remained until his removal to Ithaca in 1885, as stated.

Judge Stone was united in marriage January 27, 1874, to Miss Isabella Colton, of Carson City, daughter of Dr. T. B. and Harriet Colton. She was born in Bloomer, Montcalm County, Mich., November 10, 1854. Four children were born to this union as follows: Oliver Preston, July 28, 1875; Ashley Colton, September 1, 1878; Fred Bradley, February 27, 1882; Stanley Sabin, June 21, 1889. Oliver P. Stone is married to Gertrude Stanton, daughter of George and Isabel Stanton, of New York State. They have one son, George Oliver, born April 21, 1902. They reside at Renton, Washington. Ashley C. Stone was married March 5, 1900, to Marjorie M., daughter of Frank W. and Estella Goodwin, of Ithaca. They have three children—Detta, born May 18, 1901; Frank G., born September 5, 1905; Ada, born May 10, 1910. They reside at Ithaca. F. Bradley Stone was married October, 1908, to Florence, daughter of Wesley and Nettie (Fields) Colburn, of St. Louis, Mich. Their residence is Renton, Wash. Stanley S. Stone was married to Bernice, daughter of Binnie M. and Ella J. (Allen) Coffin, of Emerson Township, this county, November 22, 1911. They reside in Ithaca. Their daughter, Theta Elizabeth, was born in Ithaca, May 7, 1913.

Judge Stone has had, and still has, an extensive, varied and lucrative practice, having been connected with all of the important local cases since his removal to this county, as well as with many in various other parts of the state. He is justly regarded as one of the best legal authorities in the state.

In the year 1899 Mr. Stone became the Democratic candidate for judge of the 29th judicial circuit—Gratiot and Clinton Counties—and was elected. Owing to the fact that the Republicans could not agree on a condidate his election was practically without opposition. His six years' incumbency of the office proved so satisfactory that his opponent in the election of 1905 was successful only by the small plurality of 548 votes, while the Republican state ticket carried by a plurality of more than 2,400 in the same two counties. Judge Stone was again the Democratic candidate in the spring of 1911, but though he made an extraordinarily good race, running ahead of his ticket many hundred votes, he was defeated by his Republican opponent—Judge Kelly S. Searl.

In April, 1907, Judge Stone was one of the candidates of the Democratic party for justice of the supreme court of the state, but fell with the rest of the ticket before the usual overwhelming majority of the Republican party.

Aside from Judge Stone's very favorable standing and record as a man of affairs and as an official, he is a man who, locally, can count upon nearly all of his acquaintances as friends; and his estimable wife, in her individual sphere, has in equal degree the respect and good-will of the entire community.

## WHITMAN.

George M. Whitman, nearly all his life a resident of Ithaca, and one of its most popular citizens, was born in Springport, Mich., September 4, 1863. He is a son of Josiah P. and Kate Ann (Kasheneider) Whitman, early settlers and prominent residents of Ithaca, the former born in Springport,

April 18, 1841, the latter born in Akron, Ohio, November 17, 1845. J. P. Whitman's father was Clark Rogers Whitman, born in Stanbridge, Canada, January 13, 1809, son of Josiah Whitman who was born about 1777, was married to Charlotte Austin, and died in Springport, December 25, 1872, aged 95 years. Clark R. Whitman, whose wife was Katurah Pratt, born in Alleghany, N. Y., April 24, 1816, died in Ithaca, January, 1884. His wife, Katurah, died in Springport, November 29, 1850. They were parents of the following named children: William Rogers, George Edward, Josiah Pratt, Stephen Almon, Permelia Emily, Clark Ross, Alba Almon, Alice Ann, Amelia Jane, Franklin E. and Allen C.

Kate Ann (Kasheneider) Whitman, mother of George M., is daughter of Michael and Catharine Kasheneider. She has a brother, Jacob Kasheneider, and a sister, Margaret (Kasheneider) Strauss, a half-brother, James Alonzo Segar and two half-sisters, Amanda and Rebecca. Josiah P. Whitman and Kate A. Kasheneider were married in Springport, October 26, 1862. Their children are—George M., the principal subject of this sketch; Wilford C., born March 5, 1873, died September 16, 1877; Floyd C., born April 5, 1875, in Ithaca.

George M. Whitman was married at Alma, Mich., May 6, 1888, to Abigail J. Ackles, daughter of Charles and Selinda Ackles. She was born in the State of New York, August 4, 1863. A daughter—Kate F.—was born to this union, October 31, 1889.

Mr. Whitman came to Ithaca with his father's family, October, 1865. On reaching the age of 19 years he engaged in the livery business, following that business 10 years. He then engaged in farming which he followed three years. In 1896 he engaged with the Standard Oil Company as tank-wagon driver, and after two and a half years was made agent for the distribution of the company's products, with headquarters at Ithaca; a position he still holds.

Mr. Whitman takes an active interest in local affairs and has served in various official capacities, and always to the satisfaction of his townsmen. He served two years as township treasurer—1905 and '06; two years as village councilman—1907 and '08, and is now serving his fifth consecutive term as village assessor and township supervisor. Mrs. Whitman is a consistent and active member of the Presbyterian Church.

## FIDLER.

Though at the present time Lyman W. Fidler is a resident of Ithaca, he is well known to the people of Gratiot County as one of Emerson Township's best and most successful farmers, having been engaged in agricultural pursuits in that township for nearly thirty years, the principal scene of his activities being his farm of ninety acres on section 24. He came to that farm in 1884, and to get there had to chop a road for some distance. Time, with hard work and perseverance intelligently applied, have worked wonders, and the woods have been succeeded by fertile fields, with orchards and suitable buildings and all the varied paraphernalia for carrying on farming according to modern methods. And as to the roads—why, the graveled roads of Emerson are the boast of the county.

Lyman W. Fidler was born in Fulton County, Ohio, October 27, 1857, son of James L. and Mary S. (Hissong) Fidler, born in Knox and Richland Counties, Ohio, respectively. They had a large family of children: John is a contractor and builder, of Columbus, Ohio; Daniel L. and George C. are also contractors and builders, living and doing business in Florida;

Mary, married to Benj. Borton, of Lafayette Township; Melva, deceased; Ella, wife of Samuel Roth, residing on the old homestead in Fulton County, Ohio; James, a farmer and stone mason, of Lafayette. Minnie, Ada and Harry are deceased.

Mr. Fidler spent his youth and young manhood in Fulton County, Ohio. He was married in that county October 16, 1881, to Miss Amanda Bish, born in Hancock County, Ohio, October 16, 1858, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Heistand) Bish, the former born in Hocking Valley, Virginia, March 4, 1821, the latter born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 3, 1821. Their children were—Mrs. Sophia (Bish) Edwards, deceased; Joseph, deceased; Mrs. Katie (Bish) Engle; Mrs. Sarah (Bish) Boyer; Peter; Mrs. Amanda (Bish) Fidler; Mrs. Mary Ann (Bish) Martin; Jacob Jr.; John Wesley and Ella Jane, twins, deceased. Jacob Bish, the father, died July 10, 1890; Mrs. Barbara Bish passed away June 14, 1890.

Children born to Lyman W. Fidler and wife: Mahlon; Flossie and Floie, twins, born July 21, 1887; Gaylon; Glenn; Mabel.

Mahlon Fidler married Alma Stahl, daughter of George and Elizabeth Stahl, of Emerson. Children born to them are—Arthur, Warren, Dorris Edna. Mahlon Stahl has a farm of 120 acres in Emerson. Their present residence, however, is Ithaca, on North Street, east.

Flossie Fidler married William P. Eichorn, of Emerson, son of John F. and Anna B. Eichorn, born April 1, 1885. They were married July 23, 1905. Two children have been born to this union—Gaylon W., born May 12, 1909, died in 1910; Sylvia M., born May 23, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Eichorn are farmers of Emerson.

Floie Fidler married Charles Harrier, son of William and Nancy Harrier, of Emerson. Their children are—Mildred Zoe; Clarence; Blanch; Harland Kenneth, died in infancy; Bertha Elizabeth. Mr. and Mrs. Harrier are farmers of Arcada Township.

Gaylon Fidler married Daisy Bish, daughter of Jacob and Mary Bish, of Lafayette Township. Children born to them are—George Clare, Orlin Walter and Beatrice. They are Emerson farmers. Glenn and Mabel are at home, with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fidler, in the nearly thirty years of their residence here, have seen great changes in the condition of the county in various respects. While the county, when they came in 1884, was far advanced from the virgin condition in which the pioneers of the '50s found it, it was in a wild and primitive state compared with what we see at the present time. And these good people of Emerson have done their full share and their full duty in bringing about the present desirable and satisfactory conditions. Little by little, step by step, the good work has been going on all these years. The aggregate results are before our eyes; and they are satisfying.

December 17, 1912, Mr. Fidler left the farm and its cares (in a measure) and removed with his family to Ithaca, purchasing a fine residence on North Street, corner of Ithaca Street. While a resident of Emerson he was properly interested in public local affairs. He was a school officer for twelve years, and was highway commissioner of his township four terms; undoubted proof of his efficiency in that important office, as he was a Democrat in a Republican township. He is a member of Ithaca Lodge No. 178, F. & A. M., and of Emerson Lodge No. 375, I. O. O. F. Mrs. Fidler is a member of the Rebeccas.

## KILLEEN.

Rev. George Drake Killeen was born at Waterloo, Seneca County, N. Y., March 8, 1851. His father, John Killeen, came from Ireland when a mere boy. He was married to Miss Hannah Drake at Lyons, N. Y., about the year 1839. Being a stone-cutter by trade, he purchased a small stone quarry near Waterloo, on the Seneca River. Here the parents toiled for twenty years, and here their six children were born; two girls and four boys. After long litigation the home was lost through a defective title. Mr. Killeen soon died, leaving the family penniless, to struggle through the dark period of the Civil War as best they could.



REV. AND MRS. GEO. D. KILLEEN.

It has been said that, "The gem is polished only by friction, and character perfected only by adversity." Mrs. Killeen's heroic struggle to keep her children together was an inspiration to them to do their best. George was but nine years old when his father died, and he says he did the very best he could to help his mother. The family moved first to Lyons and then to Newark, where Mrs. Killeen was married to Thomas Dingman, and in the spring of 1865 the family, excepting the two older boys, came to Michigan and settled in Lafayette Township, Gratiot County, on the center line road east of Edgewood. John, the oldest boy, was in the Army. George, now fourteen, was working on a farm and saving his wages to come west. He could hardly wait to see the new home. He studied the map of Michigan to locate Gratiot County. At St. Johns he stayed at the Gibbs House, and on learning that the stage fare to Ithaca was $2.50, he resolved to walk. He couldn't afford to give a week's wages for a day's ride; for he had only been receiving $10 a month. His worldly goods were packed in a soldier's knapsack, and the load was very heavy. But he could carry it, and he did; however, he has never forgotten that journey. Reaching Ithaca he stayed that night at the Howd House, and the next day went by way of the Dr. Sower farm, to his new home. He received a hearty welcome. But what a home! A log hut covered with shakes; a farm covered with trees and a mortgage. His disappointment was beyond expression. He felt that he could not stay. But he did stay for eighteen months; and so, he claims to be a pioneer of "Starving Gratiot."

The Israelites wanted to go back to Egypt; but George would have gone anywhere to get out of the wilderness. He says that "the men and women who have made 'this wilderness and solitary place to bud and blossom as the rose,' were braver than they who face a hostile army. The Israelites

had Manna, and they feasted to the fill; we cracked our corn for johnny-cake, in Er Mead's old hand-mill. They found a branch of healing, for Marrah's bitter spring; we never found a place of rest, from the mosquito's awful sting."

During the eighteen months spent in Gratiot, Mr. Killeen attended school about four months—a short time at the Mead school, and then at the Barstow school in North Star Township. The rest of the time he wielded an ax as best he could. The next fifteen years were spent in Jackson County, Mich. At the age of twenty-two Mr. Killeen joined the M. E. Church, and became active in all its work. At twenty-four he was married to Miss Cornelia Whaley, at Napoleon, Mich. They soon moved to Jackson where their three oldest children were born—Roy and Charles, now of Flint, and Louise, now Mrs. Jas. O. Peet, of Ithaca. Paul, now of Buffalo, N. Y., was born at Coleman, and Miss Helen at Ithaca.

Mr. Killeen began his ministry when a little past thirty, and for thirty-three years he and Mrs. Killeen have been in almost constant service. They have served twelve charges and have lived in ten different counties. Mr. Killeen was appointed to the Ithaca charge in 1893 and remained five years, (the time limit then). He was then sent to St. Louis where he also remained five years, but only two years as pastor. During his ten years in Gratiot County he was identified with all the religious movements of the time. He planned and led in the erection of the church buildings at Emerson and North Star; raised money for Alma, Rathbone, Sower and Elm Hall churches. His ambition and the constant demand for his services were far too much for his strength, but he never faltered. Two hundred and fifty weddings and hundreds of funerals were attended.

As a speaker Mr. Killeen is ready, thoughtful, earnest. At times, wit, satire, poetry and apt scriptural quotations give sparkle to his utterances. He says that much of his success has been largely due to his most happy domestic relations. His has been a real home, and every worthy effort has been nobly seconded by his faithful wife. Their idea is that life is largely what we make it. That a contented mind is a continual feast. That the human mind has all the essential elements for happiness or misery. Heaven is first a condition and then a place. "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you."

Mr. Killeen has never hid his political sentiments "under a bushel." Recognizing his merits and his availability in the district, the Democrats of the eleventh district made him their candidate for congress in the fall of 1900. While there was but slight chance for his success in this overwhelmingly Republican district, Mr. Killeen made a great run, leading Mr. Bryan in every county of the district but one, and only three behind in that one; and in his home county of Gratiot he led his ticket by more than 200 votes.

Knowing that the soil of "Old Gratiot" is as fertile as the Valley of the Nile, Mr. and Mrs. Killeen have great faith in its future. Their many pleasant associations with the Gratiot people make one of the most delightful resting places in their life's journey.

## BARBER.

For a period of nearly 40 years the name of Alvedo S. Barber has been a familiar and popular one in Ithaca's history. In a business and social way, and as an all-around member of the community, the assertion that he stands among the leaders in the list, will not be questioned. He was born in Parishville, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., July 21, 1846, son of Cyrus R. and Elizabeth (Parker) Barber, the former born in Benson, Vermont,

January 19, 1820, died in Ithaca, April 7, 1889; the latter born in Vergennes, Vermont, July 24, 1819, died in Ithaca, November 9, 1886.

Children born to Cyrus R. and Elizabeth Barber were as follows: Albert and Lorenzo, died in early childhood; Alvedo S.; Anna, born April 1, 1849; Flora, born October 18, 1851.

Anna married Rev. B. F. Jefferson, of Parishville, N. Y. They had one son—Albert W., now of Portland, Maine, a minister in the Free Baptist Church. Mrs. Anna Jefferson died June 17, 1887. Flora Barber was an esteemed resident of Ithaca many years. She never married. Her death occurred at Asheville, N. C., December 14, 1908.

In addition to a good common school education, Mr. Barber took a course at the St. Lawrence Academy, Potsdam, N. Y. In 1872 he went to Kansas, where he taught in the schools two years and then—in 1874—came to Ithaca, where he has resided to the present time. He first entered the employ of Nelson & Smith, general merchants, as salesman. Smith, (Gilbert C.) sold his interest in the business to his partner—Wilbur Nelson—and in August, 1875, Mr. Barber bought a half interest in the business. The firm of Nelson & Barber was for many years one of the most important business concerns in Gratiot County, and continued for more than a quarter of a century, devoted not only to general merchandising, but also operating extensively in grain, wool and other farm products, coal, cement, brick, tile, etc. In 1898 the firm was dissolved, Mr. Barber taking the mercantile section of the business, Mr. Nelson the other branch. In 1902 Mr. Barber sold his entire business to Henry McCormack, and afterward went into partnership with W. D. Iseman, general merchant. After two years this firm was dissolved, Mr. Barber taking the clothing branch of the business, and in this business he is still engaged. In 1912 he took Charles H. Fleming as a partner, the firm name being A. S. Barber & Co.

Alvedo S. Barber was married in Potsdam, N. Y., July 18, 1875, to Francene Swift, daughter of Hiram and Aurilla (Foster) Swift. She was born April 15, 1852, in Potsdam, N. Y. She acquired her education in the common schools, supplemented with a full course at Potsdam Normal, after which she engaged in teaching until her marriage. Her father, Hiram Swift, died January 4, 1860. Her mother died January, 1912. There were two children besides Mrs. Barber. They were Theodore H. Swift and Charlotte (Swift) Powers. Theodore H. Swift was born June 14, 1850. He was county judge for many years and was presiding judge of the state court of claims at the time of his death, June 14, 1913. Charlotte (Swift) Powers died January, 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Barber have had three children born to them—Gaylord Cyrus, born March 7, 1877, died July, 1877; Roscoe Swift, born May 15, 1878, died October 23, 1902; Anna, born March 5, 1880, was married July 15, 1903, to Frank R. Monfort, of Ithaca, son of Dr. I. N. Monfort. They live in Spokane, Wash., where Mr. Monfort is a leading attorney.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber have been active members of the Ithaca Presbyterian Church for more than 30 years. Mr. Barber has served many years as a member of the school board, a large share of the time as director. He was village treasurer in 1884 and '85, and was for several years a member of the village council; in all of which positions the confidence reposed in him by his townsmen was fully justified by careful, painstaking and conscientious service.

Probably no sketch in this volume will be read with more satisfaction and by more friends than will this brief sketch of Alvedo S. Barber and family.

## EVERDEN.

Oscar M. Everden (deceased) was born in Emerson Township, Gratiot County, January 10, 1861, and died at his home in St. Louis, Mich., July 14, 1905, at the age of 44 years. He was the son of Oscar A. and Harriet J. (Phelps) Everden, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter born in the State of New York. The father died in St. Louis, in June, 1903, the mother passing away at Ithaca, December 31, 1908, aged 80 years. The parents were among the first settlers of Emerson, settling in that township in the spring of 1855. Oscar A. Everden was a leading character in the early history of Emerson. He was elected the second township clerk — 1856 — and was elected supervisor in 1857 and again in 1861.



OSCAR M. EVERDEN.

Oscar M. Everden was the youngest of three children. He received a common school education and also attended the high school at Ithaca. He followed teaching for several years, and spent one year in Montana. In 1888 he took up newspaper work, buying a half interest in the Alma Record. In 1893, having sold his interest in the Record, he took up his residence in Ithaca and assumed the control and the editorship of the Gratiot Journal, as a member of the Gratiot County Printing Co., formed at that time and which took in the Gratiot Journal, the Alma Record and the St. Louis Republican Leader. He continued with the Journal until 1896, when, the printing company having dissolved, he purchased the St. Louis Republican Leader, continuing its publisher and editor until his death.

Mr. Everden was a man of fine character and of many commendable attainments; a popular citizen, also, who could count all of his acquaintances as his friends. He always took great interest in educational matters, and was for several years a member of the county board of school examiners. In 1899 he was appointed deputy state oil inspector for the district of which Gratiot County formed a part, and held the position four years, performing the duties of the office in a very satisfactory manner. All local projects calculated to advance the interests of the community received his cordial support. He was especially active in the preliminary work of organizing the St. Louis Sugar Co., and was made secretary of the original organization. He put in two years of active effort, and then by a reorganization of the company he was the victim of a "freeze-out", and never received either the credit or the emoluments that were rightfully his due. He was secretary of the St. Louis board of trade four years. Fraternally he was a member of the Masonic Order.

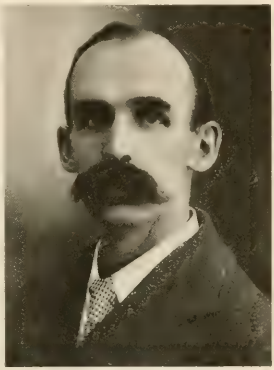
June 24, 1890, Mr. Everden was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Bahlke, of Alma. To them was born one son, Raymond J. B., who died at St. Louis, August 30, 1906, aged fifteen years. The death of this young lad was deeply regretted by a host of friends, and was an especially sad blow to his widowed mother.

The portrait of Oscar M. Everden, in connection with this sketch, will be a welcome and valuable feature, to those who knew him in life.

Upon the death of Mr. Everden, Mrs. Anna M. Everden—the wife—assumed the management of the Republican Leader and conducted it ably and successfully until the year 1908, when she sold it to Geo. Adams. She is a daughter of the late George and Sophia (Wardenphool) Bahlke, who settled in Alma in the year 1871. She is one of a family of eight children—Augusta S., Albert W., Geo. E., Minnie, Louisa, Anna M., Charlotte, Antoinette May. She is a woman who stands high in the esteem of all. October 10, 1908, she was united in marriage to Joseph H. Seaver, of Ithaca. (See sketch of J. H. Seaver.)

## HUGHES.

Richard E. Hughes, the genial, able and popular clerk of Gratiot County, was born in Detroit, Mich., September 13, 1865, son of Richard and Mary (Pritchard) Hughes, the former a native of Runcorn, England, the latter born in Ancaster, Canada. The parents were married in Hamilton, Canada, September 30, 1858. Besides our subject there were seven children born to the union of Richard and Mary Hughes. The following are yet living: John R., William H., Charles C., Alice E. and Maude M. The deceased are Emma and Margaret.



RICHARD E. HUGHES.

Richard Hughes Sr. removed with his family from Detroit to Gratiot County in the year 1878, settling on a farm adjoining the Village of St. Louis on the east, where they resided many years. The parents are spending their declining years as residents of St. Louis, and are very justly and properly enjoying the esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

In the year 1884, Richard E. Hughes, the principal subject of this family history, entered into mercantile trade as a clerk in the grocery store of John Fields, in St. Louis. After serving in that capacity for a period of eight years, he went into trade on his own account, in the same city, and continued in the business several years, gaining an enviable reputation as an upright and reliable dealer.

Mr. Hughes has ever been known as an enterprising and progressive public-spirited citizen, always ready to do his full share in building up and maintaining, to the extent of his ability, all projects and enterprises calculated to advance the well-being of his community. The confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens is best shown by an enumeration of some of the many positions of trust to which he has been chosen: He served his city as alderman two terms, following which he was elected supervisor of his ward three years. In October, 1904, he was chosen one of the county superintendents of the poor, and in November, 1906, he was elected county clerk and has since been three times re-elected; a fact furnishing conclusive proof that his management of that important office has been satisfactory to the people. In fact it seems but justice to say that as a careful, courteous, conscientious and painstaking official, his administration of the office will compare favorably with that of a long list of exceptionally

able and accurate incumbents of that office. In addition to the foregoing official positions held by Mr. Hughes, he was for many years one of the hustling members of St. Louis' volunteer fire department.

On the 16th day of September, 1891, Mr. Hughes was united in marriage, in Bethany Township, to Miss Sarah E. Vincent, born in Bethany Township, March 11, 1867, daughter of Norman D. and Sarah E. (Miller) Vincent, of Bethany. Mr. Vincent was born in the State of New York, May 10, 1831. Mrs. Vincent was also a native of New York State. They were married in 1848, and, besides Sarah E., were the parents of Milo D., Mary L. and Ida F.

Mr. Hughes is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Masonic fraternities; a "Shriner" in the last mentioned order, with membership at Saginaw, Mich.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are active members of the Ithaca Baptist Church.

## CHING.

William Ching, a resident on North Street, Ithaca, removing to the village from Emerson Township in 1910, was born in the parish of Bradworthy, Devonshire, England, February 25, 1842. His father, William Ching, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Walters, were both natives of the same parish. Mr. Ching, our subject, is the eldest of a family of nine children. Of this large family only one other is still living—a sister residing in Canada. Mr. Ching came to America with his parents in 1851, settling in Canada. Afterward the father bought a large tract of land in the southwest corner of Lafayette Township, this county, and young William's first visit to Gratiot was made in 1864 when he found his way into the woods of Central Michigan for the purpose of paying the taxes on this land.

Mr. Ching was married in the Village of Rockwood, Canada, October 31, 1865, to Rhoda E. Warner, who was born in Eramosa, Wellington County, Canada, daughter of Andrew and Lydia M. (Loree) Warner, both of whom were born at Niagara, Canada. Lydia M. was one of a family of eight children, five of whom are still living.

Mr. Ching removed with his family to this county in 1872, settling on a wild farm on section 29, Emerson Township. There he resided, engaged in the varied activities usual in a new county—clearing and improving his farm, etc., until the year 1910, when he removed to his present home in Ithaca, retiring from the heavier duties and labors of an active agricultural life. Two children have come to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ching: Ida R. was born July 8, 1866, and Mary M. was born February 5, 1870; both born in Huntington, Lorain County, Ohio.

Ida R. Ching was married October 11, 1884, to Ozro E. Coleman, of Emerson. They have two children—Nina, born September 5, 1885, and Glenn C., born June 20, 1893. Nina Coleman is married to Robert Stahl, son of Henry Stahl, and has three children—Ethel Marie, Royal Francis and Roland Edwin. They live in Emerson. Glenn C. Coleman resides with his parents in Washington Township.

Mary M. Ching, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ching, is married to Benj. E. Dangerfield. They are residents of Ithaca and have no children. All these people have a high standing as good citizens, in their several communities. Mr. Ching, while a resident of Emerson, held various posi-

tions of responsibility, among them being that of drain commissioner, in which he served with satisfaction for a period of six years. He is a Republican in politics. He and Mrs. Ching are active members of the M. E. Church, and have been so connected for many years.

## MYERS.

The subject of this sketch is Mrs. Elizabeth A. Myers, wife of the late B. Frank Myers, who died at his home in Ithaca, August 8, 1911, aged nearly 80 years. Mrs. Myers is the daughter of the late Bernard and Dorinda (Kennedy) Fox, pioneers of Bethany Township, and for many years among its most highly esteemed citizens. Bernard Fox and family came to Gratiot County in 1857, settling on section 13 of Bethany, where they passed the remainder of their lives. Mr. Fox filled many positions of responsibility in his township, among others that of supervisor, township clerk and justice of the peace. He died April 24, 1899, aged 86 years. Mrs. Fox passed away January 14, 1892, at the age of 78 years.

Elizabeth A. Fox, our subject, was born in Bath, Steuben County, N. Y., July 21, 1838. Coming to this county with her parents in 1857, she was united in marriage December 2, 1860, to Samuel Newell Miller, of Ithaca, and became a resident of that village. Mr. Miller was born in Lodi, Seneca County, N. Y., January 28, 1837. As a resident of Ithaca he took an active part in business. He was appointed postmaster at Ithaca, October 19, 1858, and served faithfully and well in that position. He established the Gratiot News at Ithaca in 1858 in company with Robert Sutton, procuring the printing outfit in Owosso, and was connected with the publication of the paper, in various capacities, for several years. The present Gratiot County Journal is the lineal descendant and successor of the Gratiot News.

Samuel N. and Elizabeth A. (Fox) Miller were the parents of two sons—B. Frank, born in Ithaca, September 24, 1861, and Fred F., also born in Ithaca, October 12, 1864. B. Frank Miller was married September 23, 1891, to Ida Shillington, of Forest, Ontario. They reside in Chicago where Mr. Miller is an engineer. Four children have been born to them—Marguerite Ruth, Stuart Newell, Douglas Fox and Frances Mae. Fred F. Miller was married December 13, 1888, at Grand Rapids, to Elva E. Carey. To this union four children were born—Frank N., September 19, 1889; Edna M. and Ethel M., (twins), July 1, 1891, and Elizabeth, January 25, 1895. The wife died May 6, 1898. Mr. Miller was married (second) to Arnetta Highfield, of Flint, Mich., June 14, 1905. The family resides in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Samuel N. Miller, the husband and father, died in Ithaca, January 27, 1868. On the 27th of July, 1881, Mrs. Miller, our subject, was married, at East Saginaw, Mich., to B. Frank Myers. Mr. Myers was born in Orleans County, N. Y., November 20, 1830. In his young manhood he was engaged in various avocations. He served his country in the Civil War as a member of the 15th Mich. Infantry, at the close of the war coming to Gratiot County where he was engaged in farming until the year 1882, when he removed to Ithaca, where he resided, enjoying a retired life until his death, as stated at the beginning of this sketch. He was a man of upright character, holding the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Myers is justly recognized as one of Ithaca's most estimable ladies, and her many friends will be highly pleased to have her memory perpetuated in this appropriate and permanent way.

## TUCKER.

It may not be considered out of place to put in the record quite a complete genealogical history of the Tucker family. A better time and place may never again be presented. And as a starting point is necessary it seems plausible to start in with a member of the family best known to the writer and work the line both ways, as it were. And all the more plausible because that member has been a resident of Gratiot County more than 47 years. For it is Gratiot County and its people that this volume deals with mainly.

**Willard Davis Tucker,** of Ithaca, a resident of Gratiot County more than 47 years, was born in the Village of Bainbridge, Chenango County, N. Y., March 25, 1841, son of Davis and Catharine (Lake) Tucker, the former born in Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y., August 21, 1808, the latter born in Duchess County, N. Y., September 24, 1808. He is the sixth in a family of seven children—five girls and two boys. His ancestry on the father's side is traced back with more or less clearness and certainty to John Tucker, of South Tavistock, Devonshire, England, who was a living, moving human on earth in the year 1066, fighting in that year at the battle of Hastings under William the Conqueror. For his good work on that occasion, John Tucker was granted permission to adopt a coat of arms, and had large estates assigned to him, in South Tavistock, about 200 miles from London.

After John Tucker, the record is somewhat obscure as to the Tucker family for several generations. William Tucker, a descendant of John, appears on the scene along in the fourteenth century, at Thornley, County of Devon. William's great grandson was Robert Tucker of Milton, near Gravesend, England, who was born in 1604 and died in 1682. Robert Tucker emigrated to America about the year 1635, settling first in Weymouth, Mass., and removing in 1640 to Milton, Mass., where he had the distinguished honor of being chosen the first town clerk. He had three descendants named Benjamin—son, grandson and great grandson. The latter had a son named **Joshua,** born in 1738, in Leicester, Worcester County, Mass., about fifty miles from Boston. After reaching manhood, Joshua Tucker removed to Marlborough, N. H., afterward locating in Strafford, Vt. He married Elizabeth Davis in 1765. They were the parents of nineteen children, five pairs of twins included. Some died in infancy and youth. Five daughters were, Esther Carpenter; Jane Norton; Jemima, wife of Prince Hopkins; Eunice, wife of Chillingsworth Hopkins; Betsey. The sons who grew to manhood were Joshua and Caleb, twins, born August 23, 1780; Joseph and Benjamin, twins. Joshua Tucker, the father, died in 1822. Elizabeth (Davis) Tucker, the mother, died in 1840.

**Caleb Tucker,** mentioned above, was the grandfather of Willard D., of this family sketch. He was born in Vermont, August 23, 1780, and died at Cherry Valley, N. Y., November 14, 1828. He was married to Thirza Foster, who was born May 26, 1787, and died about the year 1865; buried at Grass Lake, Mich. She was daughter of Joseph and Desire Foster.

Caleb and Thirza (Foster) Tucker, grandparents of Willard D., were the parents of ten children, all born at or near Cherry Valley, N. Y. Following is the order of their births: Roswell, Davis, Foster, Jacob, Norman, Adoniram, Caleb, Achsah Amelia, Ichabod, Augustus Willard.

Roswell Tucker was born February 16, 1807. He married Ranevalina Smith, who was born in 1816, and died September 11, 1844, at Grass Lake, Mich. Their children were Othelbert, Cleopatra (later called Rilla), Birney, Elizabeth. All are now deceased. Othelbert was born March 15, 1835, and died October 18, 1904; buried at Alamo, Mich. He was married to Mary A. Wheeler. Their children are Maggie Pelle, living at Holly, Mich.; Orie Jane,

died at age of ten; Carrie Winifred, married to Joseph T. Cook, lives at Holly; George H. Birney, lives at Kalamazoo; Jessie Pauline, married to Herbert Cole, lives at Winnipeg, Canada. Cleopatra (Rilla) Tucker married Chas. Dixon; resided near Springport, Mich., and died there in 1865. Elizabeth Tucker married Samuel S. Buck. Birney Tucker was married and lived near Concord, Mich.; adopted son of Austin Pomeroy.

Roswell Tucker's second wife was Mrs. Mary Boland, of Grass Lake, Mich.; died at Grass Lake, April 24, 1875. Roswell Tucker died February 27, 1878; buried at Alamo, Mich.

Foster Tucker, third son of Caleb and Thirza (Foster) Tucker, was born November 11, 1810, and died at Grand Rapids, October 20, 1889. His wife was Mary Ann Pomeroy, born May 17, 1809; died at Grand Rapids, October 8, 1891. Children were born to them as follows: Augustus Jacob, Adelaide Maria, Fannie Ann, Deborah Lavinia, Norman Foster. Augustus J. is married to Rachel Westlake and resides in Grand Rapids. Adelaide M. married Martin C. Herrick, who died June, 1910, at Grand Rapids. One child died in infancy. Fannie A. married Sylvanus Knapp. Their two children died in infancy, and the mother—Fannie A.—died in Grand Rapids, November 5, 1898. D. Lavinia Tucker remained single; died at Grand Rapids, March, 1913. Norman F. married Jessie Watrous; are residents of Grand Rapids. Norman F. is entitled to much credit for furnishing the data touching the early Tucker history, here recorded.

Jacob Tucker, fourth son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, born in 1812, died in early manhood.

Norman Tucker (Rev.), fifth son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born May 1, 1814, and died at Laingsburg, Mich., June 16, 1902. He married Marilla Skiff, born February 22, 1820; died at Laingsburg, January 15, 1907. Their children: Agnes Amelia, born March 14, 1848, died October 4, 1849; Norman Willis, born 1852, lives at Laingsburg; George Foster, born 1854, lives in Portland, Oregon; married and has two children—Nellie and Carl—both married.

Adoniram Tucker, sixth son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born April 29, 1816. He married (first) Mary Pool; (second) Eliva B. Thompson. He died at his home in Hamilton, N. Y., May 12, 1894.

Caleb Tucker, seventh son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born March 16, 1819, and died in Springport Township, Jackson County, Mich., April 21, 1871. He married Susan M. Porter who was born November 9, 1822, and died in Springport, January 30, 1877. Both are buried at Springport. Two children were born to them—Charlotte Mary and George Byron. The former, born February 20, 1846, is married to Henry Haynes, who was born November 7, 1842, son of Peter and Minerva (Seward) Haynes. They reside in Jackson, Mich., and have one son, Wilford Ashton, who was born February 7, 1875, and is married to Mamie Herrick, daughter of Martin C. Herrick, heretofore mentioned and now deceased. She was born October 10, 1871. A son—Howard Herrick Haynes, born February 11, 1905—is the result of this union. They also are residents of Jackson. George Byron, son of Caleb and Susan Tucker, born February 6, 1851, is married to Retta Rogers. They reside in Portland, Oregon, and have a son, Floyd B., born August 30, 1879. He is married to Nina C. Schoep, and has one child—Roma Alean. They are residents of Portland, Oregon.

Achsah Amelia Tucker, only daughter of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born in 1820, and died in 1836.

Ichabod Tucker, eighth son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born in Cherry Valley, N. Y., April 24, 1824, and died at the home in Tekamah, Nebraska, November 6, 1898. June 6, 1859, he married Mary Long, in Burt

County, Nebraska. She was born November 18, 1827, in the Village of Hilperton, near Trowbridge, England, daughter of Daniel and Hannah Long. She lived in England until 19 years of age, then came to America, settling in Massachusetts. In 1858 she removed to Nebraska. Ichabod Tucker removed from Chicago, where he had resided several years, to Nebraska, in 1858, settling in De Soto, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and served as postmaster several years. In 1872 he removed to Tekamah, Nebraska, and was a leading merchant there for many years. Ichabod and Mary (Long) Tucker were the parents of children as follows: Mary Ella, born November 18, 1860; Emma Florilla, born June 16, 1862, died March 26, 1886; Charles Willard, born June 3, 1864; Grant Caleb, born May 5, 1866. Mary Ella married Charles A. Darling, August 18, 1908. They reside in Lyons, Nebraska. Charles W. is unmarried and resides in Telluride, Colorado. Grant C. married Evah B. Long. They reside in Tekamah, and have two children—Ella Berlin, born March 21, 1896; Ivan Charles, born July 30, 1900. The mother, Mrs. Mary Tucker, now aged 86 years, resides at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles A. Darling, at Lyons, Nebraska.

Augustus Willard Tucker, ninth son of Caleb and Thirza Tucker, was born in 1826, and died in infancy.

**Davis Tucker,** second son of Caleb and Thirza (Foster) Tucker, and father of Willard D., was born August 21, 1808, in Cherry Valley, Otsego County, N. Y. He was married in Cherry Valley, January, 1829, to Catharine Lake, daughter of John McCord Lake and Betsey (De Lamatyr) Lake. John M. Lake was born in Connecticut, July 4, 1776. He was of French and Irish descent. He was about eighty-five years old at the time of his death, which occurred in the State of New York. Betsey (De Lamatyr) Lake was born in Duchess County, N. Y., December 25, 1780, daughter of Capt. William De Lamatyr, a native of Holland, and a sailor on the high seas. She died in New York State at the age of about eighty-eight years. William De-Lamatyr was the fourth child of Mathew and Elizabeth (Nottingham) De-Lamatyr, and was born June, 1752.

**Catharine (Lake) Tucker** was the fifth in a family of eleven children. She was born in Duchess County, N. Y., September 24, 1808. The names of her brothers and sisters are given in their proper order as follows: Maria, Jane, Hiram, Angevine, Catharine (mother of Willard D.), Eliza, Mariam, Sarah, Asenath, Lavina, Richard. Maria Lake married Joseph Webb; no children. Jane Lake married Luther Eldredge. Children died in infancy. Hiram Lake married Ann Tucker, cousin of Davis Tucker. They were parents to two sons—Angevine and Charles. Angevine Lake (the elder, brother of Hiram), died at the age of twenty years, the result of an accidental fall. Eliza Lake married David Low, and had children as follows: Mary, Harriet, John, Lucy, Elizabeth, Augusta, Hiram, Josephine, Antoinette, Willard. Mariam Lake married Ensign Filkins. Their children were Jane and George. Sarah Lake married Willard Walker. Their children are: Addison Willard, Herbert Richard and Lillie Adell; all residents of Binghamton, N. Y. Asenath Lake married Daniel Burnside. Children born to them are Ira, Edgar and Charles Victor. They reside in Wisconsin and Chicago. Lavina Lake married David Gano; no children. Richard married Ann Eliza Cornish; no children.

Davis and Catharine (Lake) Tucker were the parents of seven children—five daughters and two sons—all born in the State of New York, excepting the youngest. In their order they lined up as follows: Emeline Henrietta, Thirza Jane, Albert Caleb, Sarah Victoria, Catharine Amelia, Willard Davis, Martha De Ette.

**Emeline H. Tucker** was born November 21, 1829, and died in Clarence, Calhoun County, Mich., October 19, 1864; buried in Springport. She was married at her parents' home near Jackson, Mich., December, 1853, to William Chappell, who was born in Devonshire, England, August 8, 1827, son of Samuel and Mary (Sampson) Chappell, who were natives of Devonshire, and who removed with their family to America in 1830, settling, a few years later, near Jackson, Mich. To the union of William and Emeline (Tucker) Chappell, three children were born—Emma F., born near Jackson, in January, 1855; Arthur D., born in Springport, Mich., October 7, 1857; Lillian, born in Springport, November 8, 1863, died at the age of one year and eight months. Emana F. Chappell was married in 1876 to Albert O. Bridenstine, who was born in Hamlin, Eaton County, Mich., December 31, 1855, son of Martin L. and Sarah (Stump) Bridenstine. His brother, Frank A. Bridenstine, married Delilah Holmes, and resides in Springport. His sister, Mary A., married S. C. Van Buren and his sister, Inez A., married John Dunn; both families are residents of Crystal, Montcalm County, Mich. Albert O. and Emma F. Bridenstine have had three sons, two of whom passed away in infancy. The youngest, Omar M., resides with his parents at their pleasant home in Springport. He was married to Miss Frances Davison, of Springport, June 25, 1913.

Arthur D. Chappell, unmarried, resides at Duenweg, Missouri, where, since 1880, he has been engaged in farming, merchandising and lead-mining. William Chappell, the father, after the death of his wife, Emeline, married Eliza Price, and to them three sons and one daughter were born—William, Bertram, Perry and Florence; all residing in Missouri. The father, William Chappell, died April, 1911, in his 84th year, and is buried at Springport, Mich.

**Thirza J. Tucker** was born October 25, 1832, and died at Grass Lake, Mich., April 12, 1877; buried at Grass Lake. She was married to John P. Riggs, son of Pete Riggs of Sylvan, Washtenaw County, Mich., in 1852. Their only child, Herbert Angevine, was born March 23, 1854, in Batavia, Branch County, Mich. John P. Riggs died at Jackson, Mich., September 8, 1891; buried at Glass Lake. Herbert A. Riggs was married to Estella Case, September 21, 1877. Their children are: Nina, born November 9, 1882; Lynn, born May 27, 1889; Vern, born January 22, 1895. Nina married Claude W. Hodgeboom and has two sons—Walter and Gerald; reside in Lansing, Mich. Lynn Riggs married Alice Troyer, October 15, 1911; reside in Jackson. They have a daughter—Dorothy. Vern is in the U. S. military service, a member of Troop K, 4th Cavalry. The mother, Estella (Case) Riggs, died April 21, 1901; buried at Jackson. The father, Herbert A. Riggs, resides at Michigan Center, near Jackson.

**Albert C. Tucker** was born December 6, 1834, and died at Charlotte, Mich., March 19, 1907; buried at St. Louis, Mich. In May, 1863, he was married to Eliza Porter, of Williamston, Mich., and resided at Grass Lake. A son, Willard Niles, was born to them June 2, 1864, and died August 6th, of he same year, aged two months and four days. A daughter, Florence Evaline, died in infancy, April 15, 1866. The wife and mother, Eliza, died July 26, 1866, aged 21 years and one month; buried at Grass Lake. Albert C. Tucker married (second) Jennie Higgins, in 1871. A son, Albert Richard, was born in 1872. He is married to Louise Welty, and resides in Toledo. They have three children.

**Sarah V. Tucker** was born May 24, 1836, and died in Tompkins, Jackson County, Mich., June 22, 1879; buried at Springport. She was married to James Chappell at Coldwater, Mich., January, 1855. He was born in England about 1830, coming to America with his parents in 1836, settling near Jackson,

Mich., and died in Tompkins, about July 1, 1906; buried at Springport. James and Sarah Chappell had three children born to them—Helen Isabel, their oldest child, died in November, 1860, at the early age of five years; Frank D. was born January 5, 1862. He is unmarried and resides in Tompkins. Homer J., was born May 27, 1871, and on February 1, 1893, was married to Bessie Scarrow. Two children came to this union—Howard, born February 23, 1894, and Helen M., born December 24, 1895. They reside with their widowed mother in Springport, their father, Homer J Chappell, having met a sad and violent death by a falling limb, while chopping on his farm in Springport Township, December 15, 1908.

**C. Amelia Tucker** was born November 7, 1838, and died at Parma, Mich., August 8, 1870; buried at Springport. She was united in marriage in 1859 to Benjamin B. Calkins, of Clarence, Calhoun County, Mich., son of Lampson Calkins. Their one child—a son—died in infancy. Benjamin B. Calkins died at his home in Parma about 1904. His son by a second marriage was for some years a professor in the State Normal at Mt. Pleasant.

**M. De Ette Tucker**, fifth daughter and youngest child of Davis and Catharine Tucker, was born at Grass Lake, Mich., July 25, 1848, and died November 8, 1871. She came to Gratiot County with the writer and their mother, in the fall of 1866, and after a residence of five years, passed away at the family home in St. Louis, at the age of 23 years, and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. She was unmarried.

Going back now to the migration of Davis Tucker and his family from the State of New York to Michigan. This occurred in May, 1844. His destination and stopping place was Grass Lake, Jackson County, to which place his brother, Foster, had preceded him by a few years. The following ten years were devoted to his avocation—farming—in Jackson County. In the spring of 1854, having purchased a large, and mainly unimproved, farm in the Township of Mattison, Branch County, he removed with his family to that location, eleven miles west of Coldwater. There he died October 4th, of the same year—1854; buried in the Batavia Cemetery, Branch County.

In the spring of 1855 the family, then consisting of the mother, Albert, Amelia, Willard and De Ette, removed to Springport Township, Jackson County, where, and in the adjoining Townships of Hamlin, Eaton County, and Clarence, Calhoun County, farms were purchased, and they were engaged in agricultural pursuits during the following ten years.

In the summer of 1864, Willard D. Tucker enlisted at Springport, in Company D, 28th Mich. Volunteer Infantry, being mustered into the service at Marshall, September 1, 1864. The regimental organization was afterward completed at Kalamazoo. In October the regiment went South and was engaged in the service in Kentucky and Tennessee, and participating in the battle of Nashville under Gen. Thomas. The regiment was afterward assigned to the 23rd Army Corps, which it joined in March, 1865, in North Carolina, and with which it remained until the close of the war. Mr. Tucker was discharged from the service at Beaufort, North Carolina, June 15, 1865, returning home with health greatly impaired.

In September, 1866, after his health had been virtually restored, Mr. Tucker removed with his family—consisting of his mother and young sister, De Ette—to Gratiot County, at that time but about ten years old and being still mainly in a wilderness state. He located in St. Louis, at that time a back-woods hamlet of about 200 inhabitants. There for a period of fifteen years he engaged in building operations. His sister De Ette died November 8, 1871, as heretofore stated, and his mother passed away August 18, 1882. Both are buried in the family lot, Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis.

Mr. Tucker's first home in St. Louis, built by himself, the upright part of which he built in the fall of 1866, the additions the next year, is now —with various improvements—the fine home of George G. Nichols, southwest corner of Pine Street and Washington Avenue. (See St. Louis illustrations.) His second residence, built by himself in 1879, is located on the brow of Hastings' hill, north side of Washington Avenue, east. (See St. Louis illustrations.)

In March, 1881, Mr. Tucker purchased the St. Louis Herald, established in January, 1869, the second newspaper in the county. He continued its publication in St. Louis until December, 1887, when he removed the plant and paper to Ithaca, purchasing and consolidating with it, the Advance, already established at Ithaca, and changing the name to the Gratiot County Herald. This he conducted until July, 1892, when he sold it to J. N. McCall, who has continued its publication up to the present time. In December, 1895, Mr. Tucker bought the Gratiot County News, which was organized and established at Ithaca in September of the previous year, and continued its publication until April, 1906, when he sold the paper and plant to the Gratiot County Journal, and the News was discontinued.

In the fall of 1907 Mr. Tucker first incubated the idea of getting up a History of Gratiot County. Suggestion of the matter to friends and prominent citizens of the county met with prompt and cordial approval and promises of patronage. During the following winter the preliminary steps were taken, and, with varying degrees of vigor and speed, and with various and sundry perplexities, discouragements and unforeseen difficulties, the undertaking was pushed along till the result was placed in the hands of the patrons well along in the fall of—well this is the book, anyhow.

In his youth Mr. Tucker's opportunities for acquiring an edcuation were not extensive; still, with considerable perseverance and some aptitude he managed to secure enough to enable him to teach. He taught a term in his home district in Clarence, Calhoun County, winter of 1863-4; a term in St. Louis—Pine River side—winter of 1868-9; a term in the Colburn district—No. 2, frational, Pine River and Arcada—winter of 1871-2. His experiences as a newspaper publisher were a great help to him in an educational way, doubtless; his readers, however, may have suffered proportionately.

It is with a near-blush that our subject acknowledges having "monkeyed" somewhat with politics; just on the edges, however; not getting in deep enough to do much hurt. His father had been a Whig-Abolitionist, and consequently he was a Republican when he arrived at voting age. Another thing that may have determined his politics was the fact that his township—Clarence, Calhoun County—was at that time—1862—probably the worst "copperhead" township in the state; so his enemies may say that it was his natural contrariness that made him a Republican. He became a Progressive and began to reform politics in 1878 when he became a Greenbacker. When the Greenback party faded out of existence he naturally gravitated to the Democratic party and has seen nothing to suit him better up to the present time. His party has treated him liberally; but as his party has generally been the minority party, his defeats far outnumber his successes as a candidate. His successes, few in number and briefly told: In St. Louis—street commissioner 1868; councilman 1873, '74; clerk 1875, '76, '77; marshal and street commissioner 1877; village president 1883, '84. In Pine River—clerk 1875. In Bethany—supervisor 1880, '81, '82; school inspector 1883. His principal defeats have been as follows: Judge of Probate 1880, '84; state senator 1902, '04; county clerk 1906; representative 1912. While nearly always running more or less ahead of his ticket, he refers with special satis-

faction to his run for county clerk when he reduced his Republican opponent's majority by 400 in the county, and in his home town—Ithaca, he overcame a Republican majority of 175 and secured a majority of 125 on his own side of the account; certainly a flattering endorsement from his neighbors!

Mr. Tucker's Democracy is of the radical, progressive type. If he could have had his way he would have long ago brought about conditions calculated to assure a more equitable distribution of the good things of life. He thinks he sees the conditions improving, and still has hopes for the country. In his religious or theological views, if classed at all, he would probably be put down as a Liberal rather than a Radical. On the questions of honesty, truth, justice, temperance, morality and right-living generally, he has generally been — and always wants to be—classed as a Radical. He occasionally "slips a cog," but when he does he is just as sorry as he can be about it.



WILLARD D. TUCKER.

On December 17, 1883, at Jackson, Mich., Mr. Tucker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Louise Briggs, of St. Louis, this county, Rev. Charles A. Jacokes performing the ceremony. Mr. Jacokes was at that time pastor of the M. E. Church at Leslie, Mich., previously pastor of St. Louis, and subsequently pastor at Ithaca. Mrs. M. Louise (Briggs) Tucker was born in Wales Township, St. Clair County, Mich., June 30, 1860, daughter of Ira R. and Eliza (O'Meara) Briggs. One son—Verne Willard Tucker—was born to this union, October 25, 1884, at St. Louis, Mich. He is a graduate of the Ithaca High School, class of 1902. After graduation he took a course in stenography and typewriting at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids. He has been for several years connected with the Sprague Publishing Company, Detroit, as assistant advertising manager of

that company's publication, "The American Boy," the leading magazine for boys in America. He was married in Kalamazoo, January 19, 1910, to Miss Majel Agnes Wright, of that city, daughter of Thomas P. and Helen C. (Cavanaugh) Wright. She was born in Jackson, Mich., May 19, 1889. They have two sons—John Wright Tucker, born in Detroit, September 11, 1911, and Robert Verne Tucker, born in Detroit, September 11, 1913.

So the genealogical record runs down the centuries and generations, from John Tucker, 1066 to John Tucker, 1911, in detail as follows: John Tucker, (South Tavistock, England, 1066); then several generations to William Tucker (Thornly, Devonshire, England); four more generations to Robert Tucker (Milton, England; to America 1635, Weymouth and Milton, Mass.); Benjamin Tucker, (Mass.); Benjamin Tucker, (Mass.); Benjamin Tucker, (Mass.); Joshua Tucker, (Mass., N. H. and Vt., 1783-1822); Caleb Tucker, (Vt. and N. Y., 1780-1828); Davis Tucker, (N. Y. and Mich., 1808-1854); Willard D. Tucker, (N. Y. and Mich., 1841—); Verne W. Tucker, (Mich., 1884—); John W. Tucker and Robert V. Tucker, (Mich., 1911—, and 1913—).



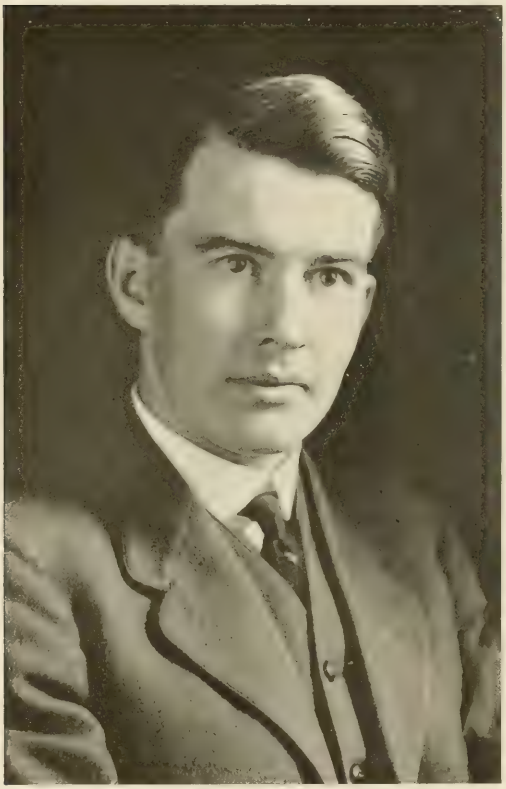
M. LOUISE TUCKER (MRS. W. D. TUCKER).

Ira R. Briggs, father of Mrs. M. Louise Tucker, was born February 26, 1824, in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., son of Stephen and Eliza (McKay) Briggs, both of English and Irish descent. There were six children in the family of Stephen and Eliza (McKay) Briggs, namely: Ira R., Willard, Merrick D., Mary Ann, Diana Elizabeth, Wheeler J. All are now deceased. Willard married and reared a family. Merrick married Ellen B. O'Meara, and is mentioned later in this sketch. Mary Ann married Isaac Cole and had one son—Isaac Cole—who was for several years a resident of St. Louis,

now a resident of California. He married Mrs. Nettie (Munn) Sudborough, of St. Louis, and has two children—Leland and Lillian. D. Elizabeth married Andrew Cooley. Wheeler married, but no children survived.

Stephen Briggs came to Michigan with his family in 1854, settling in St. Clair County. He died in 1855. His wife—Eliza (McKay) Briggs—died in Illinois, in 1875.

Ira R. Briggs was married in Port Huron, Mich., September 15, 1854, to Miss Eliza O'Meara, daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Darcy) O'Meara, of Kenockee, St. Clair County, Mich. Her parents were born in Ireland and she was one of a family of nine children, seven of whom were born in Ireland, two in America. She was born March 8, 1834. Daniel O'Meara emigrated with his family to America in 1845, locating first in Plympton, Ontario, where they lived about six years, and then removed to Kenockee, St. Clair County, Mich. There the parents passed the remainder of their lives; substantial and influential farmers of the township, and respected members of the community. Daniel O'Meara, the father, died in 1886; Mrs. O'Meara, the mother, passed away in 1884.



VERNE W. TUCKER.

The nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O'Meara—all excepting the youngest still living — are given in their order as follows: Mary, Eliza, Patrick, Ellen Bridget, Margaret, James, John, William, Theressa. Mary married Charles Kendall, of St. Clair County, now deceased. Their children are Francis, Alfred, Maggie, Daniel, Lewis, John, Herbert. The mother, Mary Kendall, lives at Emmett, Mich. Patrick O'Meara married (first) Anna Harrington. Their children are Mary Eliza, Margaret Ann, Daniel. The wife dying, Patrick married (second) Maggie Kelly. To this union were born, Kate, Theressa, Anna,

James, John (deceased). Ellen Bridget O'Meara married Merrick D. Briggs (now deceased), brother of Ira R. Briggs, who was father of Mrs. W. D. Tucker. Their children are Martha, Emma, Mary, Ida, Nellie. Mrs. Ellen Briggs resides at Downington, Sanilac County, Mich. Margaret O'Meara married (first) Patrick Murphy (now deceased); she afterward married Thomas Ryan. They reside in Emmett, Mich. James O'Meara married Johanna Casey (now deceased). Their children are Louise, Mary, Anna, William, Josephine, John, Alfred, James, Nellie. He married (second) Kate Garvey (now deceased). His third and present wife was Nellie Flannigan. They live in Kenockee. John O'Meara married Charlotte Orilla Tucker. Children born to them: Ellice Theressa; Margaret Blanch, deceased; Myrtle Louise; Austin Darcy; Ernest Loren; Earl George; Floyd Vincent; Ina Ruth; Edna Pearl. Minden City, Mich., is the home of John O'Meara and family. William O'Meara married Ellen Monnaghan (now deceased). Their children are Nellie, Alice, Daniel. William lives on the old homestead in Kenockee. Theressa O'Meara, the only one dead of the nine children, was unmarried, and died at Emmett at the age of 55 years.



MRS. V. W. TUCKER—JOHN WRIGHT TUCKER.

Ira R. Briggs and Eliza (O'Meara) Briggs were married at Port Huron, September 15, 1854. With the exception of about two years in Sanilac County, they resided continuously in St. Clair County until the spring of 1881, when they removed to St. Louis, Gratiot County, where they resided until the winter of 1904-'05. While on a visit at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Cora Goldsmith, at Edmore, Mich., Mr. Briggs, who had been in poor health for many years with rheumatism and kindred ailments, was called to rest, passing away February 22, 1905. He was a man with

many admirable qualities, respected by all. He was buried in the Edmore cemetery. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Eliza Briggs has resided at Edmore with her children, Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith. It is but simple justice to say that she is a woman of sterling worth. For many years, her husband being incapacitated for business in his later life owing to ill-health, by her industry, energy and indomitable persistence in conducting her business (dressmaking), she provided a comfortable living for her family, feeding, clothing and educating them in a way that would have been a credit to anyone with twice her strength and resources. She is fully entitled to a vacation of perfect leisure; but to keep her idle it would be necessary to bind her, hand and foot; and the law would not permit that.

Eight children were born to Ira R. and Eliza Briggs; the oldest born in Bruce, Macomb County, all the rest born in Wales, St. Clair County. Names and birth-dates follow: Marcus W., July 19, 1858; Mary Louise, June 30, 1860; Fannie E., December 22, 1865; William W., July 22, 1867; Casper W., March 30, 1870; Maude E., November 9, 1875; Cora V., July 8, 1877; Stephen D., November 9, 1880.



THE TUCKER RESIDENCE, ITHACA.

Marcus W. Briggs is married to Ella Hosner, of Romeo, Mich. They are the parents of a daughter—Myrtle—who is a teacher in the California schools. Their home is in Chula Vista, California.

Fannie E. Briggs was married October, 1882, to Joseph Bennett, of St. Louis. They reside near Vestaburg, Mich., and are engaged in farming. Their children are Jennie, Lottie, Willard (died in infancy), and Charles. Jennie Bennett is married to Arthur Barker. They reside near Benton Harbor, Mich., and have two children—Oscar and Lena. Lottie Bennett is married to Jacob Snyder. They are residents of Edmore and have two children—Harold and Mabel Louise. Charles Bennett resides at home with his parents.

William W. Briggs married Cassie Miller, of Rochester, Mich. He is in the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company and resides at Rochester. There are no children.

Casper W. Briggs is unmarried and is now a resident of Toledo, Ohio.

Maude E. Briggs is married to Walter M. Currier, of Alpena, Mich. He is a traveling salesman for the Michigan Drug Company, of Detroit. They reside in Detroit, and are destitute of children.

Cora E. Briggs is married to Clinton D. Goldsmith, of Edmore, Mich. Two children have been born to them—Marjorie E., born January 11, 1907, and Casper W., born June 4, 1911. They reside at Edmore where Mr. Goldsmith is city electrician.

Stephen D. Briggs married Gertrude A. Trinby, of Utica, N. Y., September 3, 1906. They are residents of Minneapolis, Minn., where Stephen D. holds a responsible position with the Pence Automobile Company.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Tucker reside in their pleasant and comfortable home, Jefferson Street, south, Ithaca. Mrs. Tucker has been for several years engaged in millinery business in Ithaca, and has met with a reasonably satisfactory degree of success.

## RUSSELL.

Abraham W. Russell, now deceased, first supervisor of the Township of Ithaca, was born October 13, 1829, in Mahoning County, Ohio. He was a son of James W. Russell, of Pennsylvania, and Jane Wolfcale, of Virginia. The latter removed to Ohio, with her parents about the year 1804. The father, James W. Russell, served in the War of 1812, under Gen. William Henry Harrison, and was stationed at Fort Meigs. After his discharge he returned to his old home in Mahoning County, afterward removing to Paulding County, where he died in 1870. The mother died in Mahoning County in 1844. They were the parents of ten children as follows: Nancy, John, Robert, Caroline, James M., Jonathan, Betsey, Abraham W., Jane and Alfred M. All are now dead, excepting Betsey.

The subject of this sketch was married July 8, 1852, to Emeline Morey, of Mahoning County, Ohio, who was born in Perry County, Penn., July 10, 1828. She is a daughter of William and Betsey (Sulibarger) Morey, natives of Pennsylvania. The father died in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1836. The mother died in the same county in 1874. They were the parents of the following named children: Margaret, George, Eliza, Emeline and Martha.

Mr. Russell enlisted in the Union service in August, 1861, as a member of the 49th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1862 he was sent home on recruiting service, and on his return to his command was detailed to service in the U. S. Signal Corps. After passing an examination for admission to that branch of the service, he was mustered out of his regiment—the 49th Ohio Volunteer Infantry—and mustered in as a member of the U. S. Signal Corps, and placed in charge of the field telegraph service, where he served during the Battles of Chicamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. He was honorably discharged August 22, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tenn., at the expiration of his term of service.

In November, 1865 Mr. Russell removed with his family to Gratiot County, Michigan, settling in Ithaca, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was prominently connected with village, township and county affairs in various capacities, serving 13 years as justice of the peace, nine years as county superintendent of the poor, two years as deputy sheriff under Sheriff E. C. Cook, and three years as supervisor of Ithaca Township, being its first supervisor; serving also several years as a member

of the school board and in various other capacities. He and his estimable wife have been devoted members of the M .E. Church for many years, taking an active interest in all of its various lines of usefulness; Mrs. Russell being especially active in society, missionary and charitable work in connection with the church.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, five of whom are still living—Willis A., Florence R. A., Carlos B., Fred J. and Cora C. I. Willis A. married Anna Foote, daughter of C. C. Foote, of Lafayette Township. They have had children as follows: Irene, (died in early girlhood), Neil, Maud, Bernice, Helen, Irving and Harley. They reside in Ithaca. Florence R. A. married E. F. Brewer. They reside at Elyria, Ohio, and are the parents of Aida, Vere and Doris. Carlos B. married Claire Cagwin. Their children, residing at Elyria, Ohio, are Donna R., Lelia, Romaine Pattengill, Ralph and Fred. Fred J. married Frank Marolf, of Arcada Township. They have two children, John and Jessie, and are living at Iron River, Upper Peninsula. Cora C. I. is unmarried, a deaconess in the M. E. Church, stationed at Rockford, Illinois.

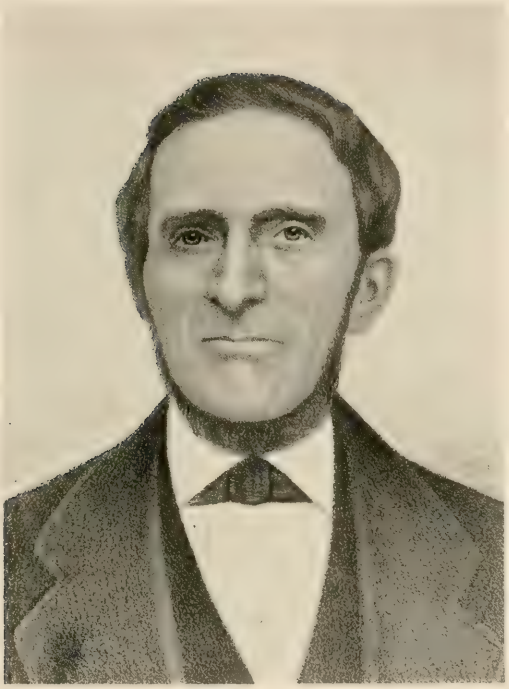
Mr. Russell died at his home in Ithaca, May 5, 1912, aged 81 years. His death was mourned by a host of friends.

## JEFFREY.

Perhaps no better biographical sketch of John Jeffrey, pioneer of Gratiot County and founder of Ithaca, can now be written than that which appeared in the "Portrait and Biographical Album of Gratiot County", issued in 1884. That volume was published ten years after Mr. Jeffrey's death. Nearly forty years have now passed since his death; so the difficulties in the way of obtaining additional facts as to his life are easily seen. Quoting mainly from the volume mentioned:

John Jeffrey was a native of Monmouth County, N. Y., where he was born August 26, 1812. The record of his early life is incomplete, but his earliest known occupation was freighting on the Erie Canal, where he was engaged some years, but met with only moderate success. He went to Niagara County, N. Y., in 1836, that section being then in its early days. He bought a considerable tract of land, and for a number of years devoted his time and energies to the improvement and cultivation of his farm. He achieved a success in proportion to his efforts, and accumulated what was then considered a fair competency. In 1853 he visited several of the western states for the purpose of fixing on a suitable field for the development of his plans and projects in life, and finally located a tract of land at the geographical center of Gratiot County, which tract included the present site of the Village of Ithaca. He took possession of his property in 1855, at which date his permanent residence and the improvement of his estate began. In 1856 he platted the Village of Ithaca, and on the third day of March of the same year the board of supervisors established there the county seat. In 1860 the action was re-affirmed.

Mr. Jeffrey's location of land in 1853 included 1,120 acres, and he bought additional tracts up to the time of his death. It was his policy to make sales of land only to actual settlers, to which principle he strictly adhered. At the time of his death he was the proprietor of about 5,000 acres, including choice farming lands and pine lands, and also a considerable portion of the original plat of the Village of Ithaca. At the time Mr. Jeffrey became a resident of the county, the country in every direction was



JOHN JEFFREY.

for miles an unbroken wilderness, and the position in which he found himself was one that required the exercise of untiring energy and exertion. But he possessed an iron constitution, great perseverance and sound judgment which made him equal to the emergency. Doubtless, taken all together, he underwent as much hardship and met as many perplexities as any of the early pioneers of Gratiot County; and to no one of them is the county more indebted for its present remarkable status of advancement and improvement. Prudence, economy, temperance and industry were marked traits of his character; and all the acts of his life were tempered by good judgment, sound sense and consideration for the permanent prosperity and welfare of the community to which he belonged, and of which he was for about twenty years so useful and honored a member.

Mr. Jeffrey died March 5, 1874, at the comparatively early age of less than sixty-two years.

Mr. Jeffrey was married in St. Louis, Mich., December 10, 1868, to Mrs. Louisa (Smith) Baney, who was born in Newfane, Niagara County, N. Y., March 6, 1835, daughter of George and Arvilla (Bromley) Smith. Two sons were born to this union, namely—John, born October 21, 1869, and Ira, born December 24, 1871. John is married to Miss Jennie Bancroft, of Arcada, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Bancroft. They have a son — John Jeffrey. Ira Jeffrey is married to Miss Delilah Wrigley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Wrigley, of Corunna, Mich.

## WILLIAMS.

John R. Williams, now a resident of Ithaca, but for many years a Hamilton Township farmer, was born February 5, 1838, in Jackson Township, Seneca County, Ohio. His educational attainments are such as came to him through the agency of the district school in the log school house. His father, John Williams, was born in Lancaster County, Penn., October 4, 1804. He removed to Seneca County, Ohio, in 1824, settling on a farm in Jackson Township when that country was a wilderness. He helped to organize the township and held various township offices. His father's name was Daniel Williams, born in Pennsylvania in 1767; of Irish and Welch ancestry. He served under Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison in the War of 1812.

John Williams, father of John R., was married in 1834 to Miss Barbara Iler, daughter of John and Magdalene (Switzer) Iler, the former a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1794, the latter a native of Switzerland. Barbara (Iler) Williams was born in Richland County, Ohio, January 19, 1813, removing with her parents to Seneca County in 1825. John Williams and his wife Barbara became the parents of seven children: Reuben was born October 1, 1836, and died at the age of 16; John R., February 5, 1838; Louisa, August 30, 1841; Daniel, May 1, 1844; David, September 15, 1846; Elizabeth, March 13, 1854; Sylvia, October 3, 1856. David Williams enlisted in the 49th Ohio Infantry, September, 1862, and was killed at the Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862. Daniel enlisted at the same time and served three years, taking part in several hard battles. John R. also did military duy, serving in the 164th Ohio Infantry, enlisting May 1, 1863.

John R. Williams was united in marriage to Cecil F. Phelps May 24, 1865, at the home of her parents in Jackson Township, Seneca County, Ohio. Her parents were Roger and Mary (Titus) Phelps. The father was born in New York State, September 1, 1824. The mother was born October 13,

1827, in Huron County, Ohio. They were married May 23, 1846, and to this union were born six children, all girls, as follows: Eugenia, April 20, 1847, died April 10, 1848; Cecil F., June 2, 1848; Ella, August 11, 1854, died January 11, 1861; Ida, December 8, 1857, died August 27, 1858; Frances, November 11, 1860, died December 2, 1860; Eva February 9, 1863. Cecil F. Phelps was born in Laporte, Lorain County, Ohio. When she was six years old her parents moved to Berea, Ohio. When old enough she attended a select school, and afterward the union school, and was a student a year at Baldwin Academy. Her father was a machinist and owned a wooden-bowl factory. Timber becoming scarce he moved his factory and his family, in 1864, from Berea and settled in Seneca County, near Fostoria, where timber at that time was more plentiful. There the mother died January 9, 1867, at the early age of 39 years. The father followed on the 11th day of August, 1870, aged 45 years. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps were members of the M. E. Church, having been converted in early life.

John Williams, father of John R., died June 13, 1882. The mother, Barbara (Iler) Williams, died April 10, 1876.

To Mr. and Mrs. John R. Williams there have been born five children: Mattie V. Williams was born in Ohio, November 26, 1867. She was married December 25, 1892, and lives in Texas. Arthur U. Williams was born July 26, 1869, in Ohio, and was married December 29, 1892, to Edith Ringle, only daughter of J. L. Ringle. He owns and operates the Jake Muffly farm, near Sickels. Two children died in infancy. The third, Wayne, was born September, 1910. Arthur U. Williams has filled several important positions in his township, and is now township clerk. Lettie A. Williams was born July 23, 1872, in Ohio, and was married December 31, 1891, to David H. Boroughf. They reside in Lafayette and have a son, John H., born August 27, 1893, and another, Harold, born March, 1911. Levi E. Williams was born March 24, 1875, in Ohio. He was married September 24, 1897, to Maggie Cusick. To this union there have been two children born—Cecil E., May 4, 1902; Arthur E., May 11, 1907. They reside on his father's farm on section 29, Hamilton. Dema L. Williams was born June 11, 1881, in Hamilton. She was married December 25, 1902, to Herbert L. Ringle, oldest son of J. L. Ringle. Three children have resulted: Merna L., September 14, 1903; Lucile M., September 28, 1905; Kenneth J., November 14, 1907. They reside in Ithaca, where Mr. Ringle has an important and responsible position in the postoffice.

Mrs. Williams has stood shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Williams in his struggles for a home and its comforts, proving a worthy helpmeet under all circumstances. Besides this, she has had cares quite distinctly her own. At the death of her father, her sister Eva, only seven years old, came to live with her. She brought her up and cared for her as one of her own children. At the age of 17 Eva was married to Henry Waggoner. Four children were born and then the young mother died, October 12, 1895, the youngest child, Fern B., being but two years old. Again Mrs. Williams came to the rescue, taking the little girl as her own, rearing her to womanhood and giving her a good education; a teacher herself at the present time. These incidents are but the prominent ones in the history of this worthy couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams met with a change of heart in the winter of 1876, joining the M. E. Church, and they remain devoted members of that denomination. They have been residents of Ithaca about two years—on North Street, east, corner of Union.

## KING.

James P. King, a resident in the northeastern suburbs of Ithaca, was for over 30 years a farmer on section 23 of Arcada, three and one-half miles northwest of Ithaca. He was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, September 1, 1850. His father, Samuel King, was born in April, 1803, in Franklin County, Ohio, and died in April, 1866, when James P., our subject, was 16 years old. The mother, whose maiden name was Mary Moore, was born in April, 1822, in Pennsylvania. She died at her home in Battle Creek, May 22, 1911.

James P. King was married September 1, 1872, in Wood County, Ohio, to Miss Emily L. Burgess, who was born in that county, July 31, 1854. Her parents were Orlin S. and Sarah (Myers) Burgess, the former born in Ashtabula, Ohio, May 20, 1832, the latter born in Steubenville, Ohio, February, 1836. The father now resides in Wood County, Ohio. The mother died February 9, 1908.



JAS. P. KING GROUP—FOUR GENERATIONS.

Mr. and Mrs. King located on their farm, section 23, Arcada, February 7, 1878, and there they remained engaged in the work of clearing and cultivating the farm, and in the course of time, and by industry and perseverance, converting it into one of the best farms in the township, and fitted out with good farm buildings. In November, 1910, they sold the farm and bought a tract of 18½ acres in the northeast suburbs of Ithaca, where they now reside as heretofore stated. On this property they have built a convenient and tasty house, and are enjoying a much more quiet life than is possible for the average tiller of the soil on a large farm. And still with plenty to do to stimulate and encourage, and to keep up an acute interest in life.

Mr. and Mrs. King were the parents of one child—a daughter, Fannie E.—born December 1, 1873. She was married to Daniel H. Fisher April 25, 1890. The names and birth-dates of their children are as follows: Oscar, born June 11, 1891; Carl, born December 25, 1892; Orlin, born July 7,

1895; Emilie Gladys, born March 14, 1897; Janette, born September 30, 1899; Charlotte, born May 23, 1904, died February 12, 1905; Florence Luceil, born November 7, 1906. Mrs. Fannie E. Fisher died November 4, 1911. Oscar Fisher was married November, 1911, to Louise Peters, of Ithaca. Carl was married August 26, 1913, to Vesta Darcus, of Ithaca.

Mr. King and his estimable wife are deservedly popular in their community. Mr. King served the county one term as sheriff. In 1890, when the Patrons of Industry were in the ascendant in the county and decided to take a hand in politics, Mr. King was placed in nomination by them for the office of sheriff. Later the Democrats endorsed, or rather, nominated the entire P. of I. ticket and it was elected, Mr. King getting 3,142 votes to 2,811 for Napoleon B. Bradley. After serving two years and giving excellent satisfaction, he was renominated in 1892. The political pendulum returned to its normal position, however, that fall, and the entire Republican ticket was elected. Since the decline of the Patrons of Industry Mr. King has been identified with the Democratic party.

The group picture represents four generations—Mr. and Mrs. Orlin S. Burgess, parents of Mrs. King, at the front; James P. King and wife, Emily S. (Burgess) King; Mrs. Fannie E. (King) Fisher, in center, and her son Oscar Fisher.

## ALTENBURG.

Isaac L. Altenburg was born near Auburn, De Kalb County, Indiana, June 6, 1844, and is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Latson) Altenburg. His father was a native of New York State and was of Holland ancestry. He followed farming the most of his life. In the fall of 1839 he moved to Union Township, De Kalb County, thus becoming one of the pioneers of the county, the family being the fifth to settle in the township. After spending many years on the farm he moved to Auburn, the county seat, and lived a retired life till his death, which occurred January 18, 1888.

Sarah (Latson) Altenburg, the mother, was a native of Genesee County, Indiana, and was of New England ancestry. She moved to De Kalb County in 1834 where she resided until her death which occurred May 22, 1863.

Isaac L. Altenburg was one of a family of nine sons and daughters, the schedule being made up as follows: Daniel W., long a resident of Gratiot, now deceased; Mary Jane Kepler, of Hamilton, Indiana; Casper, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Henry E., deceased; Isaac L., our subject; Hattie Haines, of Butler, Indiana; William, of Belding, Mich.; Sylvia Bates, of Newark; Frank, of Syracuse, Kansas.

Isaac L. assisted in the work of clearing and cultivating a new farm, taking an active part in all the duties devolving upon farmers in a new country, consequently his educational advantages were limited. In 1864 he enlisted in Company M, First Indiana Heavy Artillery, under Captain Samuel E. Armstrong, Col. Canby commanding the regiment. He saw service at New Orleans and at the taking of Mobile, and was honorably discharged at New Orleans, October 24, 1865, having served a year in the army. Following his discharge he returned home to De Kalb County.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. Altenburg came to Gratiot County, buying 80 acres of land on section 17, Newark Township. Then he began the battle to win a home for himself. In February, 1866, he was married to Maud Eicher, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Eicher, natives of France and Switzerland, respectively. Mrs. Maud Altenburg was born in Fulton

County, Ohio, September 18, 1848. She was the oldest in a family of nine, to-wit: Jacob, now a resident of Newark; Eliza Pulfrey, of Alma; Mary Neil, formerly of Ithaca, now of Hill City, Minn.; Frank Eicher, of Newark; Nancy Brown, Newark; Ida Peters, deceased; Benjamin Eicher, Newark; William Eicher, Middleton. The family removed from Ohio when Maud was a small girl, and settled on a farm in Fulton Township, where they lived three years. They then moved to Newark where they bought 80 acres of land.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Altenburg are three in number: W. Edward Altenburg is married to Sadie Cresswell and resides in Ithaca. W. Frank, who furnishes the data for this sketch, was married April 26, 1902, to Miss Nellie Barnes, daughter of John H. Barnes, of North Shade Township, now residing near Portland, Mich. They—Frank Altenburg and wife—reside on the Newark homestead. Sarah E. Altenburg is married to Henry M. Blackaller. They reside in Ithaca and have a daughter, Maud.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac L. Altenburg lived on their farm, section 17, Newark, 37 years; a period of time that familiarized them with the bright and the dark sides of pioneer life. Many others had more depressing experiences, no doubt, but theirs were sufficient to entitle them to a respite, and they found it finally in the possession of as fine a farm as could be found in the county; productive to a satisfactory degree, and supplied with all the necessary buildings and other conveniences, together with implements and live stock deemed so necessary to the modern and up-to-date farmer. In May, 1903, they moved to Ithaca, leaving their son Frank to conduct the farm. August 3, 1903, the union of many years was broken up by the death of Mrs. Altenburg.

For several years previous to leaving the farm, Mr. Altenburg was engaged in buying and shipping live stock in connection with his farming operations. After removing to Ithaca he devoted his time to the stock-buying business in connection with his son Edward. During the past two or three years his health has been such as to incapacitate him for active business. He has the best wishes of a multitude of friends, who hope for his restoration to good health.

Mr. Altenburg was married, (second), to Mrs. Mary Dillon, of North Star, and after her death he was married, (third), to Mrs. Ida B. Jeffery, his present wife, who was the widow of the late Alonzo Jeffery, and daughter of the late Edward N. DuBois.

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## VANCE.

James G. Vance, late of Ithaca, but now deceased, was for many years a farmer located on section 5, North Star Township. He was born in Perry County, Penn., February 21, 1824. He moved with his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He was married at Delaware, Ohio, October 27, 1850, to Miss Louisa Beard, daughter of Rev. Elijah Beard. To this union there were seven children born. Four died while young. Richard grew to manhood, passing away February 5, 1879. Albert J. is a resident of eastern Ithaca. Whitney E. is a resident of Clare, Mich.

James G. Vance first came to Gratiot County in the summer of 1854, together with his father-in-law, Elijah Beard and his brother-in-law, C. E. Martin, and located land on section 5, North Star. He returned to Ohio, and in February, 1855, brought the families of his brother Thomas and of Rev. Beard. Afterward he again went back to Ohio, and, bringing his own

family and C. E. Martin and family, they began carving out a home in the wilderness of Gratiot. He also aided in clearing the present site of Ithaca. He and his brother Thomas, his father-in-law, Rev. E. Beard, and his brother-in-law, C. E. Martin, cut the first road into Ithaca from the east. He was a Civil War soldier, member of Company K, 16th Mich. Infantry.

In 1887 Mr. Vance left the farm and moved to Ithaca, where he died July 9, 1912, at the age of 88 years, four months and 19 days. His aged wife resides in Ithaca with her oldest living son, Albert J. Vance. Mr. and Mrs. Vance had a taste of all the varied experiences of the pioneers, and lived to enjoy their married life for more than 61 years before death separated them. They were eye-witnesses of the seemingly almost miraculous changes brought about in the 60 years of their lives as citizens of the county; and they did their share, as such citizens, to bring about the great transformation.

Albert J. Vance was married in 1888 to Cora E. Holland, of Montcalm County. Eight children have been born to them: Elza died in infancy; Ethel (Vance) Marlin lives in Vestaburg, and has a daughter, Naomi; Earl W., employed in the Herald office; Edith; Bessie; Edward; Mildred; Lula; Marie.

Whitney E. Vance married Floy Gibson. They have three daughters—Beulah, Velma and Marguerite.

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**Orville M. Wood** was a pioneer who helped to make history in at least three different townships in Gratiot's early days. He was on hand at the beginning, and was elected the first county clerk—November, 1855—without opposition, receiving the entire 284 votes. The next spring—1856—he was elected the first clerk of Newark. In April, 1857, he appeared over in Hamilton where he was elected supervisor, justice of the peace and school inspector. In April, 1858, he was the losing candidate for clerk in Emerson Township. In the meantime, in November, 1856, he was defeated for re-election as county clerk, by Henry Smith, of Pine River.

**John W. Howd** settled with his family of two sons and three daughters on section 18, North Star Township in 1855, having purchased the tract the previous year. He was one of those who organized the township. In the '70s he removed to Ithaca where he was variously engaged, and where he died May 5, 1886, aged 74 years. His wife, Elizabeth J. Howd, survived until March 13, 1910, passing away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Laura Everett, at the extreme age of 98 years.

**Henry P. Howd** settled in Fulton Township in 1855, and took an active part in business and politics from the first, being elected supervisor in 1857. In the fall of 1862 he was elected register of deeds and again in 1864. A popular and useful citizen he passed away at Ithaca September 10, 1883, aged 65 years. His widow died April 6, 1885.

**Franklin Miller,** who was the first lawyer to settle in Gratiot County, and the first prosecuting attorney, was born in Seneca County, N. Y., March 13, 1833. He arrived in the county but a few days previous to the election, coming overland from Lansing on foot. In 1856 he was a candidate for re-election against Benjamin Crawford, and though beaten in the vote he was given the election, for the reason that Mr. Crawford had not been admitted to the bar, and was, therefore, ineligible. In 1859 Mr. Miller went west, returning to Gratiot in 1871. In 1882 he again went west, settling in Spokane and a few years later was gathered to his fathers. He was a man of good ability but unfortunately his ideas on the question of

temperance were such as to mar his usefulness. He was the third postmaster at Ithaca, and is given the credit of aiding John Jeffery in giving the town its name.

**James W. Howd** was well known to most of Gratiot County people for many years. He was son of John W. Howd, coming to Gratiot in 1855. He was in the military service in the Civil War, a member of Company D, 1st Mich. Cavalry, serving three years. Retiring from the service he settled in Ithaca where he spent the remainder of his life engaged in real estate, insurance and abstract work, also serving in various official capacities—under-sheriff under Sheriff Bailey, deputy county clerk under Clerks Nathan Church and Wm. B. Scattergood, and as justice of the peace many years. He died November 7, 1911, aged 70 years, leaving a wife who is a daughter of the late Wm. Moyer, of Alma, and two sons—James and Arlie. A daughter, Lois, who was married to Charles A. Price, died February 26, 1893, aged 22; mourned by a host of friends.

**William B. Scattergood,** son of Joshua Scattergood who died in Ithaca August 18, 1886, at the age of 72, settled in St. Johns in 1866, and in Ithaca in 1872. In 1874 he was elected county clerk and was re-elected in '76 and '78, afterward being employed as cashier in the bank of Church, Bills & Co. He served officially in village and township, being chosen president of the Village of Ithaca in 1885 and '88. May 31, 1876, he was married to Julia E., daughter of Rev. Lafayette Church, and several children have been born to them. Mr. Scattergood has been for some years a resident of Petoskey, Mich.

**Schuyler W. Ambler** came to St. Louis in the fall of 1869, the following winter teaching the village school, Pine River side. He then entered the store of H. Harrington as salesman. In 1872 he was elected village president, and in January, 1873, removed to Ithaca, where he served as deputy county treasurer. In 1874 he was elected county treasurer and was re-elected in 1876. He served the Village of Ithaca as president in 1875, '76, '77 and '78. Aside from his official activities he was engaged in real estate, insurance, loan and abstract business many years. His death occurred October 8, 1888, at the age of 62 years. He was an upright, conscientious citizen and possessed of good ability; exceptionally popular with all classes. His widow, Mrs. Charlotte M. Ambler, died October 5, 1895, at the age of 63 years. She was a woman greatly beloved by all her acquaintances.

**Charles E. Williams** was an early attorney at Ithaca, elected prosecuting attorney in 1872; defeated at the previous general election by two votes, by James K. Wright.

**J. Wilson Caldwell,** attorney, was the Republican candidate for prosecuting attorney in 1876, but suffered defeat. He had previously been principal of the Ithaca schools.

**Daniel Taylor,** in company with Gen. Nathan Church, in 1866, bought the material used in the publication of the Gratiot News, which paper had been dead a few weeks, and commenced the publication of the Gratiot County Journal, a paper still published at the county seat and still very much alive. Mr. Taylor continued its publisher until 1872 when he sold it to Robert Smith, and went west for his health. He died at Riverside, California, June 15, 1886, aged 52 years.

**Samuel N. Miller,** in company with Robert Sutton, founded the Gratiot News, at Ithaca, in 1858; the first newspaper in the county. Mr. Miller sold the paper in the autumn of the same year to Wm. W. Comstock. January 27, 1868, Mr. Miller passed to his long rest at the age of 31 years. (See sketch of Mrs. Elizabeth Myers.)

**Ira Van Buskirk** was a popular early hotel man in Ithaca. His sons—George, William and Fred—have all been useful citizens in the community, and all have held responsible official positions—George as register of deeds elected in 1880; William as highway commissioner many years, and Fred as village president in 1907, '09, '10 and '11.

**William Marlow** served the county several terms as county superintendent of the poor, and died August 4, 1884, aged 68 years. Andrew J. Utley was elected prosecuting attorney in 1868, served one term and then went west.

**Alfred A. Wood** came to Ithaca in 1870 and was a very popular citizen and official several years, serving as village marshal, deputy sheriff under Sheriff Pratt, and under-sheriff under Sheriff Patch. In 1880 he was elected sheriff, serving one term, being defeated for a second term by K. P. Peet, Fusion candidate, with a repetition of the act in 1884. He was postmaster more than six years, a Civil War veteran; changed his residence to Kansas and died in that state March 2, 1888, aged 49 years.

Jesse O. and Ralph E. Pettit have served Ithaca in various capacities, the former (whose sketch appears elsewhere) as marshal and the latter as trustee, treasurer and marshal; Alvin D. Pettit, an old-time Ithaca newspaper man, served as postmaster in President McKinley's administration; afterward migrated to Houghton County and was sent to the legislature two terms; Marion R. Pettit, an old soldier, and well-known police officer who died April 2, 1894, aged 48; Perry D. Pettit whose sketch appears elsewhere; George B. Pettit who died in Benton Harbor, September 26, 1894, aged 41; all these Pettits are sons of Melancton Pettit, first supervisor of Emerson. Mrs. Cenah Crandall, wife of Dr. Chas. H. Crandall, of St. Louis, is their sister. Few families have shown up better. Gilbert C. Smith came to Gratiot in 1867 and to Ithaca in 1875; a prominent man in business and official life many years, now a resident of California. Dr. John H. DeMay commenced his medical practice in Ithaca in 1879, moving in the early '90s to Jackson, Mich., where he still resides. John Kinkerter, Sr., died August 2, 1882, aged 76, his wife passing away February 24, 1890, aged 79. Their sons John, Henry and Fred, have been active factors in the promotion of Ithaca's growth and prosperity. James L. Clark served in various capacities, the most important being that of prosecuting attorney, elected in 1884. Now a resident of Chicago. James Clarke was elected prosecuting attorney in 1890, serving one term; died at his home in Elba, June 26, 1906, aged 66. Samuel J. Thoenen was one of the sturdy and upright citizens of Ithaca engaged in various activities, and entrusted with important official duties. His death occurred January 29, 1898, at the age of 67 years. Josiah P. Whitman came to Ithaca in the fall of 1865. He has been an active and enterprising business citizen in a variety of ways, and has enjoyed the confidence of his townsmen, who have called him to various official positions. Marvin R. Salter, attorney, in the past 30 years, has passed through most of the official grades in village, township and county, and with general satisfaction to the public. His most important official experiences have been as village president and clerk, township supervisor, county clerk, prosecuting attorney, and for many years county agent. John L. Sinclair came to St. Louis in 1866, and to Ithaca in 1873, and besides leading an active business life has found time to serve as village clerk five terms, and register of deeds two terms, being elected in 1882 and '84; not bad for a Democrat in a Republican community.

John W. Lewis came to Ithaca in 1877 to take the position of cashier in the newly organized bank of Church, Bills & Co. Three years later he took a similar position in the bank of Steel, Turck & Co. He served five years as village treasurer, and was an active and reliable member of the community. He removed to Saginaw and later to California. William F. Thompson came to Ithaca in 1882 and was engaged in the manufacture of butter tubs on a large scale. Since he disposed of his business to the Armour Co. he has devoted his spare time to financial interests, principally as president of the Ithaca Savings Bank. Alvedo S. Barber came to Ithaca in 1873 and has ever since been actively identified with the town's business interests as a merchant. Officially he has served with fidelity in many positions, such as village treasurer, councilman, school director, etc. Merritt H. Waterbury and his cousin, Chauncey Waterbury, came to Ithaca in 1888 and succeeded to the real estate, insurance and abstract business of their cousin, S. W. Ambler, continuing the same until their deaths, the former passing away March 9, 1899, aged 60; the latter January 2, 1900, aged 63; both very popular as neighbors and business men. Wolf Netzorg, a popular merchant in Ithaca from 1877 until his death, May 18, 1909; first as a member of the firm of Yesner & Netzorg up to 1883, after that time by himself. William A. Leet, elected prosecutor in 1892 and '94, village president in 1903, postmaster in President Roosevelt's first term. Lothrop M. Lyon, township treasurer, justice of the peace and village marshal. Harvey R. Munson, county treasurer in 1906 and '08, supervisor of Newark, treasurer and councilman of Ithaca; died April 9, 1913, aged 53 years. Julius B. Kirby, prosecuting attorney in 1900, Progressive candidate for attorney general of the state in 1912. Frank P. Merrill, Ithaca supervisor, and active in new court house construction. George Richardson, an old soldier, came to Lafayette in 1865, and to Ithaca in 1872, in 1875 erecting the first brick building in Ithaca—the present T. A. Goodwin drug store. E. Bradford Kille, sheriff in 1904 and '06. Frank L. Convis, sheriff in 1908, and Democratic candidate for state senator in 1912. Rev. John E. Long, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Ithaca from 1880 to 1896, was an honest, sincere man, highly regarded by all. He died May 18, 1907, aged 75. James P. Gibbs, township treasurer and clerk, village president and clerk, active in banking and telephone affairs. William H. Beasley, "the marrying justice", now serving his fourth term. Elisha McCall, a well-known and popular attorney many years. Adelbert P. Lane, county treasurer at present, and connected with village, township and county as an official most of the time since 1886. Byron H. Sawyer, a popular lawyer and former prosecuting attorney. E. Bradford Kille, former sheriff and hustling citizen.

A few more of those whose names come readily to mind as having rendered conspicuous service in capacities more or less important may be mentioned as follows: M. Foster Chafey, banker and village official; Jonathan Gidley, trustee, treasurer and justice; Orlin H. Heath, village president; Frank H. Horr, trustee and village president; James B. Crawford, banker, manufacturer, village president; H. Chauncey Barstow, banker, supervisor, village president; Charles A. Price, banker and treasurer; George M. Whitman, supervisor and treasurer; Egbert R. Van Duzer, clerk and treasurer; Theodore Ryckman, councilman; John W. Kernen, supervisor; Charles Kernen, councilman; Edward Hannah, president; Henry McCormack, general merchant; Amos I. Ewen, councilman; Nathan G. Sutliff; George Randall; Ira Bovee; Theodore S. Barnes; Henry E. Lewis; Chas.

P. Yost; Charles T. Rogers; Charles W. Coleman; Edward D. Hamilton; H. B. Wells; Frank Munson; Hugh J. Packer; Hart Baker; John A. Hart.

With no desire to shut out any good citizen from this list, the "polls" must be closed.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Ambler, Irvin S.,** Nov. 15, 1877, aged 19 years; son of S. W. Ambler, prominent as county treasurer, and in other positions.

**Ackerson, Wm. ("Uncle Billy"),** June 13, 1896, at the extreme age of nearly 101 years.

**Altenburg, Mrs. Maud,** wife of Isaac L. Altenburg, and daughter of the late Joseph Eicher, of Newark, August 3, 1903.

**Althouse, Clarence W.,** at his home in Detroit, July 27, 1904, aged 50. He was for many years in the stave manufacturing business in Ithaca and St. Louis. His mills were directly responsible for the distribution of untold thousands of dollars among the people of Gratiot County, for timber and for labor.

**Allen, Ira S.,** January 28, 1905, aged 61. He came with his parents in 1855 to Emerson Township where he lived the most of his years, removing to Ithaca a few years before his death. He could count his friends by the score.

**Allen, Mrs. Ellen B.** (Ingledue), wife of Edward Allen, April 12, 1912, aged 69. An esteemed resident of Emerson many years.

**Allen, Edward,** at his home in Ithaca, Dec. 10, 1912, aged 68 years. Mrs. Allen died April, 1912. They came to Gratiot in 1880, settling in Emerson where they lived until the fall of 1911, when they removed to Ithaca. They left four sons, and many friends.

**Allen, Ransom,** suddenly, Nov. 8, 1913, aged 80 years. He settled in Emerson with his father's family in 1854. He was the last remaining son of Isaiah Allen, his brothers, Philip, Parks, Isaiah Jr., and Ira, all having passed on before. He was a citizen held in high esteem.

**Barber, Mrs. Cyrus R.,** Nov. 9, 1886, at the home of her son, Alvedo S. Barber, aged 67 years.

**Barber, Cyrus R.,** at the home of his son, Alvedo S. Barber, April 7, 1889, aged 69 years.

**Brown, Mrs. Fannie S.,** Aug. 24, 1889, aged 57 years; wife of Merritt J. Brown and mother of Chas. M. and Fred S. Brown, of Ithaca.

**Bovee, Mrs. Ira,** Sept. 9, 1889, aged 36.

**Beckwith, Mrs. Alvin C.,** March 18, 1890, aged 65.

**Burhans, Mrs.,** mother of G. T. and A. J. Brown, aged about 80.

**Barber, Roscoe Swift,** son of A. S. Barber, of Ithaca, died at Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 23, 1902, aged 24. He had been employed as a salesman about a year at Little Rock.

**Bovee, Mrs. Philena,** wife of Elijah Bovee and sister of the late B. F. Myers, of Ithaca, Feb. 25, 1904, aged 66.

**Beebe, Lewis L.,** Aug. 12, 1896, aged 76. An old resident of Emerson and Arcada.

**Barnes, Mrs. Albert W.,** March 13, 1903, aged 46.

**Bancroft, Marcus,** Sept. 21, 1906, aged 72. Settled on section 13, Arcada, in 1866. He served as a soldier in the Civil War.

**Bovee, Albert,** July 11, 1907, aged 72. Settled in Washington Township in 1858, was a leading citizen, holding several official positions, including treasurer three terms. A Civil War veteran.

**Brown, Merritt J.,** Sept. 8, 1904, aged 78. A soldier in the Civil War; came to Ithaca in 1865; father of Chas. M. and Fred S. Brown.

**Beckwith, Alvin C.,** Oct. 27, 1904, aged 82; an esteemed resident of Gratiot since 1878.

**Bancroft, George T.,** at the home of his daughter in Grand Rapids, Dec. 18, 1908, aged 60. A resident of Ithaca from 1879. Mrs. Bancroft passed away in February, 1906.

**Balch, Mrs. Fred W.,** Oct. 4, 1910, at her home in Three Rivers, Mich. Residents and in mercantile trade in Ithaca several years.

**Brown, Giles T.,** May 20, 1903, aged 66. Head of county school system many years; justice of the peace, village president, superintendent of the poor, judge of probate, state senator. (See sketch.)

**Bills, Oscar P.,** at his home in Philadelphia, Dec. 1, 1911, aged about 70. A resident of Ithaca in the '70s, member of the banking firm of Church, Bills & Co. An energetic, genial citizen, much respected.

**Baker, Chas. H.,** March 14, 1911, aged 60. A competent and popular architect and builder.

**Bell, David,** at the home of his son Frank, Ithaca, March 26, 1911, aged 85. A pioneer of North Star Township.

**Baker, Mrs. Mary Ann,** wife of Marcus D. Baker, and mother of Chas. H., Lorenzo D. and B. Hart Baker, Feb. 5, 1912, aged 81 years. A respected resident of the county since 1882.

**Beechler, J. Sidney,** March 16, 1912, aged 56 years. Son of Rev. Jacob L. Beechler who helped to organize Newark Township and who was its first supervisor. Deceased had been an esteemed citizen of Ithaca about six years.

**Beckwith, Chas. L.,** at Lansing, July 6, 1912, aged 52. Son of the late Wm. C. Beckwith, prominent in Gratiot County many years.

**Botroff, Mrs. Mary,** at the home of her son John, Jan. 17, 1913, aged 85. Burial in Olive, Clinton County, by the side of her husband.

**Barnes, Theoodre S.,** suddenly, in the court house while attending as a spectator, November 19, 1913, aged 72 years. Was an old soldier, a resident of Ithaca over 30 years and had many friends.

**Cady, Harvey J.,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Fox, January 8, 1891, aged about 55.

**Carter, Mrs. Bradford,** January 22, 1893, aged about 55. A lady with many friends.

**Comstock, Wm. W.,** April 10, 1902, aged 79. A pioneer of Washington and Ithaca. (See sketch.)

**Creasinger, Solomon P.,** in California, January, 1907, aged 64. A former energetic resident of Fulton, Maple Rapids and Ithaca.

**Coleman, Mrs. Minerva J.,** wife of Oscar A. Coleman, Nov. 10, 1908, aged 70. For 25 years an esteemed resident of Gratiot.

**Cole, Mrs. Melissa A.,** wife of Seth R. Cole; settled in Arcada in 1868, removing to Ithaca in 1888.

**Colwell, David G.,** May 27, 1909, aged 33. A popular dentist who settled in Ithaca in 1900; village treasurer in 1905.

**Carter, Bradford,** Oct. 27, 1909, aged 72. An old soldier who settled in St. Louis in 1880, removing to Ithaca seven years later.

**Cady, Mrs. Frances,** March 25, 1910, aged nearly 60. Esteemed wife of Chas. L. Cady; settled in St. Louis in 1866, later removing to Ithaca.

**Church, Edgar N.,** in North Yakami, Wash., Dec. 9, 1907, aged 33. Youngest son of Gen. Nathan Church; a popular and worthy young man; village clerk in 1906.

**Carr, Wm. A.,** at the Soldiers' Home, Grand Rapids, Dec. 7, 1910, aged 66. An Ithaca carpenter many years, coming to Gratiot in 1866.

**Coles, Mrs. Robert,** Oct. 2, 1912. A popular music teacher many years.

**Cass, Mrs. Clara A.,** wife of Sam. H. Cass, March 19, 1911, aged 52. They settled in Lafayette in 1881; residents of Ithaca about nine years.

**Carothers, Daniel,** April 12, 1911, aged 78. An old soldier, settling in Washington at the close of the war, later residing in Emerson, North Star and Hamilton.

**Clark, Ellsworth L.,** at his home in Ithaca, Dec. 10, 1912, aged 52. He had been a resident of Ithaca about 15 years, and was widely known as a breeder of draft horses. He had many friends.

**Cady, Chas. L.,** at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fay Hall, in Pontiac, Dec. 29, 1912, aged about 75. He was an early settler of Gratiot, first at St. Louis, later removing to Ithaca, where he was in business many years as a tinsmith and hardware man; a genial and popular citizen. His wife passed away March, 1910.

**Covert, Mrs.,** wife of Dennis T. Covert, died at her home in Ovid, January, 1913. She had a host of friends in Ithaca where they resided several years as proprietors of the Retan House, now called the Mathews House, and out of commission.

**Chalker, Mrs. Mary,** died at her home in Ithaca, Feb. 9, 1913, aged 79 years. An estimable pioneer whose death was greatly regretted.

**Crawford, Herbert J.,** August 12, 1913, aged 46 years. A resident of Ithaca since 1883. His death was greatly regretted by many friends.

**Dale, John P.,** January 5, 1907, aged 74. A man of much energy and with positive convictions, identified with various business interests in Ithaca for 21 years.

**Daniels, Theo. O.,** Sept. 19, 1907, aged 76. An old soldier; settled in Newark in 1861, later removing to Fulton and still later to Ithaca.

**Depue, Miss Julia,** Dec. 10, 1908, aged 45. A lady beloved by many friends.

**Daniels, Jas. R.,** February 16, 1908, at an advanced age. A man of high character who bore severe bodily afflictions with patience.

**Doty, Mrs. Julia,** wife of Elwood F. Doty, Nov. 5, 1908, aged 66. A lady highly esteemed.

**Doty, Elwood F.,** January 12, 1909, aged 67. An active and popular citizen, a useful factor in the village government and in society generally.

**De Peel, Mrs. Calista,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. M. Brown, Dec. 17, 1909, aged 85 years. She and her husband, Michael De Peel, settled in Emerson in 1866, Mr. De Peel passing away in 1880.

**Davis, Jerry,** at the home of his son John in Mesick, Mich., where he was visiting, Dec. 22, 1910, aged 67. He had been a resident of Marion, Mich., about six years. He was for many years one of the best-known citizens of Gratiot; 18 years keeper of the county farm, having previously been keeper of the poor farm in Midland county. He was of an active, aggressive and determined nature, and while making some enemies he also made many friends, and his sudden death was much regretted. Funeral and burial at Ithaca.

**Dalrymple, Mrs. Edwin,** at her home in Falmouth, Mich., May 3, 1912. Many years an esteemed resident of Ithaca.

**Donaldson, Mrs. Martha Jane,** wife of James Donaldson, Feb. 14, 1913, at the age of 80 years. An estimable resident of Ithaca since 1866. (See sketch of Jas. Donaldson).

**Eaton, Dr. Richard J.,** January 2, 1902, aged 87. A kindly man, though somewhat eccentric.

**Everden, Mrs. Harriet J.,** widow of the late Oscar A. Everden, at the home of her son, John M., Dec. 29, 1907, aged 80. (See sketch of J. M. Everden.)

**Eldredge, Ellsworth,** at his home in Saginaw, Nov. 10, 1909, aged 49. Popular, first as a stage driver between St. Johns and St. Louis, and later as a business man of Ithaca.

**Fuller, Mrs. Sarah A. (Shupe),** wife of Ellis H. Fuller, at her home in Ithaca, Oct. 17, 1912, at the age of 52 years. An early settler in North Star and an estimable lady.

**Fairbank, Orin M.,** at his home in Ithaca, Oct. 3, 1913, aged 84, leaving wife and ten children. An esteemed resident of North Star Township over 30 years.

**Greenley, Wesley,** July 2, 1897, aged 76; resided near Ithaca.

**Gwinner, Adam,** January 10, 1901, aged 79. Settled on his farm in the eastern part of Ithaca in 1882.

**Glidden, Rev. N. D.,** June 9, 1902, aged 72; esteemed Presbyterian minister, formerly a Congregational minister.

**Gray, Erastus,** at the home of his son Eli W., Aug. 4, 1905, aged 86. His aged wife died a few months previously.

**Gibbs, Andrew N.,** Oct. 18, 1906, aged 55. A respected citizen who came to Ithaca about 1870.

**Gregory, Cyrenus,** Jan. 24, 1900, aged 82. An upright citizen who could count on all acquaintances as friends.

**Gibbs, Ezra,** March 25, 1903, aged nearly 80. A respected resident of the county 34 years.

**Goodwin, Abel,** Nov. 16, 1904, aged 82. Had been a resident of Ithaca 10 years, coming with his sons, Frank and Charles. A man of energy and integrity.

**Goodwin, Dr. Charles,** May 27, 1910, aged nearly 50. He came to Ithaca in 1894 and engaged in the drug trade with his brother Frank W. In 1906 he removed to Shepherd, continuing in the practice of medicine begun at Ithaca. His health failing and finding his case critical, he came back to Ithaca a few weeks before his death, and died at the home of his brother, Frank W. A man of superior intelligence, genial and companionable.

**Goodwin, Frank W.,** Aug. 14, 1912, aged 58. A druggist of Ithaca since 1894; a conscientious, reliable and popular citizen.

**Guiwits, Josiah,** at the home of his son Byron, Ithaca, March 30, 1911, aged 87. A respected veteran of the Civil War.

**Greer, James W.,** Nov. 2, 1912, aged 54. He was born in Newark Township, son of the late Joseph Greer. He was known locally as "Governor" Greer.

**Heslin, Mrs.,** wife of John C. Heslin, May 22, 1887, aged about 45. Mr. Heslin, an old soldier, was an early resident of Washington Township, and its supervisor several years.

**Hunt, Mrs. Lebius L. B. Hunt,** March 28, 1890, aged about 55.

**Hunt, Lebius L. B.,** at his home in Lansing, Dec. 9, 1911, aged 80 years. An old soldier and a well-known citizen of Ithaca many years and held in high esteem.

**Hunt, Erastus,** Dec. 19, 1891, aged about 65. One of Emersons earliest pioneers, and a man of good standing.

**Harpham, Geo. S.,** Dec. 13, 1890, aged 68; a veteran of the Civil War and a pioneer.

**Hiffner, Levi R.,** May 2, 1896, at Grand Rapids. A pioneer of North Star and a resident of Ithaca many years.

**Hiffner, Mrs. May,** Dec. 21, 1898, aged 37; the estimable wife of Elmer N. Hiffner, and daughter of Samuel R. Stephens.

**Hiffner, John,** Oct. 30, 1901, aged 81. A respected and upright citizen of North Star and Ithaca for 36 years.

**Hiffner, Jacob R.,** May 13, 1910, aged 83. A man of sound and reliable principles, resident here since 1864.

**Hilbourn, Chas. S.,** January 25, 1901, at his home in Muskegon. Publisher of the Gratiot Democrat at Ithaca in the late '70s and early '80s; father of the well-known printer W. L. Hilbourn.

**Hall, Dr. O. S.,** Dec. 22, 1902, aged 78. Came to Gratiot in 1867 and conducted a drug store several years in connection with his practice. Adverse circumstances greatly darkened and saddened his later years.

**Hamilton, C. Will,** Aug. 29, 1903, aged 53. An energetic and progressive dentist.

**Hill, Mrs.,** wife of Henry C. Hill, Jan. 25, 1906, aged 54, and esteemed by many friends.

**Hill, Henry C.,** Jan. 19, 1909, aged 62. A resident of Ithaca 17 years, connected with the management of the stave manufacturing business of his brother-in-law, C. W. Althouse. An energetic and useful citizen.

**Hood, Mrs. Elizabeth,** widow of the late Lewis Hood, 1907, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jas. P. Gibbs, Ithaca.

**Hasse, Frederick L. T.,** Nov. 26, 1908, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Chas. G. Graham, Ithaca, aged 72; a man of genial disposition, resident of Ithaca 22 years.

**Hart, Mrs. Sarah Jane,** wife of John A. Hart, at her home in Clare County, March 9, 1911, aged 69. A respected resident of Ithaca many years. Six sons acted as pall-bearers at her funeral in Ithaca.

**Hart, John A.,** at Grand Rapids, Oct. 4, 1912, aged 73 years. He was a respected citizen of Ithaca many years, holding the offices of constable, village marshal and justice of the peace several terms. A veteran of the Civil War, member of the 182nd Ohio Infantry. His wife died March 9, 1911. Six sons and two daughters survive the parents.

**Harmon, J. L.,** Jan. 10, 1913, aged 83 years. A respected old settler, and an earnest leader in the Adventist Church.

**Huffman, Jacob,** April 23, 1913, aged 79 years. An old resident of Gratiot, settling here in 1867. He was three times married—first to Lydia Vaughn, second to Mrs. Catharine Pettit; third to Mrs. Thompson who survives him. He leaves two sons and many friends.

**Heath, Orlin H.,** suddenly, at his home in Ithaca, April 24, 1913, aged nearly 77 years. He came to Ithaca in 1886, and was for many years engaged in the hardware trade, latterly in company with his sons, Elmer J. and Miles E. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a Mason of high degree, and a citizen held in high respect by his fellow-citizens. He served as president of Ithaca Village in 1889, and held other positions of responsibility. His devoted wife survives; also his two sons above mentioned.

**Hasse, Mrs. Henrietta (Twining),** widow of the late F. L. T. Hasse, August 4, 1913, aged 73 years; at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles G. Graham.

**Iles, Rollin E.,** June 15, 1892, aged about 35. A worthy citizen with many friends.

**Johnson, Harvey,** Aug. 14, 1876, aged 22; son of Abram H. Johnson.

**Johnson, Mrs. Minnie,** wife of Daniel C. Johnson, April 15, 1879, aged 42.

**Johnson, J. R.,** July 28, 1885, aged 69.

**Johnson, Mrs. Susan,** wife of Abram H. Johnson, September 10, 1895, aged 70. A lady of refinement and beloved by all her acquaintances.

**Johnson, Abram H.,** June, 1908, aged 83; at the home of his daughter Mrs. D. S. Parker, of Emerson. He came to Ithaca in 1873 and was rated as one of its best citizens. He was street commissioner several years.

**Jackson, Andrew,** at his home in Ithaca, Dec. 28, 1910, aged 57.

**Jordan, Oliver,** at Brainerd's Hospital, Alma, May 29, 1911, aged 52. He had been a resident of Ithaca about 20 years, and was highly esteemed as a citizen and business man.

**Kimball, John H.,** January 15, 1886, aged 75. A Civil War veteran; an attorney of good ability, but unfortunately, "his own worst enemy."

**Knapp, Mrs. Malinda,** Jan. 20, 1886, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. S. W. Ambler; aged 90 years.

**Kellogg, Mrs. Adaline L.,** wife of E. W. Kellogg, March 28, 1896, aged 78. They settled in Newark in 1855, and were prominent pioneers.

**Kinney, Lorenzo L.,** Dec. 22, 1910, aged about 60. A resident of Hamilton several years, son of the late John G. Kinney, of Newark, and very much respected.

**Knowlton, Mrs. J. B.,** at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. M. B. Jackson, May 14, 1912, aged 62.

**Lane, Mrs. Rachel,** Oct. 6, 1879, aged 83, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. C. Beckwith.

**Lyon, Julius E.,** Aug. 14, 1881, aged 34. A man of good standing, whose early death was greatly regretted. He left a wife and two children.

**Lawrence, Mrs. Alice,** wife of Geo. A. Lawrence and daughter of Ahram H. Johnson, all of Ithaca; July 13, 1889, aged 39.

**Lignian, G. L.,** March 14, 1892, aged 76.

**Lyon, Mrs. Lois,** lamented wife of L. M. Lyon, Nov. 14, 1893, aged 75.

**Lignian, Geo. A.,** Aug. 14, 1897, suddenly, aged about 50. A well-known and popular tailor.

**Lawrence, Geo. A.,** many years one of Ithaca's first-class citizens, Aug. 29, 1906, at a hospital in Toledo, aged about 55.

**Long, Rev. John E.,** May 18, 1907, aged 74 years. He had been pastor of the Ithaca Presbyterian Church from 1880 to 1896. He was a minister of fair ability, strict integrity and undoubted sincerity, and could count all acquaintances as personal friends.

**Lewis, Mrs. Ida (Fox),** at her home in Saginaw, September 12, 1909; wife of John W. Lewis, many years a well-known Ithaca banker.

**Long, Mrs. Helen A.,** widow of the late Rev. J. E. Long, Dec. 13, 1911, aged 70 years. Mrs. Long, who had resided in Ithaca 31 years, was held in the highest esteem by all.

**Lance, Jas. S.,** at his home, June 22, 1912, aged 75 years. A sturdy pioneer who settled in Fulton in 1865, afterward removing to North Star and to Ithaca in 1909.

**Marlow, Mrs. Wm.,** Aug. 10, 1877, aged 65. Wife of Wm. Marlow, superintendent of the poor several years.

**Moss, Rev. Z. F.,** Sept. 3, 1881, at his home east of Ithaca, aged 68.

**McMannis, Jas. N.,** April 6, 1892, aged 60. An old soldier, and commander of Moses Wisner Post at the time of his death.

**McCall, Mrs. J. N.,** March 31, 1893, aged 33. Beloved by a large circle of friends.

**Montague, Mrs. Amelia,** wife of Ira W. Montague, Aug. 3, 1894, aged 56. First-class citizens locating in Fulton in 1867.

**McAdam, Andrew,** Dec. 12, 1898, aged 65. Formerly a resident of Pompeii, but more recently residing in Emerson.

**Moye, Albert A.,** Oct. 19, 1898, at the age of 65 years.

**McCall, Elisha,** Jan. 26, 1901, aged 65 years. He was for many years one of Gratiot County's leading attorneys, and was connected with many important cases. He was the Democratic candidate for prosecuting attorney in 1864, '66, '78 and '94. He was elected circuit court commissioner in 1862 on a union ticket.

**McMullen, Harry G.,** May 20, 1904, at the age of 30 years; a popular salesman and an exemplary young man, leaving a wife, a son and a host of friends.

**Medley, Chas. H.,** March 4, 1905, aged 71. A shoemaker by trade and a genial, popular citizen.

**Moore, Jas.,** Oct. 30, 1905, aged 67. An old soldier, resident of Ithaca 20 years, selling agricultural implements and in other business enterprises. Established the original electric lighting plant in Ithaca.

**Murray, Geo.,** June 12, 1907, aged 70; well and favorably known as a skilled carpenter.

**Morse, Mrs. Olivia J.,** wife of Victor C. Morse, March 5, 1910, at the age of 35 years. A bright and popular lady sincerely mourned by the entire community.

**Miller, Mrs. Mary Ann,** widow of Wm. H. Miller, at the home of her son, Z. E. Miller, Ithaca, April 6, 1911, aged 87.

**Myers, Benjamin Franklin,** at his home in Ithaca, Aug. 8, 1911, aged nearly 81. He came to Gratiot in 1866, settling in North Star, and removing to Ithaca in 1881. A man of integrity and many other commendable traits.

**Moye, Mrs. Louisa,** widow of Albert A. Moye, at the home of her daughter Mrs. Joseph Hass, Durand, Dec. 27, 1911, aged 71. Funeral and burial at Ithaca, her residence for many years.

**Myers, Mrs. Josephine,** wife of John W. Myers, March 22, 1912, after a short illness. A multitude of friends deplored the early death of this worthy young woman.

**McIntire, Jesse, suddenly,** at the Comstock farm two miles north of Ithaca, Aug. 5, 1912, at the age of 75 years. He was principal of the Ithaca schools in 1874, and conducted the drug business in the Geo. Richardson brick store in the early '90s.

**Mathews, Stanley Roberts,** Feb. 1, 1913, aged 25 years. The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Mathews. A fine young man whose early death was greatly deplored by the entire community. (See sketch of John T. Mathews.

**Nelson, Arthur,** Oct. 26, 1911, while in the U. S. military service in the Philippines, at the age of 28 years. Oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Nelson. The remains were brought to Ithaca and interred in the Ithaca cemetery, January 17, 1912.

**Newman, Job,** at the home of Mrs. Fred Kelly, a sister-in-law, one mile north of Ithaca, Nov. 5, 1913, aged 80 years. An upright and reliable citizen.

**Orbison, Henry B.,** Dec. 7, 1900, aged 55 years. Many years the railroad station agent and very popular.

**Orbison, Mrs. H. B.,** Feb. 22, 1903, aged 51; the estimable wife of the late Henry B. Orbison.

**Older, Rev. Geo.,** at the home of his son-in-law, Fremont Bovee, about February 1, 1904, aged 79. An acceptable minister in the United Brethren Church, many years at North Star.

**Older, Mrs. Geo.,** Jan. 15, 1904, aged 82; at the home of her son-in-law, Fremont Bovee.

**Oakes, J. Henry,** March 15, 1905, at the age of 61 years. He was deputy sheriff and turnkey under Sheriff Pettit, and was justice of the peace at the time of his death.

**Overmire, Mrs. Anson K.,** Aug. 29, 1912. Residents of Ithaca since 1906, coming from Newark where they settled in 1883.

**Otto, Mrs. Hannah M. (Lepley),** widow of former county treasurer, John W. Otto, at her home in Ithaca, Nov. 14, 1912, at the age of 66 years. She came to Gratiot with her parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Lepley, in 1854. She was survived by three children—Geo. S. and C. F. Otto, of Perrinton, and Mrs. Cora Broughton, of Ithaca.

**Pattengill, Rev. L. C.,** March 20, 1875, aged 63. Baptist minister at Ithaca about one year; father of Hon. H. R. Pattengill.

**Pearce, Mrs.,** wife of Geo. W. Pearce, May 10, 1879, aged 29 years.

**Phillips, Mrs. Henrietta,** wife of Wm. L. Phillips, January 3, 1887, aged 65.

**Peet, K. Rolla,** Sept. 25, 1888, aged 23. A worthy and popular young man, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Peet.

**Peet, J. Raymond,** Oct. 23, 1888, aged 12. Young son of Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Peet.

**Prichard, Sylvester B.,** February 9, 1889, aged 63. Settled in North Star in 1866; in mercantile business in Ithaca several years.

**Price, Mrs. Lois E.,** wife of Chas. A. Price and daughter of Jas. W. Howd, Feb. 26, 1893, aged 22 years. A death regretted by a host of friends.

**Pinney, H. H.,** Jan. 22, 1894, aged 84. Father of Anson E. and John H. Pinney, and of Mrs. Roswell G. Horr.

**Pinney, Mrs. H. H.,** Feb. 7, 1896, at the age of 84 years.

**Phillips, Clarence M.,** son of Wm. L. Phillips, about June 10, 1895, aged about 45 years.

**Phillips, Wm. L.,** Nov. 25, 1910, aged 90 years. He settled in Pompeii in 1866, later moving to Ithaca where he was prominent politically and popular socially. As an old soldier he was always foremost in matters pertaining to their interests. He was many years a justice of the peace, a man of integrity and a great lover of stern justice, though at the same time a genial, kindly and sympathetic man.

**Parrish, Robert E.,** son of Stephen E. Parrish, at their home in Tecumseh, Mich., Dec. 25, 1899, aged 20 years. A popular and worthy young man. They were many years in mercantile trade in Ithaca.

**Pressley, Timothy,** Sept. 18, 1897, aged 75. Came to Newark in 1857; a man of sterling worth, entrusted with many responsible positions.

**Pullen, Wm.,** Jan. 28, 1904, at Pasadena, Cal., aged 63. A prominent furniture dealer in Ithaca many years, and an enthusiastic musician.

**Packer, Hugh J.,** Aug. 27, 1904, at the age of 50 years. Efficient village marshal in 1902 and '03.

**Price, Mrs. Fannie,** wife of Chas. A. Price, Aug. 28, 1911, aged 34 years. Her death was deplored by a host of friends.

**Plank, Mrs. J. C.,** Jan. 28, 1912, at the home of her son-in-law, Bert Allen, aged 66.

**Packer, Mrs. Mary,** widow of the late Hugh J. Packer. A good woman, mother of Mrs. Newman Smith, of Ithaca, and of Bert Packer, of Montana.

**Preston, Mrs. Harriet (Randall),** at her home in Ithaca, July 22, 1913, aged 75 years. An old resident, highly esteemed; wife of William Preston.

**Preston, Wm.,** Nov. 3, 1913, aged 78 years. An old soldier. He settled in Emerson with his father, Isaac Preston, in the early '50s. His wife passed away July 22, 1913. Mr. Preston was a genial citizen with many friends.

**Rice, Reuben,** at the home of his nephew, Dan C. Johnson, Feb. 10, 1885, aged 50.

**Reichard, Mrs. Adam,** Nov. 1, 1886, at the home of her son, David; aged 75.

**Rice, Harvey,** Oct. 14, 1888, aged 81. Came in 1866, part owner of the Rice & Sutliff sawmill located in the northeast part of town. Was township treasurer in 1884, '85 and '87.

**Rowland, Chas. H.,** April 10, 1907, aged 40. An energetic business man, proprietor of the Ithaca Bazaar many years.

**Russell, Bingley,** Aug. 20, 1905, aged nearly 76. An esteemed resident of Ithaca 22 years, formerly from Fulton.

**Read, Mrs. Mary,** March 29, 1908, aged 56 years; wife of Henry Read; esteemed people who settled in Fulton in 1871, but residents of Ithaca from 1896.

**Rockwell, Arthur,** March 9, 1910, aged 29. A capable young business man and much respected.

**Rowe, Frederick W.,** June 17, 1911, aged 53. An esteemed resident of Ithaca two years, landlord and proprietor of the Seaver House.

**Randall, A. W.,** July 21, 1913, aged 60 years. His sister, Mrs. Wm. Preston, died here next day.

**Sinclair, Mrs. Mary J.,** estimable wife of John L. Sinclair, June 13, 1877; daughter of Reuben Finch, a pioneer of Arcada.

**Sawtelle, Benj. E.,** Sept. 15, 1877, at his home in Gladwin. He was township clerk of Newark in 1859, and in 1858 was Democratic candidate for county clerk.

**Smith, Mrs. Celia E.,** wife of Gilbert C. Smith, Dec. 6, 1877, aged 32. Leading citizens, in mercantile trade many years.

**Sturgis, James,** an upright and reliable citizen who died Feb. 6, 1884, aged 67 years.

**Squire, Mrs. Frank E.,** Sept. 1, 1881, aged 24 years, leaving a husband and one son four years old.

**Smith, Mrs. Carrie,** April 23, 1887, aged 41 years; wife of Robert Smith and sister of W. B. and A. B. Scattergood. An estimable and popular lady.

**Smith Elihu,** Sept. 16, 1887, at the home of his son, Gilbert C. Smith, aged 92; a pioneer of 1867.

**Smith, Geo.,** Aug. 2, 1889, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Louisa Seaver, at the age of 96 years.

**Sell, David,** April 5, 1892, aged 84; at the home of his son, Wm. Sell.

**Sawyer, Mrs. Caroline W.,** at the home of her son Byron H. Sawyer, April 7, 1895, aged 83.

**Sykes, Mrs. Mary,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Bearss, Ithaca, January 3, 1897, aged 56; widow of the late Lyman L. Sykes, of St. Louis.

**Steel, Robert M.,** Nov. 16, 1897, at his home in St. Johns, aged 64. A very prominent business man, with extensive interests in Gratiot County, in real estate, business blocks and banks.

**Stewart, Mrs. Amy E.,** daughter of Rev. John Sweet, March 25, 1902, aged 59. A woman of rare and noble character.

**Seaver, Miss Ethel M.,** July 16, 1904, at the age of 24 years; eldest daughter of Probate Judge Isaac S. Seaver. A popular young lady whose early death was sincerely mourned by a multitude of friends.

**Sell, Ira S.,** June 13, 1897, aged 31; a bright and genial citizen, a resident of Ithaca 17 years.

**Sinclair, Ernest L.,** at Jacksonville, Florida, Aug. 30, 1898, aged 22 years. A Spanish-American War soldier; son of John L. Sinclair, of Ithaca.

**Sweet, Rev. John,** near Elyria, Ohio, March 23, 1903, aged 78. A farmer and Baptist minister who settled in Emerson in 1871, coming to Ithaca about 1890.

**Salter, Mrs. Harriet J.,** at the home of her son, Marvin R. Salter, June 14, 1906, at the age of 70 years.

**Smith, Wm. H.,** April 5, 1906, aged 73. Mr. Smith died in Ohio, was an old soldier and formerly resided in Ithaca; father of our townsman, Darwin D Smith.

**Sayles, Israel,** Dec. 19, 1906, aged 70; an old soldier and good citizen, resident of Gratiot since 1868.

**Sampson, Wm. N.,** Dec. 7, 1906, aged 34. The efficient and popular circuit court stenographer for this circuit, resident of Ithaca four years.

**Sutliff, Mrs. Phebe J.,** Jan. 8, 1908, aged 72; wife of Nathan G. Sutliff and a valued resident of Gratiot since 1866.

**Stephens, Willis,** son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Stephens, Aug. 7, 1908, aged 32. An exemplary and popular young man.

**Sell, Wm. Sr.,** Nov. 4, 1908, aged 72. An active, energetic and reliable resident of Ithaca since 1880.

**Scott, Frank M.,** Feb. 19, 1909, aged about 57 years, at El Paso, Texas, where he had gone for his health. A resident and merchant of Ithaca many years; a man of whom it could truly be said that every acquaintance was his friend.

**Scott, Mrs. Nannie,** widow of Frank M. Scott, at her home in Fremont, Mich., March 6, 1910, aged 55. Formerly, for many years, a resident of Ithaca, and greatly beloved.

**Scott, J. B.,** of Fremont, Mich., only son of the late Frank M. and Nannie Scott, at the home of E. C. Crandell, Alma, June 21, 1911, aged 33 years. A popular young man whose childhood and youth were passed in Ithaca.

**Sevey, John C.,** Oct. 9, 1909, aged 63. A Civil War veteran, and a respected citizen of Ithaca from 1899.

**Strouse, Mrs. Sarah N.,** wife of Fred Strouse, Dec. 9, 1909, aged 73.

**Strouse, Fred,** May 16, 1910, aged 69. They were valued residents of Gratiot since 1854, first in Newark, but in later life removing to Ithaca. Mr. Strouse was a Civil War soldier. (See sketch.)

**Shaw, Mrs. Albert M.,** at their home in Ithaca, March 13, 1910, aged 46, leaving many sorrowing friends.

**Synder, Joel,** April 25, 1910, aged 72 years. A respected old soldier.

**Seaver, Mrs. Louisa,** June 27, 1907, aged 72. A noble woman, kind, sympathetic and generous. (See sketch.)

**Sherrick, Jesse,** at his home in Ithaca, May 16, 1912, aged nearly 75. Many years a resident of Emerson; a man strictly honest and upright.

**Sherrick, Mrs. Jesse,** June 3, 1912. A worthy helpmeet of her husband from whom she was not long separated.

**Simcox, Mrs. Sarah,** at the home of her son, M. H. Simcox, Ithaca, Dec. 9, 1911, aged 80 years; widow of Stephen Simcox who died in May, 1909.

**Sawyer, Byron H.,** July 31, 1913, aged 66 years. A well-known and popular attorney of Ithaca for about 30 years; two terms prosecuting attorney. He had been in poor health several years. At the home of his mother-in-law in Ovid, Mich.

**Thoenen, John,** Jan. 1, 1880, aged 78; at the home of his son Samuel J. Thoenen.

**Todd, B. K.,** May 27, 1888, son of Geo. W. Todd Sr.

**Toles, Mathew,** at Ithaca, April 3, 1904, aged 72. An old soldier and long-time resident of Emerson.

**Teed, Mrs. Jas.,** Sept. 19, 1905, aged 55. A resident of New Haven before removing to Ithaca.

**Thompson, Geo. R.,** May 14, 1908, aged about 72. He was an industrious fruit tree agent, well-known throughout the county.

**Todd, Mrs.,** wife of Geo. W. Todd Sr., July 17, 1908, aged 86. An esteemed resident for about 24 years.

**Townsend, Mrs. Wm. S.,** July 9, 1910, at the age of 67 years. An esteemed resident of the county since 1876.

**Todd, Geo. W. Sr.,** Oct. 19, 1910, aged 86. A valued resident of Ithaca since 1884; an old soldier; served as township treasurer and justice of the peace.

**Thomas, Wm. A.,** died April 4, 1912, aged 42 years. Came from Champaign County, Ill., two years previously. Esteemed member of real estate firm of Convis & Thomas.

**Toles, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of the late Mathew Toles, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Irving, April 27, 1912, aged 76.

**Trask, Mrs. Eliza A.,** wife of John M. Trask, at Boyne Falls, Mich., Oct. 14, 1912, aged 69 years. She was a daughter of the late Peter Hoffman, one of the first settlers in North Star. Her husband, John M. Trask, well-known in Gratiot County, and county clerk in 1880, has been an invalid several years with paralysis.

**Usher, Mrs. Caroline,** Feb. 5, 1908; widow of John Usher who died February, 1904; residents of Ithaca 22 years; parents of Dell Usher, a well-known Gratiot printer.

**Vroman, Chas. H.,** Feb. 1, 1883, aged 32. He located in St. Louis in 1876, employed as miller by Henry L. Holcomb, later removing to Ithaca and taking a similar position in the flouring mill of J. H. Seaver.

**Van Wegen, Mrs. Julia A.,** wife of Elias L. Van Wegen, Sept. 24, 1912, aged 52.

**Van Wegen, Elias L.,** Sept. 5, 1903, aged 71; father of Will A. Van Wegen, a well-known Gratiot County printer.

**Van Vranken,** Martin A., Nov. 22, 1883, aged 43; an industrious carpenter.

**Van Deventer, Benjamin Ellis,** Nov. 21, 1907, aged 73. An old soldier who settled with his family in Emerson in 1881, removing to Ithaca in 1897.

**Vance, Jas. G.,** July 9, 1912, aged 87. A soldier in the 16th Mich. Infantry, and one of Gratiot's earliest and staunchest pioneers, coming here in 1855.

**Whitman, Clark R.,** Jan. 18, 1884, aged 75. Father of Josiah P. Whitman, at whose residence he died.

**Waggoner, Eliza M.,** Jan. 6, 1882, aged 70; wife of E. Waggoner, 15 years residents of Ithaca.

**Whitney, G. B.,** Oct. 3, 1889, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. H. B. Wells, aged 72.

**Webster, Dr. G. Lee,** dentist, April 16, 1899, aged 46. He had the respect of the entire community.

**Whitman, Wm. R.,** Aug. 22, 1899, aged 63. A pioneer of 1865, brother of Josiah P. Whitman.

**Walker, Mrs. Nathaniel,** June 8, 1906, at the age of 68 years. Settled in Fulton in 1859.

**Webster, Miss Lura,** May 10, 1900, aged 22, eldest daughter of Dr. G. L. and Helen Webster; an estimable young lady, teacher in the Ithaca schools.

**Weidman, Mrs. Chas. H.,** at her home in Grand Rapids, Jan. 31, 1908, aged 60 years. She was mother of Mrs. E. D. Hamilton, of Ithaca, and was a resident of Ithaca in the early '80s.

**Weidman, Chas. H.,** Feb. 9, 1908, aged 73; surviving his wife only nine days. He was a popular and efficient engineer on the Pere Marquette R. R. from Grand Rapids to Saginaw, and was well and favorably known in Gratiot County.

**Ward, Mrs. Nora S.,** wife of Seth Ward and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob G. Wiseman, Ithaca, February, 1910. She had many friends.

**Wiseman, Jacob G.,** April 4, 1911, aged 71. A resident of Ithaca since 1887, and a good citizen.

**Wiseman, Mrs.,** widow of the late Jacob G. Wiseman, April 27, 1912, aged 70 years.

**Weeks, Mrs. Birdella,** wife of Geo. M. Weeks, June 23, 1911, aged 38 years; youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Webster. She left to mourn her death her husband, three little children, her parents, a sister and a multitude of friends.

**Wood, Wm. F.,** at his home, Dec. 24, 1911, aged nearly 80 years. He was an old soldier, and a brother of the late Alfred A. Wood, a former sheriff of Gratiot County.

**Weller, Mrs. Ellen M.,** wife of Henry J. Weller, May 11, 1912, aged 64. A respected former resident of Fulton and Newark.

**Walbridge, Ira,** at the Soldiers' Home, Grand Rapids, May, 1912, aged 76. A war veteran, and a resident of North Star and Ithaca 45 years.

**Waistell, Patrick,** Aug. 2, 1912, aged 54. An exemplary and upright citizen of Ithaca for 23 years.

**Watkins, Mrs.,** wife of E. D. Watkins, former superintendent of the Ithaca schools, at their home in Niles, Mich., February, 1913.

**Washburn, John L. ("Jack"),** in Chicago, July 21, 1913. A well-known barber here in the '80s.

**Walter, Jeffries J.,** at his home in Ithaca, Oct. 10, 1913, aged 74 years. He was an old soldier; for many years an esteemed resident of Emerson, where he settled in an early day.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1874, Jan. 6—At 9:30 p. m., the furniture factory and planing mill of Beckwith & Mead, (Wm. C. Beckwith and Geo. C. Mead), was burned, the fire originating in the dry kiln. The machinery and a large amount of material were lost. The plant was located on the spot where the present Journal office now stands. At that time the Journal office was located

across the street, to the north, where the old Beckwith residence stands now. The fire did considerable damage to the printing plant, the material being badly demoralized by hasty removal. Beckwith & Mead's loss was $7,000, with no insurance. The Journal loss was covered by insurance.

1877, Dec. 27—The dry kiln connected with the saw mill of Rice, Sutliff & Randall, in the northeast part of the village, was destroyed by fire, with 30,000 feet of basswood lumber.

1878, Jan. 4—The Exchange Hotel, located where the Seaver House now stands, was burned on the morning of January 4th. It was built by John Jeffrey in 1856.

1879, Sept. 20—The Gratiot County Journal office was destroyed by fire early in the morning, everything going excepting a few trifling items of material. Loss, $6,000; insurance, $3,200. The office stood on the corner, across the street, north of its present location.

1883, Oct. 10—At about 2 o'clock a. m., Ithaca's school house was burned, with books and other items of equipment, the total loss being about $2,500, with $1,500 insurance. The building was a two-story wooden structure, with a large addition, and stood about where the water-works standpipe is located.

1884, March 13—Between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning the Baptist Church was found to be on fire, and it was burned to the ground without much to hinder its burning. The new horse-power engine was on hand, with willing workers to operate it; and it worked well considering the chance it had, but a lack of water at a convenient distance was, quite naturally, a great drawback to its efficiency. The building stood on the site of the present church building, was of wood, 36 by 60, built in 1868, and was worth about $1,500. There was no insurance. The house of O. F. Jackson, on the east, was greatly endangered, but it was saved by the enthusiastic efforts of the crowd who pelted the roof and exposed side with snowballs, thus helping materially to discourage the fire.

1884, June 21—Lightning struck the barn of Andrew J. Brown and killed a span of horses for him.

1885, Jan. 12—Max Nathanson's roller skating rink, located on Pine River Street, south, burned, evening of Jan. 12th. The building was 40 by 100 feet in size and was built the previous August at a cost of about $1,500. It was insured for $1,350.

1885, Oct. 4—The residence of Charles E. Peck, in Upper Ithaca, was destroyed by fire this morning, with most of the contents, including $50 in cash. The house was insured.

1888, Aug. 18—Ithaca had a big fire Saturday morning, August 18, at 2 o'clock, which cleaned out the wooden buildings on the south side of Center Street, (the main business street) between the Whitman block and the Steel-Webster block. About six business places were destroyed—C. M. Brown's harness shop and store; Smith Hopkins' bakery and restaurant; Dr. W. D. Scott's office; Mrs. C. H. Richards' and Mrs. C. W. Martin's millinery; O. H. Heath & Son's hardware; and Ed. T. Edwards' saloon. A portion of the contents of the buildings was saved. It being a wooden row the insurance was light on account of the high rates. The fire, while causing serious personal losses, was not a great and irreparable calamity to the village, for the space was soon filled in with the fine row of brick structures that still adorns that section.

1888, Aug. 30—Fire at 9 o'clock p. m. partially destroyed the wooden store building of Henry Kinkerter, north side of Center Street. It was

occupied by Frank P. Merrell as a drug store, and his stock was practically ruined. Dr. J. P. Carpenter occupied the upper front and he suffered some loss. The building to the east, occupied by Chas. E. Hankins, grocer, next to the Richardson brick was somewhat damaged. On the west the Sell building, occupied by Effie Davis, milliner, was slightly damaged. Later on—April 1, 1890—fire in the same section prepared the ground for the brick buildings now occupying the space.

1890, April 1—What helped to line Center Street with an unbroken front of brick, happened at about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, April 1. At that time Nightwatchman John Hart gave the alarm which brought out firemen and citizens to see the destruction of two wooden buildings next west of the Geo. Richardson brick drug store, the first owned by O. W. Sexton, of Brighton, and occupied by his son-in-law, Chas. E. Hankins as a grocery, the other owned by Henry Kinkerter and occupied by H. C. Leland as a saloon. The two buildings were destroyed, the firemen doing good work in preventing the spread of the fire to the westward and wiping out other wooden structures. But their time had not yet come and they were spared. The two burned buildings were worth probably $800 each; some insurance on Sexton's, but nothing on Kinkerter's. The stocks had some insurance. The Richardson store was considerably damaged, and across the street a plate glass was broken in the Dr. Scott building, occupied by Geo. Swarthout. Those who moved out of the wooden row and then moved back again were Miss Grace Maxwell, with her millinery, Mrs. Warner, with her news, Jas. Marquette and Jas. Owen, with their families, I. S. Lomason, with his boots and shoes, and Cole & Heslin, with their barber's paraphernalia. This same section had a close call August 30, 1888, but the firemen were too energetic.

1890, July 10—This is the date when Ithaca had what might be called her one big fire. And it was a whopper. Some of its effects remain to this day; that is to say, the vacant spot, northwest corner of Center and Main Streets, the site of the Des Ermia Hotel. The fire started in the hotel, formerly the Comstock Hotel, bought by J. A. Des Ermia in 1877, at between 9 and 10 o'clock, Thursday evening, July 10th, and by the time the firemen—prompt as they were—could get to doing business, the big three-story building was a mass of furious flames. Ithaca's fire fighting appliances were tolerably good, but not what they are now. A small fire machine on wheels, operated by horse power, or by man power as came handiest; reservoirs at the intersection of streets furnished the water.

The finer details cannot be given. The light wind came from the southeast, and the fire proceeded diagonally across the entire block to the northwest corner. On Center Street, (the main street) it cleaned up everything to the alley—W. H. Beasley's grocery, O. C. Kunze's restaurant, Davis & Moye's meat market, Leland's saloon, Mrs. Rumsey's millinery and Geo. Swartzmiller's saloon. Across the alley it damaged Richardson's brick building considerably besides destroying J. F. Strouse's photo gallery at the rear end of the building. Proceeding on, it licked up some barns, large and small, including L. M. Lyon's livery barn. Striking Pine River Street it proceeded north, taking Joshua Scattergood's store, owned by Gen. N. Church; Henry Kinkerter's building, occupied by Jerry D. Thompson, flour and feed; a large two-story building owned by Jas. W. Howd; the big G. A. R. hall, and the residence of Hiram Wilson.

Returning now to the Des Ermia Hotel and taking the north line of the fire: First came the Wm. Marlow double dwelling; consumed. Firemen's efforts kept the fire from the next house, E. L. Van Wegen's, and urged

it away to the west where it took in a dwelling on the alley occupied by Charles Shepard, thence to Hiram Wilson's blacksmith shop, on Emerson Street. And here, with the aid of the streets on the north and west, the destruction was brought to an end. The Retan House, (now the Mathews) was considerably damaged by the intense heat from the burning Des Ermia House. The principal losers were—J. A. Des Ermia, Jo. Wright, Henry Kinkerter, J. D. Thompson, W. H. Beasley, Davis & Move, R. Smith, J. F. Strouse, I. N. Coleman, General N. Church, Geo. Swartzmiller, R. Smith, J. F. Strouse, I. N. Coleman, Gen. N. Church, Geo. Swartzmiller, Hiram Wilson, Mrs. L. O. Cadwell, Mrs. L. B. Rumsey, H. C. Leland, O. C. Kunze, Mrs. Laura Howd, (now Everett), Miss Grace Maxwell, Mrs. M. Warner, Mrs. E. O. Bradley, Theo. Ryckman, G. A. R. Post, A. W. Russell, Geo. Richardson, D. T. Covert, (damage to Retan House), J. M. Nichols, L. M. Lyon, E. Liger, Geo. A. Eggleston, Richardson & Perry, Jas. W. Howd, Chas. Shepard, Jesse McIntyre. The old Des Ermia House, where the fire started, was a veritable fire-trap. In February, 1883, a great conflagration was barely averted by lively work of citizens, when a fire broke out in the old building.

1891, Feb. 5—The boarding house known as the Todd House, located on Center Street, west of the Ithaca Bazaar corner, was burned at 6 o'clock a. m. It was occupied by Henry Pratt as proprietor, and was owned by Gen. N. Church. A small insurance was carried. Vigorous efforts were required to keep the fire from the old "Palace Hall" on the west and the bazaar block on the east.

1891, March 1—At 1 o'clock in the morning a fire devastated a section of wooden buildings east of the Retan House, (now the Mathews). Four buildings went up in smoke, the principal losers being Wm. J. Marshall, N. Church, H. T. Nooney, Mrs. Holmes, J. M. Gordon (bakery), Saginaw Harness Co., Ed. Richardson manager.

1892, March 27—A Sunday morning fire, at 2:30, proved much more expensive than the average. It was located on the east side of Pine River Street, south, about where the Ithaca Lumber and Coal Co.'s buildings are now situated. Two buildings were involved—a two-story building for lime and coal below and residence above, and a grain elevator, both the property of the Nelson-Barber Co. Both were totally destroyed, with a large quantity of grain. The losses would foot up about $12,000; insurance about $5,000.

1893, Feb. 8—Fire destroyed two or three old buildings, east side of Pine River Street, just south of the Steel-Webster block—the Ithaca Hotel, Jas. Daniels' blacksmith shop and W. O. Town's coal office. Loss small with some insurance. Loss to the town, nothing.

1894, Feb. 4—Fire got into the remaining wooden buildings on the north side of Center Street—the Barnes, and the Brown & Sell buildings—and gave them a bad scorching, but the firemen were too enthusiastic and enough was saved to warrant repairing. The aggregate loss was $7,000, with some insurance.

1894, March 11—The extensive stave mill of C. W. Althouse was burned, night of March 11th, entailing a loss of $25,000, with insurance of about one-half that amount. The sheds and finished stock were saved. About 50 men were thrown out of employment. The mill was rebuilt, Ithaca people donating $2,000 to aid, and prevent the mill from being removed to some other town.



**ITHACA FIREMEN ALONG ABOUT 1895:** From left to right—(1) Joe Gage; (2) Jesse L. Barden, (3) Will Peck; (4) John H. Sprague, (5) Thomas Beek; (6) Jesse E. Fuller; (7) George Gorsuch, (8) Oscar F. Jackson, Chief; (9) Adelbert E. Barstow, (10) Jacob Kernen, (11) Adelbert P. Lane; (12) Seth S. Ward, (13) Tony Mull, (14) Elmer N. Hiffner, (15) John W. Kernen, (16) B. Hart Baker.

1896, April 16—The residence of J. W. Cutter was burned, with a loss of $1,000; insurance, $600.

1896, Dec. 15—A house on Center Street, east, owned by W. O. Town and occupied by Milton B. Salter, burned, with about half the household goods. Insured. An accident prevented the fireman from getting to the fire at their usual fast pace. In bouncing over a crosswalk with their heavy hose wagon, the rear axle broke, causing a delay that proved bad for the doomed building, and an aggravation to the boys.

1897, April 19—This was an exciting morning for firemen and others. They were called to the residence of A. L. Ward, Upper Ithaca, at 8 o'clock, to put out a fire, which they did, but the house was left practically in ruins. The fire apparatus had just been put away when another alarm called all hands to Tommy Marr's house on Emerson Street. The house was badly damaged, but before the boys had got fairly through with it, the third call sent them hurrying to O. F. Jackson's over on Center Street, where a chimney was burning out and smoke had filled the upper rooms. No damage here, but while it was being attended to the stave mill sheds caught fire. This, however, was extinguished without a call being made upon the firemen.

1898, Jan. 6—The residence of Chas. Bunn on Emerson Street, east, was badly injured by a fire in the roof and other upper works.

1899, Dec. 18—Sunday morning, at about 1:30, fire was discovered in the Ithaca Roller Mills, located on Pine River Street, south. At first it was mainly in the boiler room, and the firemen succeeded in putting it out, as was supposed. But at about 5 o'clock it broke out in the main building well up toward the roof, and in spite of the efforts of the firemen the mill was destroyed. It was a brick-veneered building and it was extremely difficult to get water to the fire. An office building on the west and the large elevator were saved. The loss was placed at about $20,000; insurance, $7,000. The property was owned and operated by the Ithaca Milling Co., composed of Wm. F. Thompson, E. W. Kellogg, J. B. Crawford, A. E. Pinney, F. H. Horr, H. E. Lewis, C. P. Yost and F. H. McKay. The loss of the mill was a serious blow to the business interests of the village, and to the surrounding country. The mill was rebuilt in the spring of 1900, of solid brick and much better than the one burned. Ira Bovee and Chas. H. Baker were the contractors.

1901, April 17—The residence of Mrs. I. N. Coleman on Emerson Street, east, was considerably demoralized by a fire at 8 o'clock a. m. Insured.

1903, May 17—F. W. Griswold's residence on Center Street, west, was badly damaged by fire, but the firemen succeeded in saving part of it and went home. The fire broke out in the ruins and finished the job. Insured.

1903, Oct. 5—A fire to be long remembered occurred in Ithaca Monday morning, October 5th, at 3 o'clock. At that hour and date the large hotel barn, operated in connection with the Imperial Hotel, now the Mathews House, and also as a livery barn, was discovered to be on fire, and it was burned to the ground, together with nearly the entire contents, including nine horses belonging to A. K. Taylor, proprietor of the livery. Some facts culled from a newspaper account of the fire will be interesting to some who witnessed it and took part in the exciting exercises:

"It is many years since Ithaca sustained so disastrous a fire as the one that put in its appearance last Sunday night, or rather at 3 o'clock Monday morning. At that time the large barn of the Imperial Hotel, together with nearly its entire contents, was totally destroyed.

"How the fire originated is a mystery. The night watch at the tub factory near by was the first to see it, and the fire was then bursting out of the roof and east end of the barn. It may have been accidentally set on fire by a tramp or tramps; or by mice and matches, or by an incendiary. So far as we can learn one theory is as good as another. The fire seems to have originated in the loft, in the hay and straw, which would account for the fact that the barn was a mass of flames when the fire was first discovered, and it was too late to save the horses and other property.

"One horse alone was saved. It was Landlord Parr's running horse 'Dewey G.' He was saved by his groom and rider, Harry Parkinson, of Cedar Springs. Harry was asleep in the hotel, and when aroused by the outcry, rushed half-dressed and entirely barefooted to the barn, and at considerable risk and with some burns succeeded in getting the horse out; an act for which he has been the recipient of much commendation.

"Under the conditions that we have mentioned it hardly need be said that by the time the firemen were on hand—and they were not long in getting there with four stiff streams doing business where they would do the most good—there were no hopes of saving any portion of the barn. The adjoining property, including the hotel which was only a few feet away from the burning mass, could probably be saved, however, and well the boys performed that duty. The hotel was on fire several times and was considerably scorched, but the actual damage to it was slight. Landlord and Mrs. Parr, with their help and guests, prepared to move out in a hurry, but fortunately they were not compelled to move.

"Aside from the financial loss by the burning of so many horses, their death in that horrible way is a matter for great regret by all humane people. May we not hope, however, that the poor brutes are better off, and that they are now enjoying the paved streets and graded, graveled roads of horse heaven, with Gratiot's mud roads a mere memory and the tender mercies of unfeeling drivers no more to be dreaded. For you know, the immortality of dumb animals has never yet been disproved beyond a possible doubt. Certainly some animals we have known have seemed better entitled to a happy immortality than some people that we can recall to mind without a desperate effort.

"However, this is a digression. Mr. Taylor gives a list of his losses as follows: Nine horses; three surreys; three-seat canopy top; truck wagon; six top buggies; hotel bus; fourteen sets of harness; robes, blankets, whips, fodder, grain and considerable other property. Partially covered by insurance with Agents M. R. Salter and A. E. Barstow. The barn was quite an old landmark, built about 33 years ago."

1903, Dec. 27—W. T. Naldrett's residence on Center Street, west, was nearly ruined by fire, and a lot of household goods also were lost. Insured.

1905, Nov. 16—A Sunday morning fire finished the last two wooden buildings in the business section of town, north of Center Street. The two buildings were owned, the west one by F. W. Brown, the east one by A. C. Switzer, of Flint. C. Boyles, with his barber shop, and Miss Eva Brown, with her millinery, occupied the west building, while the east one was occupied by Todd & Davis' saloon. All had some insurance. The Switzer block now occupies the site.

1906, Feb. 14—At 2 o'clock a. m., fire destroyed the tenant house on Fred S. Van Buskirk's farm a mile northeast of town, and John Ellsworth, the occupant, lost his household goods, he and his family having only time to save themselves. Some insurance on house and household goods.

1907, May 25—During a storm in the evening, lightning struck W. T. Naldrett's barn, and it was destroyed with a lot of valuable contents. There was some insurance. The same bolt, apparently, that struck the barn, put the lighting plant out of commission, temporarily, leaving the town in darkness.

1909, April 9—The residence of O. Bliss, owned by Mrs. F. I. Place, Pine River Street, north, was burned at 9:30 p. m., with some of the household goods. The family had retired for the night, and but for the timely discovery of the fire by Howard Alverson there might have been some fatalities.

1909, Aug. 11—A house in the east part of town owned by Alex. Nelson was burned.

1909, Oct. 11—Henry Otto's big feed barn, Pine River Street, south, was burned at 6 p. m. The front part was of two stories and constituted the residence of Mr. Otto, and the barn proper extended clear back to the alley. All went up in smoke. The frame building on the north was badly burned also. Four horses, a cow and a lot of other property were consumed. Other property was greatly endangered but by persistent work the firemen succeeded in keeping the fire within the limits mentioned. Mr. Otto's loss was heavy, with but little insurance.

1910, March 24—Nine cottages at Crystal Lake, the local summer resort, were burned, five of which belonged to Ithaca people, viz.: I. L. Altenburg, Geo. Richardson, J. N. McCall, Wm. Herron and A. E. Pinney. Loss partly covered by insurance.

1911, Jan. 4—The house of Sam. M. Scott, just outside of the corporation limits of Ithaca, on the southwest, burned with all its contents. Insured for $500; loss much more.

1911, Sept. 19—The barn at the residence of A. E. Barstow, on St. Johns Street was burned at about 10 o'clock in the evening. The loss was partially covered by insurance. A barn adjoining on the south, owned by Mrs. S. A. Barstow, was almost entirely destroyed also. There was no insurance.

1911, Oct. 19—The meat market of Geo. W. Winget & Son caught fire in some unknown manner at about 9 o'clock in the evening and was badly damaged, particularly in the upper story which was occupied as a residence by Louis Hunter. The building is located on Main Street next south of the Jeffrey block. Mr. Hunter lost his household goods, with no insurance. There was enough insurance on the building and the stock and fixtures of the market to cover the loss.

1911, Oct. 25—At about 1 o'clock p. m., E. R. Van Duzer's jewelry store was the scene of a fierce fire which destroyed much of his stock and tools, and badly damaged the room. The front was completely ruined as was that of C. Boyles' barber shop adjoining. The building is owned by Mrs. J. W. Everett, and was insured. Mr. Van Duzer's stock was partially insured, and Mr. Boyles had some insurance. The fire was caused by a defective oil stove.

1913, Feb. 12—A house owned by Fred S. Brown and occupied by H. Chauncey Barstow, Maple Street, north, was badly damaged and nearly destroyed by fire at about 8 o'clock a. m., the fire evidently originating with the furnace. Mr. Brown's household goods, stored in an upper room, were destroyed in part, as were also Br. Barstow's goods. Quite well covered by insurance.

1913, April 7—Fire at the residence of W. J. Barnes, Main Street, south, did damage to the roof and upper story to the extent of about $500. Insured. The firemen and neighbors did valiant service.

1913, May 24—At 11 o'clock a. m., fire damaged Dr. W. M. Weller's residence, Center Street, west, to the extent of $1,000 or more. The fire was mainly in the upper parts, much damage being done in the lower portions by water. Insured.

## ITHACA PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Perhaps the history of a school or of a school district is about as difficult to get at and compile into a connected story as that of any other institution or enterprise that has to be tackled by the local historian. Still, in the case of the Ithaca schools the conditions in those respects might be worse. The actors in the early life of the district of course are nearly all, like the early days themselves, mere memories of detached items handed down. However, the erection of the main or central part of the present school building, dates back to the year 1883, with its corner-stone laying and its dedicatory exercises. From the view-point of that period, located as that period was, at about the meridian of the life of the district, counting from its original organization to the present time, it was not a far look backward to first things in school affairs, and, consquently, it was possible, on the occasions mentioned, to give a fairly good and complete history of school affairs up to that date.

So, after the lapse of 30 years more, by taking advantage of the fruits of the researches as presented at that half-way station, it is possible to give a reasonably complete account of school matters as developed in a period of nearly 60 years.

At the laying of the corner-stone of the building erected in 1883, appropriate exercises were held. The function occurred June 15, 1883. The affair was rather impromptu, but was quite complete and interesting, nevertheless, and consisted in part of a parade of the school children with their teachers, from the school quarters to the new site. A. W. Russell, the moderator, called to order and gave a little talk, stating the object of the gathering. Then prayer by Rev. F. L. Bristol. Then singing by the school, led by the principal, H. R. Pattengill, after which Wm. E. Winton delivered an address in the course of which he gave some of the main facts in the history of the district, and to this address much credit is due for some of this article.

The district was organized as a common country district in the summer of 1857, and took in territory located at and adjoining the intersection of the Townships of Newark, Arcada, Emerson and North Star; that is to say, at the geographical center of the county. At that time there were about 30 children of school age within the limits of the district.

The first annual school meeting was held at the log court house, September 28, 1857, at which Wm. Potter was elected moderator, Lafayette Church, director, and W. W. Comstock, assessor. It was voted to raise $250 by tax on the district for the erection of a school house the next season, the entire cost of the school house not to exceed $500; also a dollar a scholar for the support of a school during the following winter. It was also determined, and so voted, to have a four-months' winter term, and four months school the following summer.

At a special meeting held April 20, 1858, by a vote of 19 to 7 a school site was decided upon—lots 8 and 9, block 7 of Upper Ithaca. The Ithaca

water works and electric lighting plant now occupy the site. Simon L. Nott was the owner of the land. The price paid for the school lot was $30. A one-story frame school house, 28 by 36, was built during the summer of 1858, ready for the fall and winter term. Fire destroyed this building in January, 1861; presumed to have caught fire from ashes deposited in a barrel adjoining the building.

In the summer of 1861 a two-story frame building was erected, the same size on the ground as the former one, and on the same ground. Only the first story was finished off. In 1866, however, more room was needed, so the upper story was finished and occupied that winter, two teachers being employed.

In 1873 it was found that still more room was needed, so during that summer an addition was built, 26 by 46 feet and one story high, and from that time three teachers were employed, the school being graded and divided into "primary," "intermediate" and "high school," the matter being decided upon at an adjourned school meeting by a vote of 42 to 21. At that same meeting six trustees were elected as follows: C. W. Marvin, W. E. Winton, D. C. Johnson, G. C. Smith, G. T. Brown, R. Smith.

School prospered under the new system, the number of pupils increasing till it became necessary to have more room. An "infant" department was added—or rather, prefixed—to the grades, and the basement of the Baptist Church secured for its use. This arrangement continued until 1883. October 10th of that year the school building was destroyed by fire, together with books and equipment, the loss being about $2,500; insurance, $1,500.

By the formation of the Township of Ithaca from parts of the four townships in the winter of 1880-81, the graded district "was unwittingly dissolved, but matters moved along in the usual way as if nothing of the kind had happened, till after the close of the summer term in 1882, when the district was re-organized by the joint action of the school inspectors of the townships concerned, and thus became 'School District No. 1 of the Townships of Ithaca, Arcada, Newark, North Star and Emerson'; a common, primary school district. In September, 1882, proper notice having been given, the district was again graded, and six trustees elected." The following is a list of the trustees elected: Wilbur Nelson, J. H. Seaver, C. W. Marvin, A. W. Russell, H. B. Wells, G. C. Smith.

At the annual meeting, September, 1882, a committee previously appointed—G. C. Smith, D. C. Johnson, A. W. Russell, W. Nelson, H. B. Wells, S. W. Ambler—reported and recommended the purchase of a site at the head of Main Street, in the north part of the village—the present site. The report and recommendation were concurred in and adopted.

The plans for the new school house were drawn by Architect Fred Hollister, of Saginaw. The job was let to Fred Kinkerter, of Ithaca and H. B. Sunbury, of St. Louis, about January 15, 1883, the contract price being $17,794.

Deposited in the corner-stone were the following articles: Silver dollar of 1883; ten-cent piece, 1883; two nickels, 1883; two-cent piece, 1865; one cent, 1883; an old coin by Dr. Scott; history of the district by W. E. Winton; list of scholars together with the names of the teachers—H. R. Pattengill, L. J. Marvin, Edith Johnson and Libbie Arnold.

The corner-stone exercises were closed by another song by the pupils and then the benediction by Rev. D. M. Christy.

In October, H. B. Sunbury sold his interest in the school house construction contract to his partner, Fred Kinkerter, and thereafter the work was conducted by the latter named gentleman.

The new school building was dedicated May 9, 1884, with elaborate and interesting exercises. Gov. Josiah Begole and Superintendent of Public Instruction Herschel R. Gass were present and gave addresses; also Regent of the University Chas. J. Willett and Dr. Stiles Kennedy, of St. Louis, Mich., who also addressed the people. Besides the addresses by the gentlemen mentioned, the program carried out included music both vocal and instrumental; reading of Scriptures by Rev. F. L. Bristol; prayer by Rev. D. M. Christy; history of the school by Prof. H. R. Pattengill; presentation of the building to the people of the district by A. W. Russell, chairman of the building committee; acceptance by W. E. Winton in behalf of the school board and the people of the district; dedicatory prayer by Rev. J. E. Long.

Presentation remarks by A. W. Russell:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—It becomes my duty as chairman of the building committee to turn over to Ithaca school district this structure which the district formally resolved to build one year ago last September. We see it such as it is. Your building committee have acted and done the best they could, being inexperienced, and have felt that they would make mistakes. They ask to not be criticised too severely. In behalf of the building committee I would return thanks to the district for the noble manner in which you have sustained us, in voting money to carry on the work.

"This house, allow me to say—this temple that is erected to educate our sons and daughters, and fit them for the duties and responsibilities of mature years, is but an outgrowth of American civilization; for, as we look back through the years we see a band of hardy, unyielding pioneers cross the Atlantic in 1620, and land on Plymouth Rock, bringing with them that civil and religious liberty which is the seed from which springs our schools and colleges. We see them spreading westward through New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and, rounding the western shore of Lake Erie, pushing northward through Michigan, building their schools and colleges as they go, until about the year 1856 they strike our own beloved Gratiot County, where the ring of the ax is heard building the log school house nestled among the trees, soon to be followed by the frame structure, which in turn has had to give way to the noble building you commissioned us to build. We hope and trust that you feel that we have built wisely, and that future generations may say of us that we builded better than we knew.

"We come today to place this building in your hands, and report that we have completed the work you gave us to do."

This presentation speech was responded to in behalf of the district by Wm. E. Winton. An extract or two from his remarks will be appropriate here:

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Building Committe—This district which I have the honor to represent on this occasion made a wise selection in choosing you from among its citizens to look after its interests in the construction of this beautiful edifice. The trust reposed in you was one of no small moment. Over $20,000 was to be expended in the erection of this temple of learning. Your eyes were on every part of the work and the material to be used therefor, as the same progressed from foundation to spire.

"It gives me exceeding pleasure to receive from your hands, in behalf of the district such a noble structure. Thanking you, gentlemen of the committee, in the name and in behalf of the citizens of the district, for the untiring, faithful and careful way and manner in which you have discharged the duties of your trust. It is with great satisfaction, I assure you, that we

accept this edifice, so conspicuously located as to command a view from every direction over nearly the entire district, and now dedicated to literature and the sciences. * * * Empires have risen and passed away. Cities—great and populous—have become extinct and even their location in dispute, while the poet, the hero, the orator and the sage who lived within their walls, live today, the teachers of our race. What do we know of Troy, with its defiant walls and double gates, its temples and palaces, its great towns and glittering domes! It has had no existence for long ages past; it lies one grand, stupendous heap of ruins. But Homer, whose parentage and birthplace are blotted from the books of time, lives today to tell us of the Iliad. So this building, if it escapes destruction by earthquake, fire and flood, may became the classic halls of children yet unborn. If these noble walls are permitted to stand until wasted away by the gnawing tooth of time, each successive generation will, no doubt, leave its philosophers, orators, statesmen and poets, who will keep in song and history the proceedings of this day's dedication.

"'Like the leaves on the trees the race of man is found,
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;
Another race the following spring supplies,
They fall successive and successive rise.
So, generations in their course decay;
So flourish these when those are passed away.'"

An original poem by Giles T. Brown was an appropriate, interesting and much-appreciated feature.

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### First Thirty Years of Ithaca's Schools.

Prof. H. R. Pattengill's history of the Ithaca school is given largely in detail, as it deals more particularly with the teachers of the early days:

"From the time when our pilgrim fathers 'moored their bark on that wild New England shore,' up to the present day, every new settlement that had its root in that liberty-loving soil, has established the Church and School just as soon as it had made a shelter for its people. So we find that within a year after the ax of the woodman began to wake the echoes in the unbroken forests of Gratiot County, a School and Church were formed. The first school taught in Ithaca was taught in the old log court house near the present site of the Methodist Church, during the winter of 1857, by Wm. S. Nelson, son of Francis Nelson and a well-known citizen: The next summer a term was taught by Olive Dean. We find her contract signed with a neat, womanly hand; but the waving, tremulous lines bespeak fear of the director, or uncertainty of success in this, her first attempt. When, however, the term had closed and she made out the rate-bill, or rather signed it, we find the same carefully-formed letters, but the hand has lost its tremor. We judge that the school was carried through successfully.

"Certainly those teachers did not have to go far for 'sprouts'; and if you wish to know whether they found any and put them where they would do the most good, ask some of the men and women here today who as boys and girls of that generation are competent witnesses.

"Olive Dean received $2 per week and boarded around. In the winter of 1858-9 J. Milton Putman taught a four-months' school at $19 per month, with boarding around and his washing thrown in. It was the custom in

those days to teach every alternate Saturday or one-half day every Saturday; which heathenish practice our teachers of today are glad to say has been abandoned.

"In the summer of 1859 Eva E. Wilson taught the school, and sued the district for her wages. The district by this time had attained a sufficient size to maintain the usual district war. It was hot and bitter for a time. Two schools were run amidst the mosquitoes and stumps. A frame school house had been built on the site till recently used for that purpose. The district had voted, however, to buy of John Jeffrey the lots where the Presbyterian Church now stands. The records do not show when or why the change was made. A bee was made to clear the ground where the school house was built. At the school meeting, after a fierce debate, and after several amendments had been offered, it was decided by a close vote of 8 to 6, to appropriate $4 to buy a Webster's unabridged dictionary, which would now get about a third of one.

"In the winter of 1859-60, a spruce young man with a keen black eye and pleasant smile, wielded the birch manfully for $22 per month in that new house. The number of scholars in the district was 47. Few of us would recognize in that schoolboy hand the present autograph of our esteemed townsman, Nathan Church, but that's the name at the foot of the contract, and the records show that he drew his pay at the close of a successful term.

"In the summer of 1860 J. Milton Putman appears again. The bad boys called him 'Old Put', and accuse him of stretching out his weary frame on the benches and snoring out the vowel sounds to his orthography class. Mr. Putman is still on earth and may deny this gentle allegation and defy the allegators.

"The winter term of 1860-'61 was taught by Theo. Nelson, now president of Kalamazoo College. The building was burned in January, 1861. Mrs. W. E. Winton taught the summer school—1861—in the building which is now the residence of J. H. Winton.

"In the winter of 1861-62 Emery Crosby wielded the scepter over 42 pupils at $20 per month. In the summer of 1862 a Mrs. Viele taught a short term and then went westward. Chas. B. Fraker, a minor, son of N. B. Fraker finished up the Viele term and then taught another on his own account. The winter term of 1862-63 was taught by Emery Crosby at $25 per month; 65 pupils. Summer of 1863, Mary A. Young at $2.80 per week and board.

"Winter of 1863-64, Sylvester B. Heverlo, who is now our county treasurer, taught a part of the term, which was finished by Elisha McCall. Matilda Coffin taught summer and fall terms in 1864. In the winter of 1864-65 Miss Frank Bernard taught 13 weeks at $5 a week; the first woman teacher of a winter term in the district. She had 75 pupils. Summer of 1865, Miss Maggie Potes, four months at $1 per day. Winter of 1865-66, Emery Crosby again with 102 pupils.

"Andrew J. McKee taught the 1866 summer school at $1.37½ a day. The upper story of the school building was finished off, and two departments were operated, Giles T. Brown and Olive Hewitt, teachers in the winter of 1866-67. Summer of 1867, Laura Brundidge and Mrs. Amorette Black; 120 pupils. In 1868, O. G. Webster and Mrs. Black; Helen Antoinette Comstock and Mrs. Black for the summer term. In 1869, Prof. J. W. Caldwell and Mrs. Black; Melissa Brooke and Mrs. Black, summer term; 141 pupils.

"In 1870, Zachary V. Payne, Mrs. Black and Ada Johnson. In 1871, Geo. Barnes, Mrs. Black, Ellen M. Bennett, Cenah Pettit, Sara L. Watson. In 1872, Giles T. Brown, Mrs. Black, Justus N. Guthrie. In 1873, Jesse H.

Fleming, Mrs. Black, Ella Chapin, Sara L. Watson. The school was graded and a wing built to the school house. Jesse McIntire, Mrs. Black, Sarah Barnes, Eva Walker, Hattie Johnson and A. G. Morey, teachers during the year 1874. Herbert N. Robinson, Mrs. Black and A. G. Morey for the year 1875; pupils, 175. In 1876, H. N. Robinson, Mrs. Black and J. H. Winton.

"In 1877, Henry R. Pattengill, 10 months, $800; pupils, 200. Ella Watson, Idella Higgins, Lizzie A. Sharpsteen.

"In 1878, H. R. Pattengill, Nettie Comstock, Mrs. Lizzie A. (Sharpsteen) Pattengill; pupils, 243.

"In 1879, H. R. Pattengill, Nettie Comstock, Mattie Sturgis.

"In 1880, H. R. Pattengill, Nettie Comstock, Mattie Sturgis, Lizzie A. Pattengill, Flora Clark.

"In 1881, H. R. Pattengill; $1,000, Avis Beam, Mrs. Pearce, Mattie Sturgis, Ida Cook; pupils, 316.

"In 1882, H. R. Pattengill, Avis Beam, Mattie Strugis, Ida Cook.

"In 1883, H. R. Pattengill, Louis J. Marvin, Edith V. Johnson, Libbie Arnold; pupils, 461.

"In 1884, H. R. Pattengill, Alice Hetzman, S. M. Wellings, Edith V. Johnson, Fannie Hicks. Now five departments."

Dr. C. W. Marvin, who had been connected with the school board 20 years, and director 11 years gave a detailed statement of everything of a material nature connected with the construction of the building. The plan of the building was nearly square, 97½ feet north and south by 84 east and west; 41 feet 10 inches to the eaves, with a mansard slate roof. The entire cost including the furnaces, bell and all incidentals was stated to be $23,527.49.

The accompanying illustration shows the school building as it appears at this time—1913. The central portion is the original structure erected in 1883 and '84, and dedicated May 9, 1884. The portion extending to the right



ITHACA'S UNION SCHOOL BUILDING—1913.

was added in 1909. The extension at the left was built in 1911. The completed building as it now stands, is about 75 by 230 feet in size on the ground; two stories and basement.

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### Ithaca Schools for the Last Thirty Years.

After seven years' service as superintendent of the Ithaca schools, H. R. Pattengill declined a reappointment for the year commencing September, 1884, and Edwin F. Osborn was employed in that capacity. His administration came to an end by his resignation in February, 1885. K. Rolla Peet was put in to serve temporarily, and the board engaged J. N. McCall, who had been in charge of the schools at Newton Falls, Ohio. Mr. McCall commenced in April, 1885, serving during the spring term, and was re-engaged each succeeding year until 1892. He declined reappointment for the year commencing September, 1892, and was followed by Albert P. Cook, who came from the schools of Milford, Mich.

The corps of teachers for the year commencing September, 1885, was composed as follows: Supt.—J. N. McCall; Principal—Frank E. Stroup; Fannie Hicks, Belle Depeel, Anna Phillips, Carrie Webster, Mary Glidden.

Teachers commencing Sept., 1890: Supt.—J. N. McCall; Eva Fullerton, Nettie Morrison, Florence Funston, Bessie Brown, Leona Bradley, Ida B. Jewett, Retta Peet, Edith V. Johnson, Hattie Richardson, Leonard J. Sweet, Lillian Jackson.

Teachers commencing Sept., 1895: Supt.—A. P. Cook; Jane E. Cooke, Alice Iseman, Edith A. Moore, Ella Marvin, Nellie McCall, Lilah Wrigley, Ida Halbert, Madge Gillie, Beulah Moore, Cora Shellenbarger, Laura Brown.

Teachers, 1898: Supt.—Albert P. Cook; Alice Iseman, Grace P. Hunt, Anna M. Brown, Ida Halbert, Edith A. Foote, Beulah Moore, Georgia A. Cowles, Bertha Wood, F. Berde Moore, Ella Marvin, M. Delilah Wrigley.

Supt. A. P. Cook, who followed J. N. McCall as superintendent and whose first year commenced September, 1892, was retained in the position until 1902—ten years. For the year commencing September, 1902, E. D. Watkins became superintendent. He served four years and was succeeded September, 1906, by C. J. Collins, who, after serving four months was succeeded by Geo. E. Ganiard who finished that year and the next two years, and was followed September, 1909, by Frank E. Knapp, who continued as superintendent four years, being succeeded September, 1913, by John D. La Rue.

Teachers for 1912: Supt.—F. E. Knapp; Prin.—A. J. Duncanson; Assistants—T. I. Glasscock, Clyde F. Watts, Alice Carpenter, Charlotte Weller, Myrle de Pont; Grades—8th, Addie Parker; 7th, Marie Behrens; 6th, Myrtle Zimmerman; 5th, Velma Palmer; 4th, Flossie Beechler; 3rd, Janey Chalker; 2nd, Nellie Lennox (resigned); appointed to vacancy, Mary Merrill; 1st, Nellie Nelson; Kindergarten, Florence Carmon; Music, Greta Forte; Man. Training, Katharine Richards.

Teachers for 1913: Supt.—John D. La Rue; Prin.—A. J. Duncanson; Assistants—T. C. Sutton, B. G. Sutton, Myrle de Pont, Bessie McCoy, Alice Carpenter; Music—Beulah Lovejoy; Man. Training—Katharine Richards; Grades—8th, Addie Parker; 7th, Marie Behrens; 6th, Lena Galagher; 5th, Velma Palmer; 4th, Flossie Beechler; 3rd, Janey Chalker; 2nd, Mary Merrill; 1st, Nellie Nelson; Kindergarten, Joyce Wight.

### Ithaca's School Officers.

It may not be amiss to devote a few lines right here to chronicling the names of some of the men who have had the management of Ithaca's educational machinery in past years. In the preceding pages of this school history some of the names have been incidentally mentioned. It is impossible at this late day to give a perfect list, but the following list is practically complete from the year 1890 down to the present. It is merely a list, in their regular order, of the different persons serving, with no attempt to designate the years of their service; some have several terms of service to their credit.

Commencing with the year 1890: Rev. J. E. Long, Dr. G. L. Webster, James Moore, O. H. Heath, Jas. B. Crawford, J. N. McCall, M. H. Waterbury, A. S. Barber, Jas. G. Kress, H. B. Wells, John T. Mathews, W. E. Winton, A. P. Lane, J. M. Everden, H. E. Lewis, K. S. Searl, I. N. Cowdrey, Frank W. Brown, Archie McCall, I. S. Seaver, Ransom Allen, C. E. Goodwin, C. M. Brown, F. L. Cook, E. F. Doty, O. G. Tuttle, W. Nelson, J. L. Potts, F. H. Horr, Dr. W. M. Weller, F. H. McKay, F. L. Convis, Dr. M. G. Skinner.

The board of education for the year beginning with July, 1912, was made up as follows: Archie McCall, O. G. Tuttle, F. H. McKay, F. L. Convis, M. G. Skinner. At the annual meeting in July, 1913, Peter McAdam was elected to succeed F. H. McKay whose term expired.

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### Ithaca High School Graduates.

**1887:** Motto—"We build the ladder by which we rise." Ernest Allen, Ella Marvin, Lottie Smith, Leslie French, Philip Medley, Ernest Thayer.

**1888:** Motto—"We have left the Bay; the Ocean lies before us." W. Edward Altenburg, Theo. Brown, Jas. Sturgis, Claude Brown, Eugene Medley, Edward Van Deventer, Ellis Van Deventer.

**1889:** Motto—"Hitch your wagon to a star." Bessie Brown, Fred Dibble, Lois Howd, Nettie Morrison, Hattie Richardson, Melissa Carothers, N. Thos. Hafer, Stanley Liger, Fred Plank, Arthur Sweatland.

**1890:** Motto—"The kite rises against the wind." Nellie Barstow, Louis S. Brooke, Janey Chalker, Bessie Des Ermia, Lillian Jackson, Bertha Brooke, May Brown, Carrie Cook, Maggie Foote, Minnie Smith, Lulu Sutherland.

**1891:** Motto—"To the Stars through difficulty." Lena Cady, Whitfield De Bar, Will Long, Nellie McCall, Oma Curtis, Jessie Heverlo, Bur Marvin, Agnes Stevenson, Birdie Webster.

**1892:** Motto—"Live to learn." Hattie Barstow, Will Coon, Belle McKee, Guy Boyd, Alice Iseman, Maude Norton.

**1893:** Motto—"More beyond." Roy Covert, Norma Montague, Elden French, Arthur Mulholland, Minnie Sayles.

**1894:** Motto—"Not finished, but begun." Reuben Brown, Effie DeMott, Fred Lignian, Minnie Mellinger, Gertrude Orbison, Josie Roberts, Edith Sowersby, Will Daniels, Jacob Foote, Bert Long, Willard Monfort, Roy Pettit, Ernest Sinclair, Don Sturgis, Beulah Thompson.

**1895:** Motto—"Esse quam Videri." (To be, rather than to seem). J. Brainard Brown, Minnie Coon, Edna L. Fuller, Leroy Hornbeck, Nona McMannis, Addie Parker, Kittie Richards, Laura V. Brown, Edith A. Foote, Grace Hafer, Frank Hough, Lena Moye, Geo. B. Randels, Elva Tenney, Maude Ward.

**1896:** Motto—"No step backward." Roscoe Barber, Maggie Boyd, Rosetta Eldredge, Eliza Hill, Floss King, Bernice McKee, Frank R. Monfort,

Mary Orbison, Frank Shroyer, Lura Webster, Will Barstow, Stewart Crandell, Bertha Garlock, Della Kennett, Herbert King, Leon McMannis, John W. Myers, Herbert L. Ringle, Adelbert Thum, Walter Whitcomb.

1897: Motto—"Climb, though the rocks be rugged." Daniel T. Altenburg, Jacob De Bar, Harry A. French, Edna M. Jones, Chas. E. Long, Clay W. Mott, Ivis S. Parker, Nellie M. Turner, Orville L. Altenburg, S. Louie Foote, Amy A. Gleason, Nellie M. Lennox, F. Berde Moore, C. May Packer, Ruby H. Phillips, Minnie P. Upham.

1898: Motto—"A case not yet decided." Alanson W. Brown, Ethel Iles, Gracia Mouser, Orill N. Reichard, Theron A. Goodwin, Chas. H. Loomis, Victor H. Palmer, Wm. B. Scattergood, Jr., Clara Schultz, Fred R. Cady.

1899: Frank Iseman, Beryl Belding, Lela Scott, Esther Woodbury, Roy Des Ermia, Irene Dunstall, Perley Lehner, Eli Pierce, Don Taylor, Nellie Waterbury.

1900: Bessie Read, Katie Scofield, Erma Smith, Glen Robinson, Will E. Brown, Ida M. Kinsel, Zelma Ames, Icylene Beechler, Roy Beechler, Aida Brewer, Sara Brodebeck, Henrietta Chase, Olive Hafer, Robin Hamilton, Alta Leet, Saul C. Netzorg, Minnola North, Anna Orbison, Amy Wheeler, William Winton.

1901: Motto—"We pass this way but once." Clarence Hill, Howard Potter, Velma Palmer, Gertrude Webster, Beatrice Brown, Lillian Fullmer, Vina Howland, Calla B. Huntley, James O. Peet, Walter Scattergood, Ethel M. Seaver.

1902: C. Roy Hatton, Lulu B. Dodge, Lillian Crandell, Gladys Nelson, Blanche Allen, Edna Allen, Maude M. Brown, Celia Netzorg, Verne W. Tucker, Ethel D. Wells, Beulah Winton, Homer Yutsey, Luella Seaver, Ida M. Traver, Bernice M. Thornton, Rhea Seaver, Bessie Coleman, Nina M. Beckwith, Marshall A. Becker, Floyd Barkham, Orah Ashley.

1903: Motto—"Honors wait at Labor's gate." Vera McLaren, Mattie Seaver, Agnes Yutsey, June Ashley, Marshall Allen, Neil Russell, Tom H. Harrod, Gaylord Nelson, Wm. H. Beckwith.

1904: Bert Parker, Park Watkins, Pearl Daniels, Harry Lane, Floyd Barstow, Loren Gleason, Lola Todd, Gladys Lewis, Clyde Pinney, Maude Bailey, Beatrice Harrington, Ray Marzolf.

1905: Burton Carmony, Ray Barnes, Fred Kinney, Walter Todd, Rex Howd, Marie Behrens, Cora Burck, Ethel Beechler, Gretchen Allen, Laura Pinney, Agnes Redman, Grace Rogers.

1906: Flossie Beechler, Clara Brown, Wilma Webster, Alice O. Carpenter, Louis Read, Floyd Gibbs, Leon Cook, Bert Seaver, Don Sprague, Floyd Kinney, Theo. Nelson.

1907: Laurence Howd, Charlotte Weller, Marjorie J. Horr, Roy N. Seaver, Estella E. Jackson, Hallie E. Cooper, Bessie F. Seaver, Stanley Mathews, Irl Howd, Teada T. Pinney, Warren A. Stahl, Arthur H. Gibbs, Hazel Coleman, Floyd W. Clark, Glennie V. Brannan.

1908: Ethel Palmer, Theo. E. Kinsel, Gertrude Lewis, Clinton V. Ballard, Webb McCall, Robert A. Feary, Archie Ryckman, Lula R. Lyon, Justin Monfort, Joyce G. Wight, Glaister H. Ashley, Chas. W. Hamilton, Bessie Yutsey, Florence Bovee.

1909: Bernice Lewis, Shirley Bellows, Ethel Searl, Lena Pettit, Rena Bronson, Darwin Munson, Alva Brader, Eva Taylor, Dean Waldron, Coral Myra, Jesse Fitz Gerald, Gladie Kille, Claude Maxwell, Gladys Maxwell, Carl Pinney, Howard Alverson, Madge Cornwell, Clella Clark, Myrle Seaver, Marian Harrington, Miles Nelson, Florence Allen.

1910: Motto—"Be industrious." Mabel Bunn, Margaret Allen, Hazel Kelly, Angie Van Buskirk, Mary Foster, Ruth Pinney, Alta Weaver, Gladys Tracey, Howard Mathews, Don Snedicor, Clifford Garlock, Geo. Crook, Robert McKay, Rollin Smith, Harry Cowdrey, Aubrey Mellinger.

1911: Motto—"As the work, so the reward." Keith Kellogg, Ransom C. Munson, Chester R. Pettit, Zetta J. Whipple, Eleanor M. Mathews, Howard V. Kittle, Vesta A. N. Darcus, Blanche L. Goodhall, Marie L. Hale, Ray S. Kerstetter, C. Perth Pressley, Eugene Down, Herbert J. Knowlton, Roscoe F. Miller, Kenneth H. Smith, Jane E. Knapp, Hazel C. Clark, Lois L. Bovee, Rex J. Barstow, Florian B. Hoxie, Corbel Woodman, Urbana Wilbur, Austin L. Pino, Geo. L. Whitman, Rhea Vedder, William B. McWilliams, Roy J. Snyder, Amos K. Adamek, Carl D. Chambers, Harry E. Cornwell.

1912: Motto—"'Impossible' is un-American." Donald Barden, Agnes Barnaby, Mary Bancroft, Hazel Barnes, Ethel Beal, Cassius Beechler, Alta Carothers, Hazel Cramer, Ray Day, Gladys Derby, Vivian Greenlee, Jay Guernsey, Harry Hill, Claude Jessup, Carrie Johnson, Clara Johnson, Donella Kinsel, Esther Lewis, Alzina Leet, Beryl Littell, Gretchen Marquette, Florence Moench, Muriel McEnderfer, Geraldine Price, Otto Pino, Claude Salter, Ovid Seaman, Rhea Seaman, Hazelbelle Searl, Timothy Thum, Pearl Vallance, Erma Walker, Zelda Walker.

1913: Motto—"Was noch," (What next.) Rolland P. Wood, Irene McCall, Harold F. Mouser, Mabel Sowle, Clarence Gruesbeck, Glada Beck, Roland Crawford, Yula Pressley, Bryan Kinney, Florence Bronson, Cecil Taylor, Caryll Thompson, Lucile Long, Claude Wiseman, Mabel Bellows, Hope Cornwell, Richard Lewis, Irene Sackett, Elizabeth Miller, Neil Weller, Mary Herron, William Searl, Katy Darcus, Rollie Coleman, Ruth Graham, Charles Andre, Lura McDaid.

### County Normal Training School.

This is established at Ithaca and has been in operation since the fall of 1903. At a meeting of the board of education of Ithaca held in October of that year a resolution was adopted, designed to take advantage of the legislative act of 1903, providing for the establishment of a Normal Training Class in a certain number of counties of the state, not having the advantages of a State Normal School within its borders. The board of supervisors also gave the plan its approval at its session of October, 1903, by resolution to that effect introduced by Supervisor Henry Read, and adopted by the close vote of 11 to 10. The board divided pretty even sectionally, the supervisors from the southern part of the county voting favorably, those in the northern part voting against the proposition, with the exception of Supervisor Manly A. Stevens of the third ward of St. Louis, who voted "yes" on the proposition. This is in the nature of a digression from the main subject, so, with the further statement that this year was Mr. Stevens' first year as supervisor and proved to be his last, I hasten back to the subject of Normal Schools.

The school was established and commenced operations that same fall—1903. The teaching force consists of a principal and three assistants detailed from the regular corps of teachers of the Ithaca school. Harriet L. Peckham was the first principal. She served one year and was succeeded by Mayone Kinnan, who served two years. Agatha Dunstall followed in 1906, serving one year. Then in 1907 came Katharine Carland. She filled the position for a period of four years, giving way in 1911 to Margaret Battle, who served also in 1912, and was engaged for the year beginning September, 1913.

The Normal turns out an average of about twelve teachers annually. Twenty-five were given diplomas in 1913—an exceptionally large class.

The school has proved a success, and is a great convenience, according to the estimate of those whose business it is to be interested, and familiar with its merits.

## ITHACA NEWSPAPERS.

Ithaca's first newspaper—the county's first newspaper—was established in 1858, the first issue of the "Gratiot News" being dated May 1, 1858. Samuel N. Miller and Robert Sutton were the founders, the printing outfit being brought in from Owosso for them by Cornelius Campbell, of Washington Township. Frank Miller, lawyer and prosecuting attorneey was employed as editor. I have been unable to get hold of a copy dated earlier than August 28, 1858. A copy in my possession bearing that date is numbered Vol. 1, No. 18; so, by counting back I find that the first issue must have seen the light May 1, 1858. The venerable paper—No. 18 of Vol. 1—now in its 56th year—shows its age somewhat, having something of a worn look, as if its pioneer experiences had been strenuous. The proprietors have a notice of dissolution in that issue, Mr. Miller having just sold his interest to his partner. It is a four-page paper with six columns to the page; but the columns are wider than the ordinary, present-day columns.

Over five of the columns are occupied by the county tax sales advertisement for the taxes of 1856-7; a pleasant thing to shove under an editor's nose when his family was "at the point of starvation and suffering." Lafayette Church was the county treasurer and Whitney Jones was the auditor general, responsible for the advertisement.

W. W. Comstock advertises the Ithaca Hotel, "recently enlarged and improved." John Jeffrey dealt in general merchandise "at the Commercial Emporium." The Temperance House, near the Court House, "commodiously located upon Center Street." R. D. Buchanan, physician and surgeon. Ebenezer Feris, of North Shade "whereases" that his wife Martha has left his bed and board. Sheriff H. L. Townsend—by Under Sheriff L. C. Knapp advertises four sheriff sales. The Ithaca Steam Mills—flour mill and saw mill—are advertised by the proprietors, J. Jeffrey, F. Nelson and L. Church.

Of local news items the paper contains practically nothing.

An issue of the Gratiot News dated January 13, 1859, shows that Jesse P. Wheaton was proprietor and Moses Tompkins Jr., was editor. The mail schedule showed that the mail went north on Mondays, south on Thursdays and west (to Greenville) on Wednesdays.

The next copy of the Gratiot News to turn up is dated October 5, 1860—Vol. 3, No. 20. Tompkins & Pratt—Moses Tompkins and Gilbert E. Pratt—were the publishers.

The following attorneys had their cards in the paper: Wm. E. Winton, A. V. P. Day, Israel B. Costs (prosecuting attorney), Chas. B. Holiday, Moses Tompkins, G. E. Pratt.

Dr. C. W. Marvin's card appeared, also that of Luther C. Smith, justice of the peace.

The mails came and went once a week.

The paper prints the full Republican ticket from Abraham Lincoln for president down to Hiram Burgess and Thos. J. Tann for coroners, touching the name of Austin Blair for governor on the way.

An article taken from the Rocky Mountain (Nevada) Herald tells of the death of Mathew McHenry, a young man of 25, son of Geo. W. McHenry, and brother of Mrs. A. P. Foland, now a resident of Wheeler. He was struck by lightning and instantly killed.

A. B. Bailey, of Emerson, gave the editor a sample of white carrots, and Dr. Marvin presented him with two onions, the largest one of which was 19 inches in circumference, and weighed two pounds and three ounces. Ears of corn fifteen inches in length were grown by W. J. Pendell, of New Haven Township. All of which shows that Gratiot County had passed the starvation period.

"We are indebted to Wm. Burgess, of Arcada, for some fine specimens of Mechonick potatoes which in size and yield are not easily surpassed," says the editor, and adds that Sether Dean had lately presented him with "some great potatoes and a mammoth squash." Editors seem to have had a great pull on vegetables in those early times.

The next issue that I have been able to resurrect is only a half-sheet, the other half probably being lost. The paper is dated October 23, 1863. D. P. Cornell was editor and publisher. A business directory contains the following: Tompkins & Crawford, attorneys; Winton & Hanchett, attorneys; C. W. Marvin, M. D.; J. Jeffrey, general store and village lots; A. M. Merrill, shoemaker; Wm. Marlow, tin shop. The Ithaca Hotel had Russell Burgess for its proprietor. Outside advertisers include E. L. Drake, St. Louis, bounty and pension agent; Cornelius Holiday, justice of the peace, Pine River; Geo. W. Jennings, justice of the peace, Alma; J. R. Cheesman, M. D., St. Louis; J. B. Smith House, six miles south of Ithaca.

Another half-sheet dated October 30, 1863, contains about a column of war news and an installment of the supervisors' proceedings, neither of which are of an exciting nature. E. C. Farrington, of Emerson, has the thanks of the editor "for a beautiful specimen of fall and winter apples—the Culvert, Tompkins Co. King, Northern Spy, English Streak, Gilly-Flower, also the Maiden's Blush, Beauty and Flavor of which is not excelled in Northern Michigan, together with a variety of other fruit too numerous to mention. Mr. Farrington has our sincere thanks, may he live long to enjoy the fruits of his labors."

The editor's wish certainly didn't do any hurt, for Mr. Farrington is still enjoying himself pretty well on his same farm, at the age of 89 years.

The printing outfit by which and through which the Gratiot News was launched, was first housed in the log part of the Ithaca Hotel; the edifice erected by Mr. Comstock in 1856. It remained there about six months, when it was removed to a home of its own, a small frame building built at about the spot where now stands the dwelling of Chas. E. Webster.

Getting back now to the early history of the Gratiot News, the paper came under the control of W. W. Comstock in the fall of 1858—about six months after it was launched. He leased it to Jesse P. Wheaton who employed Moses Tompkins Jr. as editor. The paper next went into the hands of D. P. Cornell, who continued at the helm until 1865 when it was suspended for a few weeks and was then bought by Nathan Church and Daniel Taylor. They immediately installed new material, greatly improved the paper, and changed its name to the Journal. Taylor was the mechanical expert while Church looked after the editorial end of the business. On press day they pooled their efforts and took turns at the old hand press. After a time Taylor bought Church's interest and thereafter had Theron A. Johnson as editor. This combination lasted until 1872, when the outfit

was purchased by Robert Smith, who, as proprietor and editor brought the paper to a high state of efficiency as a country weekly. He combined a thorough knowledge of the printer's trade with much ability as a local writer and his paper soon attained a position among the leading weekly papers in the state. He conducted the Journal for a period of 18 years, and during a large portion of that time the paper wielded great influence in the county; an influence generally for good, but too often wielded for the gratification of malice or spite, or for the advancement of the personal and selfish interests of its publisher. Smith's caustic, unjust, barbarous, and withal unfair and dishonest treatment of any who chanced to cross his path was only limited or modified by his ability; and his ability, along the vitriolic line in sentiment and expression, knew no limitations. On the other hand his toadying obsequiousness to powerful or presumably useful friends was equally as reprehensible, and with the added repulsive quality of being, in many cases, unbearably sickening. It is only fair, however, to record the fact, that in the course of his newspaper career in Gratiot County, he struck many vigorous and telling blows in behalf of the right.

In June, 1890, the Journal was bought by Chase Bros.—Chas. H. and Adelbert E. Chase—who conducted it until January, 1893, when a syndicate or combination was formed composed of the Gratiot Journal, Alma Record and St. Louis Republican Leader. The publishers of the three newspapers associated themselves together under the name of the Gratiot County Printing Company, and the three concerns were managed jointly. Under the arrangement the Gratiot Journal came under the editorial control of O. M. Everden. At the end of three years—in February, 1896, the company was dissolved by mutual consent, and Chase Bros. resumed control and management of the Journal, continuing until May, 1902, when they disposed of the paper to Fred W. Griswold. In April, 1906, a stock company assumeed ownership and control of the Journal, with F. W. Griswold as manager; an arrangement that continued until 1912, when the paper was sold on contract to E. C. Bridgman, of Jackson. Bridgman flunked on his contract in the spring of 1913, and about August 1st of that year the paper was sold outright to Hon. Myles F. Gray, of Lansing, who is now conducting it to the satisfaction of its patrons.

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The Northern Courier, started late in 1860 by Israel B. Coats, an Ithaca attorney, was short lived. At the election of November, 1860, Mr. Coats was re-elected prosecuting attorney. The vote was a tie between him and Moses Tompkins, Coats winning when lots were drawn. He died in the early part of his last term of office, and his paper went out of business at that time.

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In August, 1878, Chas. S. Hilbourn entered the newspaper field in Gratiot County by establishing the Gratiot County Democrat at Ithaca. The paper was an exponent of the principles of the Democratic party, as its name would indicate. Its publication was continued three years, and in August, 1881, it ceased to exist, owing to lack of adequate support. Mr. Hilbourn removed the plant to Muskegon where he conducted a job office many years following.

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In February, 1883, the Ithaca Times was started by Frank M. Vandercook, with an outfit of new material. He had sold his interest in the St. Louis Leader to his partner, E. S. Hoskins, the previous fall. After continu-

ing in the business about a year, Vandercook sold the Times to W. L. Hilbourn and R. G. Harpham, who, after a few more months, discontinued business, the financial returns being insufficient to warrant a continuance Mr. Vandercook, coming again into possession of the newspaper outfit, removed it to St. Louis and started the St. Louis Republican.

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In the summer of 1886, quite a number of Ithaca people became possessed of the idea that an opposition paper was one of the necessities for Ithaca. So a combination known as Johnson & Groom—outside parties—was induced to seize the opportunity. The result was the founding of a newspaper named the Gratiot Advance. With varying fortunes and various managers and promoters the paper appeared quite regularly until December, 1887, when it was purchased by W. D. Tucker, publisher of the St. Louis Herald. He transferred the last named paper bodily to Ithaca, and, consolidating the two, named the combination the Gratiot County Herald. That paper seemed to fill the bill as an opposition paper, or as a competitor with the Journal, and prospered in a reasonable degree from the start. The four previous attempts of publishers to get a permanent foothold for the second newspaper in Ithaca had failed; but the Herald stuck.

In this connection I want to go out of my way to acknowledge favors and accommodations shown by a citizen of Ithaca, at that time, which helped materially in making the removal of the Herald to Ithaca, and its establishment as a permanent institution, a successful venture. I refer to Edwin H. Ashley. Though his motives were far from being entirely unselfish; and though every accommodation was fully reimbursed, with eight per cent. semi-annual interest added; and though his eccentricities were, at times, enough to drive one to profanity if not to suicide, it is, nevertheless, a fact that his zealous efforts made possible what might otherwise have proved a serious, if not a doubtful problem.

July 23, 1892, W. D. Tucker sold the Herald to J. N. McCall, who, with his brother, E. J. McCall, continued its publication with marked and increasing success until the summer of 1913, when, by a mutual arrangement, E. J. McCall purchased and took the management of a Mt. Pleasant paper, and Webb McCall, son of J. N. McCall, became connected with the active management of the Herald.

In September, 1894, Chas. H. Elliott and Walter T. Smith, with an outfit of entirely new material, fathered a new paper at Ithaca—The Gratiot County News. Democratic in politics, it was presumed to fill a long-felt want. In the following January, partner Smith sold his interest to partner Elliott who continued the publication of the paper until November, 1895, when he sold out to W. D. Tucker. The latter enlarged and improved the paper, added much new material and machinery, and, after a campaign of more than ten years—that is to say, on the 12th of April, 1906—sold the entire equipment, subscription list and good will, to the Gratiot Journal. The News was consolidated with the Journal, and went out of publication, since which time the Herald and the Journal have had sole possession of the field. The Herald is an "out and out" Republican paper; the Journal editor, while an ardent Republican, is trying hard to run an independent paper and has succeeded pretty well thus far.

In the Herald and the Journal, it is conceded without serious reservation, that Ithaca has two first-class county newspapers. No town in the state, of twice its size, can make any successful pretense of beating Ithaca in that respect.

## ITHACA CHURCHES.

### The Presbyterians.

At an anniversary meeting of this church held February 16, 1910, to celebrate its 40th year as a church organization, William E. Winton, who had been a leading member during the 40 years, gave a brief but comprehensive history of the church from its organization in 1870, which forms a basis for the history of the church which follows.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This church was instituted and set in action on the 16th day of February, 1870, with seven members — three males and four females, viz.: J. W. Caldwell, W. E. Winton, John Winton, Mrs. Harriet L. Watson, Mrs. Mary Church, Mrs. C. E. Williams and Mrs. Marietta Winton. All united by certificates from other churches except J. H. Winton who joined on confession of faith. Rev. J. T. Willett, of St. Louis, home missionary, was authorized to officiate in organizing this church, by the Presbytery of Grand River Valley, to which this section of the country then belonged. Rev. J. T. Willett preached a sermon from 1st Timothy, 3rd Chapter, Fifteenth verse, last clause: "The Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of Truth," after which he administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Rev. D. D. Hamilton was pastor from March, 1871, until April, 1875. He was succeeded by Rev. J. T. Willett, of St. Louis, who officiated every two weeks, services being held in the M. E. Church. He continued in this service until August, 1879.

Rev. John E. Long succeeded Mr. Willett as pastor, coming to the church in March, 1880. For about six years he preached at Ithaca and at the Emerson church, alternating between the two every other week. During the next ten years, up to April, 1896, Mr. Long gave his entire attention to the Ithaca church, preaching morning and evening, each week, the greater part of the time.

Rev. Robert T. Lynd was made pastor in July, 1896, continuing in that capacity only until October, 1897, when he was succeeded by Rev. A. L. Toner, who took hold of the work in December, 1897, continuing therein until April, 1901.

In June, 1901, Rev. Roger M. Williams was secured as pastor. His services continued until April, 1908.

Rev. John Q. Durfey, the present pastor, commenced his ministrations September 20, 1908. He is proving himself a worthy successor of the able men who have preceded him.

The church has been particularly fortunate in its pastors, all being men of high character and superior ability. The society, recognizing their merits in this regard, have retained their services for long pastorates in most cases.

To return to the events of the earlier days: The first Presbyterian prayer meeting ever held in Ithaca was held at the home of Lewis Hood, April 25, 1877. There were present at the meeting, Mrs. Nathan Church and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wagoner, Daniel F. Muscott, Mr. and Mrs. L. Hood and daughter, and W. E. Winton.

The first Presbyterian Sunday school was organized in June, 1882. The adults present were Z. Hoag and wife, Thomas H. Harrod and wife, A. S. Barber and wife, W. E. Winton. There were twelve scholars present, but the names of only six are found in the record, viz.: Fred Brown, Ray McCall, Harry Taylor, Wm. E. Dibble and Edith V. Johnson.

The first church edifice was completed in June, 1882, on the lot now occupied by the present fine stone structure. The lot was selected by Elisha McCall and W. E. Winton. The building was dedicated June 4, 1882. The cost of the building and lot was about $3,710, and it was all paid for at the time of the dedication. Rev. H. H. Northrop, of Flint, conducted the dedicatory services and delivered the sermon.

In 1898 the present fine building was erected. It is built of sand stone, is of modern design, elegant and convenient in all its appointments. The old building was moved back and made to serve as an annex to the new building. The cost of the new building with its furnishings and including the bell was about $7,000. A few years ago a tasty and convenient residence building and lot, located near the church, were purchased for the use of the pastor and his family.

The corner stone of the new church structure was laid September 13, 1898. The building was dedicated January 22, 1899, Rev. Geo. F. Hunting preaching the sermon.

During the year, 1910, the inside of the church was given a complete overhauling at a cost of nearly $5,000. The changes were important and elaborate, the result being as fine a church interior as is to be found in the county. The building was re-dedicated November 27, 1910, Rev. H. L. Crain, of Alma conducting the services.

The society is in a prosperous condition and entirely free from debt. The present membership is about 200.

The society is still being served by Rev. J. Q. Durfey, which fact furnishes quite conclusive proof, without argument, that he is giving excellent satisfaction. And, as a disinterested on-looker I remark with pleasure that as a citizen and neighbor he fully merits and enjoys the approbation of the entire community.

### The Baptists.

The present Baptist Church building was dedicated January 2, 1887. On the 15th anniversary of that event, that is to say, January 2, 1902, special services were held, at which Mrs. Sara L. Brown read a paper giving the main facts in the church's history. Much of what follows is taken verbatim from her address. The First Baptist Church of Ithaca, the

pioneer religious organization of the county, was organized July 18, 1857, with twenty-five members, as follows: Rev. and Mrs. Israel Fay, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mead, Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Church, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. George Luce, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob E. Bullock, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney S. Hastings, Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Sether Dean, Christopher Dingman, Hiram Burgess, Mary Bradshaw, John Jeffrey and Mother Ray. They met in the old log court house which had been built the year before. Rev. Israel Fay was chairman of the meeting and Dr. J. A. Guthrie clerk. Lafayette Church, Nathan Thomas, Sether Dean and Sidney S. Hastings were made the first board of deacons, and Lafayette Church was given permission to preach the gospel. Mr. Church had already been active in religious work, having organized the first Sunday school in the county in May, 1855, in the home of F. Way, half way between Alma and St. Louis.



BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING.

For ten years the society was without a church building, but had regular services, usually in the old log school house which stood near the site of the present city hall. Elder Fay served as pastor two years, selling fruit trees to help in making a living.

Rev. Lafayette Church succeeded Elder Fay as pastor. He never had the advantage of a college education. He served the church at intervals until his enlistment in the military service in 1862, and upon his return from the army in 1865 he alternately preached in Ithaca, St. Louis, Alma and Lafayette until the ordination of Theodore Nelson in 1867.

Rev. Wm. S. Everest served as pastor of the Ithaca society in 1864 and 1865. He was born in Monroe County, N. Y. After his ministry in Ithaca he removed to New Haven Township where he engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Rev. Theodore Nelson was born in Lenawee County, Mich., coming with his parents to Gratiot when thirteen years of age. At the close of the Civil War in which he served conspicuously, he entered Kalamazoo College.

After his ordination in 1867 he served the Ithaca society as pastor three years. After a course in the university at Ann Arbor, Mr. Nelson—in 1872—again became pastor at Ithaca, and later—in 1873—was called to the First Baptist Church at East Saginaw.

The Baptist Society's first church building was erected in 1867, during Mr. Nelson's pastorate, and was dedicated in the early part of 1868. It was built of wood, 36 by 60 feet in size, and stood on the site of the present brick edifice. It served its purpose well for seventeen years, and then—on March 13, 1884, between 10 and 11 o'clock a. m.—it was totally destroyed by fire. This was a hard blow to the society and a serious loss to the village. There was no insurance, and to add to the depressing nature of the case there was an indebtedness of about $400.

To return to a consideration of pastorates: Rev. L. C. Pattengill was called to the church in February, 1874. After serving very acceptably a little more than a year, Elder Pattengill passed away, to the great regret of his parishioners.

Rev. J. S. Goodman, of Saginaw, supplied the church for two years, and Rev. J. L. DeLand, also of Saginaw, served for a short term.

Rev. George Atkinson, educated at Rochester, N. Y., came as pastor in 1877 and remained with the church three years. It was during his pasorate that the Woman's Mission Circle was organized with the following members: Mrs. L. C. Pattengill, Sara L. Brown, Nettie Comstock, Addie Comstock, Sue V. Hall and Mrs. W. C. Beckwith.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist Church was instituted in 1866 and has always been a very helpful factor in the spiritual, financial and social affairs of the church.

Following Mr. Atkinson, Rev. Goodman was again called to the work and served till 1882. He died in November, 1884.

In 1882 Rev. D. M. Christy came to the field, and for seven years was the beloved pastor of the church. It was during his term that the church burned, as stated, in March, 1884. The zeal and earnestness of Elder Christy knew no bounds. Church services were regularly held in such places as opportunity and convenience permitted. Additions to the church membership were frequent during the two years while the new church was being built, the hand of fellowship being given to twenty-seven persons at one time.

The present fine church edifice was dedicated January 2, 1887. It is 52 by 76 feet in size, with a good basement. It is of brick, (veneered) a fine type of the Gothic style of architecture, with a spire reaching to a height of 96 feet. The building was dedicated free from debt, the entire cost being given at the time as $7,850.57. Rev. Theodore Nelson preached the dedicatory sermon, taking for his text, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The music of the occasion was under the personal direction of Mrs. Geo. S. Van Buskirk and was an inspiring feature. Those who aided in furnishing music for the church for many years, besides Mrs. Van Buskirk it is well to mention John M. Everden, Geo. S. Van Buskirk, Celia Smith, and later Mr. and Mrs. M. Foster Chafey.

Though the church was dedicated, nominally, out of debt, it may not be out of place in the interest of the whole truth, to state that some of the notes given as pledges for the payment of subscriptions, were allowed to go unpaid for a long period of time, and this, with other things, served to fasten a debt upon the church which was not fully wiped out till Jan-

uary 2, 1902, the 15th anniversary of the dedication, when the last dollar of indebtedness was finally paid, and the occasion was duly observed and celebrated with special services.

Following Rev. Christy's term, Rev. J. N. Webb served the church about six months, and was followed in March, 1890, by Rev. Marshall H. Pettit. In his pastorate of five years he and his family won the affections of all who knew them. He left Ithaca to accept a call to a Detroit church. During his term the church was greatly strengthened, spiritually and financially.

Rev. C. W. Lisk succeeded Mr. Pettit and remained one year. Then Rev. A. H. Beaver acted as a supply for a time.

Rev. J. R. Baldwin came in September, 1896, and served as pastor seven years. He was what may properly be called a hustler, and it was largely through his energetic work that the church debt was finally canceled, as already mentioned. Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Pettit are both held in grateful remembrance for their good work in heroically raising the financial burdens of the church.

Rev. C. A. Salyer came as pastor in 1903 and remained a little over two years. Extensive repairs on the church building were made during his pastorate, and the ladies re-carpeted the church.

Rev. B. F. Jefferson succeeded Mr. Salyer as pastor, not permanently, but as a "supply." He served as such about one year and was succeeded by Rev. O. W. Waldron who served about two years. Rev. F. L. Currey succeeded Mr. Waldron and remained until December, 1912. The present pastor, Rev. R. W. McLean, commenced his pastorate September 1, 1913. He is proving popular with his church as well as with the community in general.

It is almost impossible in a brief sketch to give all the credit that may be due. Time, space and memory are inadequate. But a few names may well be mentioned of those who, during the many years of Baptist Church work in Ithaca, have been prominent in the cause, or have aided liberally in advancing its interests. Some of them are John Jeffrey, Nathan Church, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Nelson, Rev. and Mrs. Theodore Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Beckwith, Lafayette Church and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Er W. Mead, Mrs. E. N. Du Bois, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert C. Smith, Nettie Comstock, Mrs. Cenah (Pettit) Crandall, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lawrence, D. S. Parker and wife, Wm. B. Scattergood and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Everden, Mr. and Mrs. C. Gregory, Mrs. Elizabeth Myers, Josephine Holcomb, Mrs. Eva Guiwits, S. W. Ambler and wife, M. H. Waterbury and wife, Mrs. S. L. Miller, J. M. Trask and wife, Mrs. C. E. Webster, Mrs. W. M. Weller, and many others.

Not the least of the many meritorious circumstances connected with the history of the Ithaca Baptist Church, may be mentioned the fact that at least four young ministers have been sent out from its fold—Brainard Brown, Alanson W. Brown, Stewart Crandell and Thos. Hafer—all of whom have made good in their calling.

### The Methodists.

The first Methodist Episcopal Class formed in Gratiot County was organized by Rev. Elias Sower in the southern part of North Star Township, in March, 1855. It was called the Belding Class, and Geo. Fairchilds was the leader. A year later—March, 1856, Elder Sower organized

a class in the northern part of North Star. This was called the Sower Class, and Elder Sower was the leader. In 1857 a class was formed in Hamilton Township, called the Hamilton Class. Services were held for more than twenty years in the Barton school house. The present Sickels Class is the successor to the original Hamilton Class.

What was called the Gratiot Circuit of the M. E. Church was formed by the Conference of 1856, and embraced the middle and eastern part of the county, and also took in Salt River, Isabella County. Rev. T. J. Hill was the first pastor, and was followed by Calvin B. Holbrook, Uriah Mason, Rev. Finch, Stephen Dodge, J. W. Webb, Lyman Ferguson, E. M. Plumb. By this time an assistant was needed, and A. W. House was designated as Rev. Plumb's assistant. All of these pastors resided in St. Louis.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In 1867 Gratiot Circuit was divided into the St. Louis Circuit and the Ithaca Circuit. Ithaca Circuit and station has had for its pastors—A. W. House; S. P. Hewitt; D. C. Woodward; Rev. Hardin; C. F. Van Auken; Rev. Hills; Rev. Caldwell; J. W. Hathaway; S. Nelson, '82 to '85; C. A. Jacokes, '85 to '90; J. H. Thomas, '90 to '93; Geo. Killeen, '93 to '98; Wm. A. Taylor, '98 to '01; J. C. Cook, '01 to '05; J. H. Wilcox, '05 to '09; Alfred Way, '09 to '13; C. L. Beebe, '13.

The first church building was of wood, erected in 1870. In 1891, during the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Thomas, the building was remodeled and enlarged at a cost of about $4,000. The regenerated building was dedicated August 16, 1891, and it served the requirements of the society until 1910, when such extensive changes and additions were made as constituted, practically the construction of an entirely new building, and at a cost of about $15,000. It is now one of the finest in the county, and a distinct credit to the society and the town. It is a brick-veneered building, a fine grade of paving brick being used in the work.

The rebuilt building was dedicated May 21, 1912, with elaborate ceremonies. The cut is from a photograph taken expressly for use in this volume.

### The Congregationalists.

For several years the Congregationalists had quite a thriving church society here. It was organized in 1866, with Wm. E. Winton and wife, Elijah Peck and wife, Dr. C. W. Marvin and wife, Zachariah Hoag, wife and daughter Helen as charter members. Rev. Samuel Sessions, Rev. Edwin Shaw, Rev. Edward Cleveland and Rev. F. L. Bristol served as pastors. A church building was erected on Maple Street, north, in 1878. It was dedicated June 2, 1878, Rev. Williams of Charlotte officiating. Along in the late '80s the society went out of business, Rev. N. D. Glidden being the last pastor, serving four years. The church building was sold to the Free Methodists, and the members mainly became affiliated with the Presbyterian Society.

### Free Methodists.

The Free Methodists have a membership of about 20, and have regular services, morning and evening, at their church edifice on Maple Street, north, purchased of the Congregationalists nearly 30 years ago. Rev. Henry Iles is the present pastor.

### Adventist Church.

The Seventh Day Adventists have had an organization at Ithaca since the early '60s. Their first church building was burned in 1867. This was replaced by the building still in use by the society, located on the north side of Newark Street, east. The new building was dedicated March 8, 1885, sermon by Elder Van Horn. A denominational school is maintained during a portion of the year, in a school building on the church lot, adjacent to the church. Church services are held somewhat irregularly, but it is understood that the church society is very much alive notwithstanding that fact.

## BANKING IN ITHACA.

Ithaca's experiences with banks and bankers have been generally satisfactory, only two bank failures being recorded against this general statement. Those two failures caused considerable disturbance to business and much anxiety at the time they occurred. Business, however, suffered only temporarily, and though doubtless there were individual losses directly or indirectly chargeable to the failures, all creditors, including depositors, were finally paid in full. At least such was the general understanding of the matter.

### Church, Bills & Co.'s Bank.

Ithaca's first bank was that of Church, Bills & Co., organized in 1877, commencing business in July of that year. A private bank with a copartnership composed of Nathan Church and Mrs. Mary H. Church, of Ithaca, and Perley Bills, of Tecumseh, Mich. The bank opened for business in its own new building, erected for the purpose on a site leased from the Jeffrey estate, southwest corner of Center and Main Streets, the location now occupied by the Jeffrey block. It was built by Albert L. Shears, of St. Louis, one of that town's most skillful builders. It was an exact duplicate of one previously

built in St. Louis by Mr. Shears to accommodate A. B. Darragh's Gratiot County Bank. It is now doing duty as a laundry building, located on Pine River Street, south; has been moved at least four times, serving on two different sites as a postoffice building. The St. Louis bank building mentioned was occupied for many years for banking purposes. The bank took possession of its new quarters in the Holcomb block in 1881, and the old bank building was occupied many years by Dentist C. H.Crandall.

But why this digression! In August, 1880, Church, Bills & Co., in order to make room for the erection of the Jeffrey block, moved their office and building from the Jeffrey corner to a site just east of the Fox House, the hotel building since known as the Retan House, the Palmer House, the Imperial, the Voigt, etc.

In 1880 the bank was re-organized, its stock increased, and additional members taken into the partnership, as follows: Oscar P. Bills, Wilbur Nelson, Wm. B. Scattergood and Caroline Bills. Gen. Nathan Church was continued as president and Wm. B. Scattergood was made cashier in place of John W. Lewis, the latter becoming cashier of the new bank of Steel, Turck & Co. In August, 1880, work was begun by Gen. Church on a new brick building for the use of the bank of Church, Bills & Co., and in March, 1881, the bank took possession of its new quarters; the same building that is now occupied by the Ithaca Savings Bank. For more than eleven years thereafter the bank did a flourishing business and was deservedly a very popular banking institution. However, stress of circumstances at last turned against its prosperity, and on Tuesday, November 29, 1892, it closed its doors, never again to open them for business.

The bank failure caused considerable excitement among business people and depositors, and caused much inconvenience. The assurances of the officers and stockholders, however, that all creditors would be paid in full, allayed apprehension. And it is a pleasure to record the fact that the promise was faithfully fulfilled, all creditors receiving full satisfaction, depositors being fully paid, with interest on their deposits from the date of the bank's failure. A result reflecting much credit upon the responsible parties; satisfactorily and completely attesting their integrity and good faith.

### Ithaca's Second Bank.

The bank of Steel, Turck & Company was launched in Ithaca in May, 1880. It was a private bank with stockholders as follows: R. M. Steel, John Hicks, Josiah Upton and John Scriven, of St. Johns; J. M. Thurber, of Detroit; Wm. S. Turck, W. E. Winton, J. H. Seaver and Louisa Seaver, of Ithaca. R. M. Steel was president and John W. Lewis was cashier, the latter having been succeeded by W. B. Scattergood, as cashier in Church, Bills & Co.'s bank. It commenced business in the store building of Daniel C. Johnson, north side of Center Street, about where the W. H. Beasley block now stands.

During this same summer—1880—work was begun on the big Jeffrey block, southwest corner of Center and Main Streets, in the corner of which block it was designed to finish off rooms for the use of the new bank. The block was duly erected and on the 21st day of February, 1881, the bank took possession of its new rooms. July 7, 1884, the bank was re-organized and became a national bank under the charter name of the First National Bank of Ithaca, with $50,000 capital stock. The same officers remained in charge, and J. H. Seaver was added as vice-president. Some time after the re-organization of the bank, M. Foster Chafey became cashier.

The bank did a thriving business and remained in active operation until 1896, when, meeting with reverses impossible to overcome, it closed its doors and went out of business October 6, 1896. The general financial depression of the times, and consequent "inability to realize on our notes and collaterals" was given as the cause of the failure. An item in the current issue of an Ithaca newspaper gave this further explanation of the situation: "The failure of the First National Bank of Mt. Pleasant, Monday, notice of which appeared in the papers Monday night and Tuesday morning, was the cause of withdrawals of deposits from the Ithaca bank to considerable extent, and necessitated the suspension of business. Of course the connection of R. M. Steel with both of those banks was a matter of common knowledge among citizens of this vicinity, and as Mr. Steel had made an assignment some time ago,, the depositors were keenly alive to any indications of instability in those banks. Hence the withdrawals and the consequent trouble."

County money to the extent of nearly $7,000 was hung up by the bank's suspension and thus the attention of the general public was attracted to the matter, as well as that of individual citizens whose funds seemed to be in jeopardy. The court appointed Geo. Reed, of Mt. Pleasant, as receiver, and in due course of time the affairs of the bank were closed up, and all creditors, including depositors, received their dues in full.

### The Ithaca Savings Bank.

Soon after the failure of the Church, Bills & Co.'s bank, November, 1892, leaving the First National Bank sole occupant of the banking field in Ithaca, some of the business men began agitating the proposition of establishing a new bank. Not much time was lost or spent in discussion. Within less than thirty days the talking had all been done, and $35,000 stock had been subscribed for the new concern. December 24th stockholders elected a board of directors for the new Ithaca Savings Bank, as follows: J. Lee Potts, J. H. Seaver, Chauncey Waterbury, W. M. Weller, J. B. Crawford, Wolf Netzorg, C. E. Webster, W. F. Thompson and Geo. A. Steel. As officers of the bank the directors chose the following: President—Geo. A. Steel, of St. Johns; Vice-President—Chauncey Waterbury; Cashier—Charles A. Price. The latter had been for six years assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Ithaca. The bank had its quarters in the bank building vacated by the bank of Church, Bills & Co., and opened for business January 18, 1893. For more than 20 years it has served the people very acceptably, and is still doing business at the old stand, its business as well as its popularity growing from year to year.

In the year 1907 the rooms of the banking office were given a general overhauling, and remodeling; in fact the office was practically rebuilt, and now for convenience and adaptability it is not excelled by any banking office in the county. An entire new front was among the improvements, the big plate glass being an especially attractive feature.

The present board of directors is constituted as follows: John C. Hicks, F. H. Horr, W. M. Weller, C. A. Price, F. H. McKay, J. B. Crawford, J. Lee Potts, A. E. Pinney, W. F. Thompson. Officers: President—W. F. Thompson; Vice-President—J. Lee Potts; Cashier—C. A. Price; Assistant Cashier—R. A. Barber. Lynn T. Miller, who was an assistant cashier several years, resigned, and accepted the position of cashier of the Central State Savings Bank at Shepherd, Mich., November 1, 1913.

Mr. Thompson has served as president continuously since 1894. Mr. Barber has been a popular fixture since 1901—twelve years. From moderate beginnings the bank has attained a standing very gratifying to its stock-

holders and patrons, its resources now being given at about $500,000; one of the solid banking institutions of Central Michigan. As the name indicates, this bank does business only on savings bank principles and methods, loaning only on specially desirable security, such as real estate mortgages.

### Commercial National Bank of Ithaca.

This bank, the business of which is carried on in the same office with the Ithaca Savings Bank, is the lineal descendant of the Commercial State Bank of Ithaca, which was organized in October, 1902, and which commenced business January 18, 1903, in the Dr. Monfort block, and continued for a period of about seven years. The first board of directors of the original Commercial Bank was composed of Jas. B. Crawford, Frank W. Brown, Dr. W. M. Weller, W. Netzorg, C. E. Webster, Henry E. Lewis, F. H. Horr, Dr. I. N. Monfort and Herbert J. Crawford. The officers were: President—Jas. B. Crawford; Vice-President—H. E. Lewis; Cashier—Jas. P. Gibbs; Asst. Cashier—H. J. Crawford. After a few years Mr. Gibbs withdrew as cashier and H. J. Crawford was chosen for the place, and Lynn T. Miller was assistant.

This bank did business with more or less success until April, 1910, when, the stockholders and directors being largely identical with those of the Ithaca Savings Bank, the bank and its business were transferred to the offices of the Savings Bank. The Commercial Bank was re-organized into a National Bank with the name changed to the Commercial National Bank of Ithaca, with the capital stock fixed at $35,000; and it issues National currency to that amount. The bank does a commercial business exclusively, as distinguished from the business and attributes of a savings bank. It has also been designated as the Postal Savings Depository for Ithaca. Its stockholders are almost exclusively local citizens.

The board of directors at the present time is made up as follows: John C. Hicks, F. H. Horr, W. M. Weller, H. E. Lewis, M. R. Salter, I. N. Monfort, J. B. Crawford, Chas. P. Yost, J. N. McCall, C. E. Webster. The officers: President—John C. Hicks; Vice-President—Jas. B. Crawford; Cashier—Chas. A. Price; Asst. Cashier—R. A. Barber.

This bank is exceptionally popular and seems to be doing business on a thoroughly sound basis; all of which gives promise of a prosperous future.

### The Ithaca Banking Co.

Ithaca had a private bank which did business in the Jeffrey block bank corner from January, 1898, till October, 1902. From the time of the failure of the First National Bank of Ithaca, October 6, 1896, until that date—a little over a year—the community had existed with but one bank within its precincts—the Ithaca Savings Bank, which had commenced business in the Church bank building immediately after the suspension of the Church, Bills & Co. bank. In October, 1897, came one John J. Pellett, from Pontiac, Mich., where he had been connected with the Pontiac National Bank. With him came D. H. Power of the Oakland County Savings Bank, located at Pontiac, and Wm. G. Hinman of the Pontiac National Bank, all of whom, after looking over the field and estimating and weighing the probabilities, mutually agreed that the prospects were all right. So the company was formed, with Edwin H. Ashley, of Ithaca, as the local financial factor in the combination.

The bank was duly opened for business January 17, 1898, with John J. Pellett as cashier. Eli K. Pierce was assistant. It continued in operation

for a period of over four years. apparently with reasonable success, and then—in the fall of 1902— sold its business and banking interests to the Ithaca National Bank, which was organized with the mutual understanding that it was to "take over" the Ithaca Banking Co.'s interests and take that bank's place as an Ithaca banking institution.

### Ithaca National Bank.

This important and popular banking institution was organized in October, 1902. It bought out the Ithaca Banking Co., and commenced business in the rooms vacated by that company, the corner offices of the Jeffrey block. The first board of directors of the Ithaca National Bank was constituted as follows: A. S. Barber, W. T. Naldrett, Isaac S. Seaver, Chas. H. Rowland, Geo. P. Stone, Will D. Iseman, Geo. Richardson, I. N. Cowdrey, John J. Pellett. And the following were made the first officers of the bank: President—A. S. Barber; Vice-President—W. T. Naldrett; Cashier—John J. Pellett; Teller—Eli K. Pierce.

The bank was capitalized at $25,000, and, as the name indicates, received a Federal charter; the right to issue circulating notes to the amount of its stock of course being one of its privileges under its charter.

In 1903 Mr. Pellett was succeeded as cashier by H. Chauncey Barstow, who remained in that position until early in June, 1913, when he resigned and removed to California where he had already become interested in certain business propositions. In 1908, Assistant Cashier Eli K. Pierce resigned and was succeeded by Warren A. Stahl, who had been connected with the operating force of the bank for three years.

In January, 1904, Mr. Barber, for business reasons, declining to serve longer as president, the place was filled by the selection of Isaac S. Seaver by the board of directors. He has been re-elected from year to year, and is still the popular and capable head of the banking corporation.

The board of directors for 1913 is composed of the following named gentlemen: I. S. Seaver, H. McCormack, O. G. Tuttle, Jotham Allen, Ransom Allen, Samuel Lewis, J. P. Whitman, F. L. Convis, J. L. Barden, A. I. Ewen. Following is the corps of officers for 1913: President—Isaac S. Seaver; Vice-Presidents—Henry McCormack, O. G. Tuttle; Cashier—H. C. Barstow; Assistant Cashier—Warren A. Stahl. Cashier Barstow resigned in June, to go to California, and was succeeded as cashier by Warren A. Stahl. William McFadden, late of Big Rapids, was made assistant cashier.

The bank has shown a steady and gratifying growth from the date of its organization, and is properly recognized as one of the solid and trustworthy financial institutions of the county. Its public statement issued April 4, 1913, shows recources lacking but a few dollars of $350,000.

In 1909 the Ithaca National Bank, desiring new and better quarters for its increasing business, bought the Steel-Webster corner on Center Street, corner of Pine River Street, remodeled the ground floor rooms into a banking office with all of the requisites of convenience, taste and security, and removed to the new quarters in the fall of the year mentioned. The bank's new home, in location, in appearance and in its appointments, is in keeping with the bank's high standing among the financial institutions of the county.

### People's State Bank of Ithaca.

This bank was organized in April, 1911, incorporated under the state law with capital stock $25,000, has stockholders, board of directors and officers practically the same as those of the Ithaca National Bank, and con-

ducts its business in the office rooms of the last-named concern. The object of its organization was to accommodate such phases of the banking business as the Federal laws do not authorize a National bank to engage in.

The People's State Bank of Ithaca, by its public statement issued April 4, 1913, shows resources of $182,688.32 with deposits of $144,021.84. The combined resources of the two banks—the Ithaca National and the People's State Bank—aggregate nearly a half million dollars; all of which goes to show that though not the oldest banks in the county, they are among the most popular, prosperous and progressive.

## MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES.

### Ithaca Creamery.

This is a business institution with which the people of Ithaca and surrounding country are particularly well pleased; conducted on principles that have stood the test of experience and given satisfaction to its scores of customers. The proprietors, Doran & McCredie—Wm. Doran, T. L. McCredie—have been associated in this creamery about seven years. Previous to the formation of the partnership, Mr. Doran conducted the business about three years. The building, located near the Ann Arbor Depot, is owned by an association of Ithaca people, and the industry has been established and in operation about thirteen years.

The creamery turns out over 200,000 pounds of butter annually; butter of the finest quality; a statement based upon actual knowledge of the facts. The importance of this institution to the farming community is plainly seen when it is known that about $60,000 is paid out yearly to the farmers for their cream and milk.

Doran & McCredie ship their butter to all parts of the country, but principally to the City of New York.

### Ithaca Manufacturing Co.

This company, the leading members of which are Henry McCormack and E. E. Shaw, manufactures the celebrated Shaw Beet Harvester, which, by reason of its superlative merits has become a necessity in sugar beet culture. Established three years. Factory at northeast corner of South and Elm Streets.

### Ithaca Lumber & Coal Co.

This important business association has been in existence and doing business since 1907, succeeding Church & Co. It is an incorporated company with officers as follows: President—F. H. Horr; Vice-president—F. H. McKay; Treasurer—Wm. F. Thompson; Secretary and Manager—D. C. Gibbs. Norton Gibbs, also, is interested as a stockholder. The company deals in building material of all kinds, and in all kinds of coal.

### Ithaca Board of Trade.

For several years Ithaca has been able to boast of an active and all-alive board of trade, composed of a large share of its business men; a

board that has been active and energetic in its efforts to secure good things for Ithaca. It is an incorporated association, and now has for its officers the following: President—Henry McCormack; Vice-president—C. M. Brown; Secretary—Lynn T. Miller; Treasurer—Henry E. Lewis.

### Cigar Factory.

The Havana Cigar Factory has George McMullen as its president and manager, and is doing a thriving business in Odd Fellows' block. It is an incorporated institution and has been doing business here for 23 years, founded by Ed. Craig and the late Henry B. Orbison, and in subsequent years managed by the late H. J. Crawford.

## OTHER PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

### Circuit Court Officials.

Circuit Judge—Kelly S. Searl; Clerk—Richard E. Hughes; Stenographer—Lynn B. Caldwell; Prosecuting Attorney—John M. Everden; Sheriff—Wilbur B. Ennis; Under-Sheriff—John B. Rowell.

### Attorneys.

John T. Mathews; admitted 1886; practicing here since 1886. Office in Steel-Webster block.

George P. Stone; former circuit judge. Admitted in 1873. Practiced in Ithaca since 1885.

Kelly S. Searl, circuit judge. Admitted in 1886. Practiced here since 1890.

John M. Everden, prosecuting attorney. Admitted in 1888. Practiced here since his admission.

Orin G. Tuttle; admitted in 1901. In practice here even since. U. of M., 1901.

J. Lee Potts, judge of probate. Admitted in 1876; practiced in Ithaca since 1886.

McCall Bros.—Archie McCall, former prosecuting attorney; Ray McCall. In Switzer block.

John W. Myers; office in Steel-Webster block. Admitted in 1900.

Marvin R. Salter, former prosecuting attorney. Admitted in 1891. Practiced here ever since. Office in Jeffrey block.

Luke B. Sawyer; not now in active practice. Admitted to the bar in 1885.

O. L. Smith; U. of M., 1913. In office with Judge Stone.

### Physicians.

Dr. James P. Carpenter; in De May block. Graduate of Detroit Medical College; practiced here since 1884.

Dr. Isaac N. Monfort; graduate of Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College; practiced in Ithaca since 1877. Office in Monfort block.

Willard M. Weller, M. D.; graduate of U. of M., 1882 and of Bellvue, N. Y., 1887. Praticed here since 1887. Office, Center Street, west.

Dr. E. H. Foust; here since June, 1911. Graduate of U. of M., class of 1904. Office in Steel block.

Dr. Reuben G. Dean, graduate of Detroit College of Medicine, 1896; settled in Ithaca for practice October, 1911. Office in Switzer block.

### Dentists.

Carl Ranger, D. D. S.; office in Switzer block. U. of M., class of 1908. Three years here, successor of Dr. A. D. Saunders.

M. G. Skinner, D. D. S.; office in Brown's Opera House block. University of Michigan, 1902. Practicing five years in Ithaca.

### Insurance—Real Estate.

W. H. Barstow, successor to A. E. Barstow who established the business in 1880. In Barstow block, north side Center Street. Insurance and loans.

Jesse Pepple, for 30 years agent for the Clinton & Gratiot Mutual Insurance Co. Also agent for cyclone insurance. Office in Heath block.

Convis & Smith—F. L. Convis, J. H. Smith; real estate. Office in Dr. Scott block.

Ithaca Land Co.—D. H. Fisher, Charles Nelson, managers. Office in De May block.

Henry Read, insurance — fire and cyclone. Office with Attorney Mathews.

### Druggists.

John H. Watson; in De May block. In the business in Ithaca 27 years; on his own account 18 years. In De May block.

Theron A. Goodwin; in Goodwin block. Successor to Goodwin Bros. —F. W. & C. E. Goodwin.

Cowdrey's Drug Store, successor to Crawford's Drug Store. J. Roy Cowdrey, proprietor; in drug business 13 years. Jeffrey block.

### Jewelers.

E. R. Van Duzer, jeweler, watchmaker, engraver. Here since 1893; in Everett block, Center Street, east.

H. T. Blank; in Ithaca one year, successor to W. F. Walker. In Monfort block, Center Street, east.

Harvey B. Thompson, jeweler and optometrist. Here five years, in Beasley block.

### Hotels.

Seaver House, corner Center and Pine River Streets; for four years under the management of Mrs. F. W. Rowe, proprietor and landlady. Rates —$2.00.

The Tavern, Pine River Street, south; Mrs. Jennie Moore, manager.

### Bakeries and Restaurants.

J. A. Brader, baker and restauranter, successor to A. J. Haskell, who succeeded Fred S. Brown. Confectionery, etc., in connection. In Brown's block; 1913.

Wm. H. Kinsel, successor to John Sherrick. In Rogers' block, north side Center Street; 1912.

Mrs. Wm. Bacon—1913. Restaurant in Henry Otto building, opposite elevators, Pine River Street, south.

### General Merchandisers.

Henry E. Lewis has been in business here more than 30 years; first as salesman for J. H. Seaver; then, in company with Chas. P. Yost, purchasing the Seaver stock and business, and continuing this partnership for 22 years; for the past five years doing business as sole proprietor. In Yost block.

Yost & Hamilton, have been in partnership about four years. E. D. Hamilton has been in business since 1893; Chas. P. Yost since 1886. In De May block.

Henry McCormack—general department store. In Church Opera House block. In business here since 1898, successor to W. K. Ludwig.

Netzorg's store, Mrs. Fannie Netzorg, proprietor; successor to Wolf Netzorg. In Switzer block.

### Millinery.

Mrs. W. D. Tucker, in Rogers' block, north side Center Street; 15 years in the business.

Mrs. Wilbur Smith, in Jeffrey block, south side Center Street.

### Furniture and Undertaking.

Harry B. Parrish, in business ten years, successor to J. B. & F. M. Scott. In W. F. Thompson block, south side Center Street.

Jesse L. Barden, successor—in 1908—to Harrington & Barden who were in the business seven years. In Kinkerter block, north side Center Street.

### General Hardware.

A. E. Pinney & Son—Clyde H. Pinney; successors to Pinney & Horr, who succeeded Ed. Lane, who succeeded S. J. Thoenen. In business here since 1886; present partnership five years. In Steel block.

Alverson & Hannah—E. Jay Alverson, Edward Hannah; in partnership three years, successors to Lane & Alverson who commenced business in 1903, succeeding O. H. Heath & Sons in 1904. Heath block.

Brown-Davis Co.—C. M. Brown, Geo. O. Davis; Brown's Repository, Pine River Street, south. Agricultural Implements in connection.

### Clothing, Furnishings, Shoes.

A. S. Barber & Co.—Chas. H. Fleming. North side Center Street in Chas. T. Rogers block.

Sam. Kirschhimer, in Dr. Scott block, south side Center Street. In business here since 1898.

### Meat Markets.

Winget & Son—Geo. W. Winget, Geo. B. Winget; south side Center Street. Geo. W. in business here nearly 30 years.

Charles Barrone, successor—1913—to J. L. Cornwell. North side Center Street.

### Implements.

S. P. Pino, agricultural implements, wagons, buggies, fencing, etc. Came in 1909, succeeding Henry J. Dodge. Center Street, west; Church block.

Daniel Helfer & Son—Leland Helfer; implement store; opened in 1912. Pine River Street, north.

### Harness and Horse Goods.

Chas. M. Brown, at his old stand in Brown's block. Went in business for himself in 1882. Thos E. Garlock and Newman Smith are the efficient and urbane assistants and managers.

Theodore Ryckman, harness, horse notions, trunks, valises, etc. Archie Ryckman is the capable and polite assistant. In Rogers' block, north side Center Street.

Henry T. Nooney, north side Center Street, east, opposite the Court House. Has been engaged in the business nearly 30 years.

### Livery and Feed Barns.

Charles Kernen, livery, and transfer line; successor to Francis & Kernen, Ray Maloney, Frank Davis, J. B. Sowersby, etc. Pine River Street, south.

J. P. Whitman's livery and feed barn; back of Whitman block. Commenced in the business in 1870.

Harrison Vernon, proprietor of feed barn, Pine River Street, north. Successor to Chester Walter, Peter McAdam, Ellsworth Clark, etc.

Henry Otto, proprietor of feed barn, Pine River Street, south, opposite elevators.

### Blacksmiths.

Wm. Willoughby, Pine River Street, north. In the business here 19 years. Wood-working in connection.

Leslie D. Reeves; six years in business here, successor to John Hiller. Wood-working in connection. Pine River Street, south.

Marion A. Gruesbeck, in the Dan. Fisher building, opposite the Court House. Two years in business here.

### Barbers.

Parker & Doan—Edward J. Parker, Rolla A. Doan—tonsorial artists. Switzer block.

John Parker, barber; successor to Jo. McNabb, who succeeded Clint. Boyles. Everett block.

Archie Bovee—1913; successor to Leonard Nicholson. In Goodwin block.

### Miscellaneous.

Ithaca Greenhouse, F. W. Brooke proprietor; successor to D. Kleinhans, J. W. Harrod. Pine River Street, north.

Ithaca Bazaar, Geo. N. Lanphere, proprietor, successor to Mrs. C. H. Rowland. In Steel-Webster block, south side Center Street.

Harry Parmeter, Wells-Fargo Express agent; Whitman block.

Ithaca Steam Laundry, H. H. Carty, proprietor; successor to W. H. Kinsel. Pine River Street, south.

Photograph studio, Louis W. Blair, artist; successor to John Wasson. Church block.

Auto Garage, C. M. Brown, proprietor; Pine River Street, south. Brick block built in 1909.

James Rigney, groceries, etc.; in Whitman block, Center Street.

Robert Anderson, groceries and provisions, Center Street, east, opposite M. E. Church.

T. J. Feazsel, photographer. In Rogers-Coleman block.

Auto Garage, Howard Parker, proprietor. Established in 1910, Pine River Street, north.

Confectionery, etc., W. M. ("Shorty") Parker, proprietor. Here since 1902. Center Street, west.

Coleman & Son—Geo. J., Roscoe L. Plumbing, roofing, lightning rods, etc. Pine River Street, south.

Harley Allen, manager of Swift & Co.'s branch; poultry, eggs, cream. Pine River Street, south.

Wm. M. Herron, billiard and lunch rooms, Center Street, west. In business in Ithaca 25 years.

Amos Street, billiard and pool rooms; corner Center and Pine River Streets.

J. A. Segar, billiard, pool and lunch rooms, northwest corner Center and Pine River Streets; Church block.

Princess Theater, Johnson and Peet managers—John Johnson, N. G. Peet. In Jeffrey block.

Shoe shop, Byron Guiwits, proprietor; Center Street opposite Court House.

Shoe shop, Robert Carr, proprietor; Main Street, opposite Court House.

H. Woodhams, proprietor of second-hand store, Main Street, opposite Court House. Eight year in the business.

Amos I. Ewen, Main Street, south, buys poultry, eggs, butter. In the business eight years.

Arthur J. Blizzard, tailor; three years here, successor to John J. Seibel.

Dr. Francis Duncan, veterinary surgeon; graduate of Toronto Veterinary College; here 15 years. Office and hospital on Newark Street.

Guy Smith, manager Bell Telephone. Office and central station in Yost block.

Ray Wilkinson, manager Union Telephone. Office in Church's Opera House block.

Brown's Opera House, Fred S. Brown, manager. In Brown's block.

## ITHACA'S POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

Ithaca's postoffice was first called "Gratiot Center", a fact already familiar to the reader. The first postmaster was John Knight and the date of his appointment was November 16, 1855. Following him came Orville M. Wood, January 13, 1857; Franklin Miller, March 12, 1857.

The name was changed to Ithaca April 13, 1857, and Franklin Miller was continued as postmaster. Samuel N. Miller's appointment followed, October 19, 1858; John Knight, December 28, 1858; John Jeffrey, April 13, 1859; William W. Comstock, September 29, 1862; Benjamin F. Shepard, October 13, 1866; Nathan Church, March 9, 1868; Alfred A. Wood , August 6, 1874; Robert Smith, December 8, 1880; Daniel C. Johnson, October 8, 1886; Alvin D. Pettit, January 27, 1891; Dixi G. Hall, January 28, 1895; William A. Leet, October 1, 1897. Mr. Leet's appointment was not confirmed, and Herbert J. Crawford, who, as one of Dixi G. Hall's bondsmen, was acting postmaster and in possession of the office, continued in that capacity. W. A. Leet was again appointed, July 11, 1898, and was confirmed March 3, 1899. He was followed by John N. McCall whose appointment was dated February 11, 1903, and who has continued in the position to the present time, receiving his last appointment February 20, 1912. By certain irregularities or delays by the senate, in confirming, Mr. McCall has gained a year—that is to say, when his present term expires, February, 1916, he will have served 13 years, instead of the even three terms of four years each.

Clyde W. Daniels is the able and courteous assistant postmaster, and he is ably assisted by the genial and capable Herbert L. Ringle and Mabel E. Potter as clerks; a very efficient and courteous corps of operators.

Nine carriers deliver mail to the rural inhabitants of the county from Ithaca as the distributing point: Route No. 1 is served by Truman P. Munson; No. 2, Orie H. Kinsel; No. 3, James O. Peet; No. 4, Bert G. Waggoner; No. 5, George H. Daniels; No. 6, Henry S. Mason; No. 7, Homer W. Chaffin; No. 8, Abram L. Wight; No. 9, Lewis D. Lepley. Two of these—Orie H. Kinsel and Geo. H. Daniels—have served continuously since the adoption of the system in 1902, a period of over 11 years. Three others—Chaffin, Wight and Lepley, whose routes were added later—have served more than nine years continuously.

## FIRE PROTECTION.

Ithaca has a well-equipped fire department and a system of fire protection that it would be difficult to improve upon. It has the Holly system, with mains and laterals well distributed throughout the town. An abundant supply of water is obtained from three artesian wells; water of the purest quality from a depth of about 600 feet. The first well was put down in 1889. Drilling other wells followed as it was seen that they were needed. The water is pumped into a large reservoir where it is allowed to settle and from the reservoir it is pumped into a standpipe 75 feet in height; this standpipe furnishing the pressure that sends the water into every part of the village, for domestic purposes, and for fire protection. In case of a fire the stand-pipe pressure is supplemented by pumping engines. The furnaces, boilers, pumps and engines are all housed in the commodious municipal building shown in the cut, with the stand-pipe at the left. The first test well, as stated above, was put down in 1889. In 1892 the



**ITHACA FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1913:** Left to right—James Parker, Henry Barstow, J. L. Barden, Charles W. Coleman, Frank Price, Rob. Russell, Hart Baker, Harry B. Parrish, Del Lane, Miles A. Nelson, Ed. Gladstone, Ralph E. Pettit, Chief.

village voted $25,000 for the establishment of a complete system of water-works. The works were completed in 1893, and tested in December of that year, and found to be satisfactory. They have been largely added to since and brought to a high state of perfection.

The first start in the direction of fire protection was taken in 1873 when a well was sunk on Center Street at the northwest corner of the Court House square. Reservoirs in the ground at the street intersections followed, and a few years later on an artesian well was put down in the street in front of the present water-works. A wind-mill pumped the water into an elevated tank erected over the well. This supplied the reservoirs with water, and a horse-power fire engine was purchased, together with a quantity of hose. A hook and ladder company was formed in 1878. In 1885 the old wind-mill was taken down, and a 10-horse power engine was installed in a little brick building just north of the well, to do the pumping. The next year the elevated tank was taken down, being considered unsafe. The horse-power fire engine did good work. It was not always operated by horse power; man power being just as good, and more quickly applied. At the big fire of July 10, 1890, the little engine did big work. It was bought in the spring of 1884 and did duty till the present system was established in 1893, when it was sold to the Village of Breckenridge, where it is still doing duty.

The site for the village building and water-works plant was bought of the Union School District in 1885, the purchase price being $700. The village building was erected in 1894, and since enlarged and remodeled to accommodate such items of equipment as have been added from time to time. The memorial tablet with the firemen's names engraved thereon occupying a conspicuous place on the front of the building, was set in place September 14, 1894, with quite elaborate ceremonies—such as a parade by the pupils and teachers of the Ithaca schools, headed by the Ithaca band, a prayer by Rev. M. H. Pettit of the Baptist Church, and an address by Attorney James Clarke, former prosecuting attorney.

The building houses the electric lighting plant, that, as well as the water-works plant and system, being municipally owned and operated.

The present fire-fighting equipment consists of 17 firemen; one fire team; a big, new combination hose and chemical wagon; hook and ladder truck; the old Noble hose truck. The big truck carries 1,000 feet of hose, and miscellaneous tools and appliances, besides having a 40-gallon chemical tank and 300 feet of 2-inch hose to match; also two small, one-man chemical tanks. Many incipient conflagrations have been put out by use of the chemical appliances alone. The hook and ladder truck, besides its complement of ladders and various other tools, always carries 300 feet of hose for emergencies.

There are 56 fire hydrants scattered over the town.

The first fire chief was John W. Lewis, appointed in 1880. After him came Oscar F. Jackson, 1887; A. P. Lane, 1899; John W. Kernen, 1903; Ralph E. Pettit, 1911.

Oscar F. Jackson was for several years secretary and treasurer of the State Firemen's Association. The same office is now held, and for several years past has been held by A. P. Lane.

A list of the present firemen and their officers follows: Chief—Ralph E. Pettit; Ass't Chief—H. B. Parrish; Secretary—Rob. Russell; Treasurer—F. H. McKay; Driver—Jas. Parker; Foreman Hose Co.—Horace Coleman; Foreman H. and L. Co.—Henry Barstow; Fire Marshal—Chas. Coleman.

## ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The late James Moore was the father of electric lighting in Ithaca. He was in the agricultural implement business in the building now occupied with the same business by S. P. Pino, near the city building. Early in the summer of 1891 Mr. Moore conceived the idea of putting in an electric lighting plant for commercial purpose in an empty building standing back of his place of business. Getting busy right away, Mr. Moore got permission of the village council in August to erect poles in the streets for his electric lighting enterprise, "and at exactly 4 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, September 19, 1891, the genial James manipulated the lever that started the electric current through the wires. It was a go, and everything worked all right, not only to the satisfaction of those having it in charge, but also to the satisfaction of a mob of citizens who were called to the scene by the abominable screaming of the wild and woolly thing, by courtesy called a whistle, which screeched its horrible signal from its place on top of the building." The account quoted from goes on to say that, "most of the business places have the service and there are now running regularly 25 arc lights of 2,000-candle power and about 200 incandescent 16-candle power lights. Two brilliant lights have been put up on Center Street and one on the water-works derrick to show what can be done in the way of public lights for the village. It looks as if electric lighting has come to stay, through the enterprise and public spirit of James Moore, backed by the liberal patronage of the citizens."

A company called the "Ithaca Electric Lighting Co." was organized in January, 1892, with capital stock fixed at $20,000. It was composed of James Moore, A. S. Barber, M. F. Chafey, Wolf Netzorg, O. H. Heath, J. B. Crawford, C. E. Webster and D. T. Covert. This company operated with more or less success and satisfaction for several years. In June, 1904, by a vote of 171 to 80, the village decided to issue bonds of $13,000 for the purpose of establishing electric light works. The system now in operation was the result; all in the same buildings with the water works plant, and all owned and operated by the village. The lights of this new system were turned on February 12, 1905.

So in the matter of water supply for domestic purposes and for fire protection, and in the matter of electric lighting, Ithaca people think that they have not much to learn, and not much to desire beyond what they are enjoying, and what has been theirs for many years. Their system of street lighting is worthy of especial mention, more particularly in the business section and adjacent streets. High-power incandescent lights are strung up in arch form at the intersections of streets. About 15 lights form the arch which extends diagonally across the corner so as to show as an arch from all four directions. There are 10 or 12 of these at the principal corners, and, taken in connection with the other lights and illuminations, public and private, the light is ample, and the effect is very pleasing.

In December, 1913, a system of Boulevard lights was installed surrounding the court house square. Nine clusters of four lights each on tall iron posts constitutes the installation; a useful and pleasing improvement.

## THE SEWER SYSTEM.

Ithaca's sewerage system was more or less miscellaneous, superficial, complex, complicated, temporary, detached, incomplete and unsatisfactory until the year 1900. In 1897 the people voted down a proposition to bond

for $15,000 for the purpose of inaugurating a sewerage system, the vote being 100 yes, 109 no. March 12, 1900, the question of raising $10,000 by bonding, for the same purpose, was carried by a vote of 351 to 58. In July of the same year the village council purchased a tract of land a mile east of town, for the purpose of establishing thereon a sewer bed for the scientific disposal of the sewage from the town's sewerage system. The beds were constructed and have proved, with some additions and amendments, quite effectual and satisfactory to the present time. The job of putting in the initial main lines of the sewer system was let in September, 1900, to Joseph Ray, of Alma, and A. J. Brown, of Ithaca, and work was commenced forthwith. But more money was needed, and the village council submitted the proposition to bond for an additional $15,000. The vote was taken in March, 1901, resulting in the adoption of the proposition by a vote of 210 yes, 103 no.

All of this expenditure has resulted in the establishment and construction of a very satisfactory sewerage system for Ithaca.

## ITHACA SOCIETIES.

While the following list of societies and officers is not quite as complete as might seem desirable, it is presumed to be correct as far as it goes, and it has the merit of naming a lot of those early on the scene in Ithaca, thus aiding to preserve their names for reference in the coming years.

### Ithaca F. & A. M.

Ithaca Lodge No. 123, F. & A. M., was instituted January 12, 1860, with charter members as follows: Wm. W. Comstock, Elijah Peck, Lucius C. Knapp, Walter S. Howd, John A. Crispell, Fred D. Weller, Barlow Worthing, Oscar A. Everden, Melancton Pettit and John Jeffrey.

Wm. W. Comstock was the first master; S. W.—Elijah Peck; J. W.—L. C. Knapp; Sec.—W. S. Howd; Treas.—John Jeffrey; S. D.—F. D. Weller; J. D.—B. Worthing.

This was the first Masonic Lodge organized in the county, and W. W. Comstock has the credit of bringing it about. Some of those who served early as W. M. are—W. W. Comstock, Elijah Peck, Nathan Church, Emery Crosby, E. C. Farrington, J. L. Sinclair, J. M. McKee, J. M. Everden, C. M. Brown.

Officers for 1913: W. M.—W. K. Ludwig; S. W.—Lynn B. Caldwell; J. W.—Glen H. Mason; Treas.—Chas. A. Price; Sec.—Lynn T. Miller; Chap.—E. C. Farrington; S. D.—Carl Ranger; J. D.—Robert J. Russell; Stewards—Ray S. Wilkinson, Chas. C. Todd; Mar.—John T. Mathews.

### Ithaca R. A. M. No. 70.

Instituted January 10, 1871. Some of the early officers were—Elijah Peck, J. M. McKee, A. J. Utley, J. H. Seaver, J. W. Lewis, A. W. Russell, J. B. Willoughby, D. Ingalsbe, C. E. Fink, J. F. Henry, J. M. Trask, W. C. Beckwith, J. L. Sinclair, G. B. Whitney.

Officers for 1913: H. P.—Fred L. Broughton; King—Jas. M. McKee; Scribe—E. C. Farrington; Treas.—W. K. Ludwig; Sec.—Henry S. Phillips; C. of H.—Chas. A. Price; P. S.—J. L. Sinclair; R. A. C.—Carl Ranger; M. 3rd V.—Wm. Willoughby; M. 2nd V.—Glen H. Mason; M. 1st V.—John Parker; Sent.—J. H. Markman.

### Ithaca Council No. 33, R. & S. M.

Officers for 1913: T. I. M.—J. Lee Potts; D. M.—C. M. Brown; P. C. W.—J. T. Mathews; Treas.—W. K. Ludwig; Rec.—F. M. Harrington; C. G.—R. A. Barber; C. C.—C. G. Graham; Steward—J. L. Sinclair; Sent. —J. L. Sinclair.

### Ithaca G. A. R.

Moses Wisner Post No. 101, was organized January 13, 1883, with charter members and first officers as follows: Com.—Giles T. Brown; S. V.—Frank Kellogg; J. V.—Wm. L. Phillips; Q. M.—Jas. W. Howd; Adj.—Chas. E. Fink; Surgeon—J. H. Mygrants; Chap.—Abraham W. Russell; O. of D.—John M. Trask; O. of G.—Nathan G. Sutliff; Serg. M.



MOSES WISNER POST, MAY 30, 1912.

—Alfred A. Wood; Q. M. Serg.—R. H. Cadwell. Other charter members: Joel Aldaffer, A. J. Brown, H. D. Curtis, W. A. Carr, Jas. Donaldson, L. L. B. Hunt, Thos. Hunt, Jas. Naus, Marion R. Pettit, H. L. Pruden, Israel Sayles, Jas. Whitmer.

Officers for 1913: Com.—A. S. Loomis; S. V.—J. Gidley; J. V.—Wm. H. Beasley; Q. M.—Wm. Stahl; Adj.—E. B. Kille; Chap.—J. J. Walter; O. of D.—Chas. Stafford.

From first to last there have been 308 members. Present membership, thirty.

The illustration shows the old soldiers' in line on Memorial Day, 1912; on north side of Center Street, Ithaca. In a half-tone illustration in connection with the brief section treating of the Ithaca cemetery, may be seen the soldiers' monument which was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1911, with appropriate ceremonies, including an eloquent and touching address by Mrs. Sara L. Brown, Matron of the Michigan Soldiers' Home.

### Ithaca W. R. C.

Moses Wisner Relief Corps of Ithaca was instituted October 4, 1886, with charter members and first officers as follows: Pres.—Mrs. Sara L. Brown; S. V.—Mrs. Nancy M. Sayles; J. V.—Mrs. Hannah E. Beasley; Treas.—Mrs. E. Russell; Sec.—Mrs. Artie Bowen; Chap.—Mrs. Jennie A. Richardson; Con.—Mrs. Fannie Hough; Guard—Mrs. Phebe J. Sutliff; Ass't Con.—Mrs. Amanda McMannis; Ass't Guard—Mrs. Carrie Bostwick. Other charter members: Cynthia Bancroft, Mary Wright, Nancy E. Briggs, Margaret Weaver, Rebecca Sell, Carrie E. Vaughn, Jennie Donaldson, Miranda Litle.

Officers for 1913: Pres.—Lydia M. Peet; S. V.—Artie Bowen; J. V.—Sarah Gidley; Treas.—Cynthia Bancroft; Sec.—Matie Brown; Chap.—Evalyn Saleno; Con.—Polema Loomis; Guard—Mary Page; Pat. Inst.—Elizabeth Myers; Musician—Clara L. French; 1st Col. B.—Belle Kille; 2nd Col. B.—Christina Stahl; 3rd Col. B.—Emily Mygrants.

### Ithaca I. O. O. F.

Rising Star Lodge No. 151, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Ithaca, January 11, 1871. Its charter members were Nathan G. Sutliff, Emery Crosby, Levi R. Hiffner, Geo. W. Mead, John Kinkerter and David Stackhouse.

The first officers were L. R. Hiffner, N. G.; N. G. Sutliff, V. G.; Emery Crosby, Sec'y; Geo. W. Mead, Treas.

Since it organization the lodge has had presiding officers as follows: Nathan G. Sutliff, Emery Crosby, Geo. W. Mead, Jeptha Earl, Giles T. Brown, A. W. Russell, Geo. Randall, W. D. Scott, Henry B. Smith, A. S. Loomis, N. M. Bowen, Geo. M. Churchill, W. C. Beckwith, S. M. Scott, T. E. Garlock, Wm. H. Heath, Wm. L. Phillips, A. H. Lincoln, M. R. Salter, H. C. Stafford, F. L. Bristol, Geo. W. Rhodes, E. S. Hall, F. M. Keyes, J. H. Sprague, C. H. Baker, W. A. Carr, Oscar F. Jackson, B. B. Cook, M. B. Salter, Emmett Pierce, E. N. Hiffner, Geo. A. Hafer, L. C. Lord, Wm. H. Beasley, S. H. Hough, A. A. Moye, Chas. T. Harrod, Chas. T. Rogers, Phil. Tinlin, Elmer J. Wasson, K. P. Peet, J. H. Hafer, Chas. H. Chase, H. B. Wells, H. C. Moore, J. M. Craver, C. Will Hamilton, E. B. Kille, Geo. H. Clow, Wm. M. Herron, A. H. Moye, Andrew Jackson, Glenn M. Du Bois, J. C. Sevey, Seth R. Cole, J. Hiffner, Jas. Nimmo, Willard Strouse.

The lodge meets in its own building, located on Center Street, opposite the Court House. It has a membership of 106, is popular and flourishing.

Following is the list of officers for the last half of 1913: N. G.—Alfred McBrien; V. G.—Adney H. Burggraf; Sec.—Archie Ryckman; Treas.—E. N. Hiffner; Warden—J. Leonard Heinrich; Con.—Seth S. Ward; R. S. N. G.—Robert Reid; L. S. N. G.—Wm. H. Davis; R. S. V. G.—Carl M. Hiffner; L. S. V. G.—Jesse Hiffner; R. S. S.—Byron B. Cook; L. S. S.—Wm. J. Purnell; Guardian—A. J. Dicken; Chap.—Wm. M. Herron; Past N. G.—Fred W. Griswold.

M. R. Salter is a Past Grand Master of the state.

### Ithaca Encampment, I. O. O. F.

Ithaca Encampment No. 106, I. O. O. F., dates from September 28, 1884, when it was instituted by Past G. P. Norman Bailey. Its charter members were M. R. Salter, O. F. Jackson, J. H. De May, L. M. Bennett, Chas. W. Marshall, Lewis Huntington, S. M. Scott.

The Encampment's presiding officers have been as follows: M. R. Salter, J. H. De May, O. F. Jackson, N. G. Sutliff, H. B. Smith, M. B. Salter, Geo. Randall, Geo. A. Hafer, John H. Sprague, W. A. Carr, S. H. Hough, F. M. Keyes, L. C. Lord, G. T. Brown, Elon P. Potter, A. E. McKinney, Ellsworth Eldredge, C. E. Webster, J. E. Henderson, H. B. Wells, Chas. B. Doan, A. S. Loomis, L. D. Baker, W. H. McKinney, K. P. Peet, N. M. Bowen, H. P. Sage, Frank L. Pressley, J. G. Duerr, C. H. Chase, C. W. Hamilton, E. H. Arnold, W. M. Herron, Seth S. Ward, J. C. Sevey, Glenn M. Du Bois, Frank Shaver, Nick Azelborn, Geo. H. Clow, J. Hiffner, O. H. Moon, J. Gidley, J. Hubbard, W. H. Beasley, Willard Strouse, Geo. R. Strouse, Robert Reid.

Officers for 1913 are as follows: D. D.—H. B. Wells; C. P.—Howard Potter; H. P.—Adney H. Burggraf; S. W.—Robert Reid; J. W.—Leonard Heinrich; Scribe—J. Gidley; Treas.—H. B. Wells.

### Rebecca Lodge.

Crescent Rebecca Lodge No. 75 was instituted in November, 1883. It is in a flourishing condition with present officers as follows: N. G.—Mrs. Minnie Griswold; V. G.—Mrs. Leslie D. Reeves; Sec.—Mrs. Wm. H. Kinsel; Treas.—Mrs. T. E. Garlock; Warden—Mrs. Floyd Whitman; Con. —Mrs. A. H. Burggraf; R. S. N. G.—Mrs. E. B. Kille; L. S. N. G.—Mrs. Chas. Sanders; R. S. V. G.—Mrs. Robert Carr; L. S. V. G.—Mrs. Lillie Goodrich; I. G.—Mrs. M. H. Davis; O. G.—Mrs. Ada Vredenburg; Chap.—Mrs. Emma Sevey; Past N. G.—Mrs. A. J. Dicken.

### Knights of Pythias.

The Knights of Pythias have a flourishing organization in Ithaca, and at the present time the order is favored with officers as follows:

C. C.—F. W. Griswold; V. C.—Walter Todd; P.—Robert Russell; M. of W.—N. M. Vernon; K. of R. and S.—W. H. Barstow; M. of F.—Charles W. Coleman; M. of E.—Norton Gibbs; M. at A.—John Sherrick.

Other societies are reluctantly omitted for want of sufficient data.

## ITHACA CEMETERY.

The full-page illustration—four views—gives a very good idea of the beauty of Ithaca's city of the dead: It consists of about 15 acres in the northwest section of the village, and, though not nearly as large as some, it is second to none in respect to topography and in ornamental features of trees and shrubbery. The soldiers' monument shows up in the lower view; a neat and appropriate tribute, though of moderate size and rather unpretentious. It was erected at a cost of about $500, the money being raised by popular subscription. The monument was dedicated May 30, 1911, Mrs. Sara L. Brown, of Ithaca, matron of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Rapids, delivering an appropriate and eloquent address on that occasion.

The cemetery is under the control of an organization known as the Ithaca Cemetery Association, of which Archie McCall is secretary and Charles A. Price treasurer. The late Wm. E. Winton was president for many years, and the vacancy caused by his death has not yet been filled. A sexton is employed by the year, George Page, now occupying the position, having succeeded Charles Stafford in the year 1906.









FOUR VIEWS OF ITHACA CEMETERY.

## ITHACA MISCELLANY.

### Search for Coal.

In the winter of 1898-9 some hopeful people of Ithaca in some way got an able-bodied notion that coal existed in the earth in the vicinity of their town, and that an investigation should be made to settle the matter. Pursuant to call, a citizens' meeting was held at the village hall January 10, 1899, to consider the matter of making a test. F. H. Horr was made chairman and A. P. Lane, secretary. After an interchange of views and pointers, a committee of five—Theo. Ryckman, Dr. I. N. Monfort, Chas. H. Chase, J. B. Crawford, Wm. F. Thompson—was appointed to solicit subscriptions to a fund with which to make the test. The soliciting committee easily secured pledges of over $1,000, and at a meeting held February 3, 1899, a stock company was organized under the state laws and named the Ithaca Coal Company; capital stock, $10,000, with shares at $25; and $1,000 paid in. A board of directors was elected as follows: O. H. Heath, J. B. Crawford, Jotham Allen, F. H. Horr, W. F. Thompson, Theo. Ryckman, I. N. Monfort, C. E. Webster, J. L. Potts. The directors elected officers as follows: President—W. F. Thompson; Secretary—J. B. Crawford; Treasurer—Theo. Ryckman.

Operations in boring were first begun and prosecuted on land owned by Dr. W. D. Scott, now the property of C. G. Graham, a mile west of Ithaca. After going down 312 feet and finding nothing more valuable than quicksand the quest was given up in that place, and the operator left to fulfill contracts elsewhere, and never came back.

Then the matter rested in a quiescent state for more than a year. Then, about the first of July, 1901, an experienced man was engaged, and operations begun on the farm of Jesse Sherck, now owned by Wm. Hendricks, three miles east of Ithaca. In that vicinity the company leased 2,500 acres of land and proposed to make a thorough test. Experts figured that coal existed in paying quantities within the limit of 500 feet from the surface. So the experimenters went blithely to work, and the next news of the enterprise came by way of a local newspaper in its issue of July 19, 1901, about two weeks after operations were begun. The newspaper item is short, so it is reproduced in full:

"The coal prospectors are meeting with some hard luck this week. At a depth of about 100 feet a boulder was struck which antagonized further progress. The stone seemed to be of that Michigan variety, fully ripe, hard to get around and impossible to get through—like a Bryan Democrat. Dynamite was used which didn't seem to seriously disturb the rock, but played smash with the drill and piping. So it looks as if a fresh start would have to be taken."

And a new start was taken, and a hole was drilled to a depth of 500 feet, but with not sufficient showing of coal to warrant further work in that place, in the opinion of those who were putting up the money. They then moved the drilling outfit into Ithaca, and, on Potts & Crawford's Addition, they once more set out to solve the problem. At a depth of 313 feet they reported the discovery of an 18-inch vein of coal. By that time, however, and in spite of this encouraging find, those who were furnishing the funds lost heart and interest, and then and there active efforts to find coal in paying quantities in or around Ithaca, were dropped, and up to the present writing—October, 1913—have never been resumed.

While the operations last narrated were going on, Geo. Shroyer, living one and a half miles east of Ithaca, the place now owned by Earl White, was having a hole drilled at his residence with a view of finding a good and ample supply of water for farm and household uses. The report of his efforts goes on to say that at a depth of 290 feet a 15-inch vein of coal was penetrated; then thick stratas of rock and thin layers of coal alternated till an aggregate of six feet and seven inches of coal had been passed. But with the coal so scattering the discovery was not deemed of much value, and so the drillers continued their search for water.

When the Ithaca Coal Company was incorporated it was given a 30-year tenure of life; consquently its Rip Vanwinkle sleep of ten years still leaves it twenty years of life, presumably. Perhaps before its time expires it may conclude to put a little more money into the search, and settle the question as to coal in Gratiot County. State geologists and other experts who for many years have had this county within the limits of the coal belt may yet have their theories either confirmed or exploded by this same coal company—let us all hope.

### Brick and Tile.

In 1891 D. C. Gibbs, of Ithaca, acquired by purchase a tract of land one and three-fourths miles northwest of Ithaca, on which he established a brick and tile factory. The venture proved a success for Mr. Gibbs and a great convenience to those in the vicinity who had use for the commodities manufactured. In 1907 the plant was purchased by E. W. Redman who has continued the business to the present time.

### First Shipment by Rail.

The first shipment of freight into Ithaca by rail went over the stub road from Alma, December 28, 1882. It was a car load of machinery for Wm. F. Thompson's butter tub factory. The first car of freight to go from Ithaca to the outside world consisted of a carload of wheat sent out by the general merchandising firm of Nelson & Barber. The date was January 2, 1883. The first passenger train over the stub into Ithaca made the passage June 24, 1883. Attorney Francis Palmer, of Alma, was the purchaser of the first ticket sold, for passage over the line. The fare was 20 cents. A round trip ticket was 35 cents.

### An Aggravating Vacancy.

The Des Ermia House corner—northwest corner of Center and Main Streets—made vacant by the burning of the old Des Ermia House in the big fire of 1890, was purchased in February, 1896, by Andrew Emerine, a capitalist of Fostoria, Ohio, with the express view of putting up a fine block forthwith; and in fact a quantity of material was got together right away. But that was all. The valuable corner, after a lapse of about 17 years, is still vacant. It is almost enough to make one impatient.

### McCormick Day.

For about four years, in the last of the old century and the first of the new one, Ithaca was in the habit of "pulling off" an annual holiday that was not down on the regular holiday schedule. Referring to what was called

"McCormick Day", which came along in June generally. It was inaugurated, so far as this county was concerned, at least, by C. M. Brown, who was an extensive dealer in the McCormick farming machinery, particularly reapers and mowers. His plan was to have all of his implement customers leave their purchases all the spring until a specified day, say along in June, when the customers would gather at Ithaca from all parts of the county, with their families and neighbors and hold a sort of an agricultural jubilee. Mr. Brown would have two or three bands for the occasion besides other attractions, including a free dinner to all of his customers and their families.

Then the parade was a leading feature of the entertainment, with frequently a photograph of the scene taken on the principal street. As to the dinner, the records showed that in 1901 and 1902 over 1,200 people were fed free each year. Of course the primary object of the whole affair was advertising; but it was of the popular kind and appealed strongly to the social side of the people; and the appetite had a tendency to help along the sociability about the time the sun got to the meridian on the long summer day.

All the other dealers, and business men of the town generally, took an active interest in the day and did all in their power to make a pleasant and profitable day of it for the visiting people; and they doubtless got their fair share of reward in increased trade and good will. The function of June 1, 1901, was probably the most successful of the series. The crowd was variously estimated at from 4,000 to 5,000, from outside of town. A local periodical remarked that it would "suffice to say that the town was packed with people; and as to teams nothing but the most successful Fourth of July celebration could produce a comparison."

### First Fourth of July Celebration.

Two accounts—and perhaps more—have been handed down descriptive of the first Fourth of July celebration ever held in the county. It was held at Ithaca in 1856; and is said to have been a great success, with three or four hundred people in attendance. The few oldest inhabitants that are left, who attended that celebrated celebration are free to say that there was nothing slow or dull about it, and that they enjoyed it better than any of the more formal and artificial functions of later years. The idea suggests itself that it is very unfortunate that the early period of this celebration precludes the hope that there are any snap shot pictures of any of the details now in existence. When the natives of those early times came out of the woods in all their glory and other costumes they made an exhibit picturesque to the last degree. But they enjoyed it, as they had a right to; and these words are written, not as a criticism, but to set the memories of the readers—the older class of readers especially—to working along a retrospective view of the costumes, the vehicles, the teams, the paraphernalia generally that a popular gathering like a Fourth of July celebration would bring out in "them happy airly days." Even at the present time the remark is often heard, "The best of the show is just watching the crowd." Then let fancy run back to the '50s and '60s!

Speaking of the celebration of July 4, 1856, one account says that the exercises took place from a log platform in the rear of the place where the brick store of Geo. Richardson (Goodwins) now stands. The officers of the day were, president, Francis Nelson; vice-presidents, the supervisors of

Gratiot County; chaplain, Rev. Lafayette Church; reader, Orville M. Wood; orator, Frank Miller; marshal, Dr. Abram M. Crawford. A military display was made by twenty-five or thirty old settlers of the county. The music was furnished by a drum made out of a nail keg over which a freshly gathered deer's hide was stretched by Wm. Preston and Sam Graham, Preston furnishing the hide. Men, women and children came from all directions through the woods on foot. The dinner was provided by Lucius C. Knapp and family, for 25 cents each. A fine American flag was made by the ladies within a circuit of two or three miles from the village. Hiram Burgess, of Pine River, went on foot to Dewitt by way of Maple Rapids, about 40 miles, and had handbills printed for the celebration, and purchased a quantity of gunpowder for the occasion. The whole wound up with a grand ball at the home of John Knight, a mile north of the village.

Another chronicler varies the narrative somewhat. He says that horses, except such as wore horns, were exceedingly scarce, and the only one present and procurable was owned by Luther J. Dean, of North Star, which was pressed into service to give a little more martial appearance to the procession. The veterans were sought out and placed in a conspicuous place, among whom was Wm. Barton, of Hamilton, whose military experience was gained in the British army, at Waterloo. But no matter; he was a veteran, and nobody inquired whether he fought at Bunker Hill or Waterloo, or whether under Washington, Wellington or Napoleon. However, there was one real veteran of 1812, who served in the command of Gen. Scott—Mr. Samuel Wilkinson, of North Star, whose son, D. J. Wilkinson still resides there; and still resides there, in 1913.

"Bill" Preston, (died November, 1913), a well-known citizen of Ithaca, confirmed the story of the drum, and said that he had recently killed two deer, the hide of one being the identical hide that went into the construction of the said drum. He said he sold the two deer carcasses to L. C. Knapp, and he served them up to the people on that historic occasion, at 25 cents a dinner. Knapp's place of business was located where the Seaver House now stands, and was the back part of a building then in process of erection by John Jeffrey.

The late Fred Strouse told of his recollections of that famous celebration. He was a pioneer of Newark. His story ran like this: On the morning of July 4, 1856, he started for Ithaca with two yoke of oxen hitched to a wagon. The load was composed of Fred Kelly, his wife and little girl, Wm. Kinsel with his three sons—Henry, Joe and Jeff, Thos. Cunningham, wife and four children, Fred Strouse, wife and son. They went by way of the old trail north to the big oak tree west of Ithaca, and then they turned off to the east, coming out about where the beet-lifter factory now stands. They had a great time, according to Fred and he corroborates the drum story, and adds that a fife was constructed from a stalk of elder and it was played by Preacher W. S. Everest.

### Other Celebrations.

The celebration of the Fourth of July, 1875, was an occasion of more than ordinary interest, and seems to call for especial mention. The special feature was the representation of the several states of the Union by young

ladies of Ithaca and vicinity. They formed a conspicuous part of the parade, being loaded upon a huge wagon rack and drawn by four horses. The following is a list of the ladies, with the states they respectively represented:

Ada Watson—Maine; Sophia Crawford—New York; Belle Watson—Vermont; Carrie Johnson—Pennsylvania; Genie Comstock—Massachusetts; Edith Johnson—New Jersey; Libbie Scattergood—Connecticut; Sarah Winton — Delaware; Flora Richardson — Rhode Island; Sarah Lennox — Virginia; Pluma Smith—New Hampshire; Ida Holmes—West Virginia; Louise Depeel—North Carolina; Hannah Tubbs—South Carolina; Henrietta Beard — Maryland; Hattie Johnson — Georgia; Fannie Brown — Florida; Addie Swift—Alabama; Ada Smith—Mississippi; Emma Swift—Louisiana; Lizzie Card—Texas; Emma Ridenour—Missouri; Ada Gibbs—Arkansas; Flora Clark—Tennessee; Dora Brooke—Kentucky; Anna Beard —Indiana; Mary Black—Illinois; Ada Sutherland—Ohio; Jennie Van Buskirk—Michigan; Lillie Hunt—Wisconsin; Jennie Clark—Minnesota; Emma Crawford—Iowa; Ruba Russell—Nevada; Flora Ogden—Nebraska; Ettie Ogden—Kansas; Miss Nichols—Oregon; Emma Kinkerter—California.

Wm. H. Pratt and Chas. W. Giddings were marshals. About 20 St. Louis firemen, in uniform, were present, and created a sensation by their fine appearance and deportment. The orator was Elisha McCall; reader, Giles T. Brown; H. T. Barnaby told of pioneer days. John T. Noble, of St. Louis, won the prizes in the foot race and the sack race. Alonzo Brady, of North Star won the wheelbarrow race. W. W. Fraker carried off the prize for jumping and for hammer-throwing.

The celebration of the Fourth of July, 1882, was one long remembered by Ithaca and the adjacent country for many miles around. The oration was given by Rev. J. E. Richards, of St. Johns, a gentleman who a short time later was called to the First Presbyterian Church at St. Louis. The Declaration of Independence was read by Hon. Henry Walbridge, of St. Johns. One of the novelties of the occasion was a broom drill by the ladies' broom brigade. Gen. Nathan Church put the squad through their dazzling evolutions, the whole performance meeting the hearty approval of the sightseers. Levi R. Hiffner gave an outdoor stereoptican exhibition in the evening, throwing his views on the east broadside of the Jeffrey block. This took the place of fireworks; the only time on record when fireworks were left out of the program. There were 8,000 people present.

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### A Political Jollification.

During the Harrison and Cleveland campaign of 1888, the Republican brethren erected a log cabin on the southwest corner of Pine River and Center Streets; the spot where Jeffrey's first frame building in Ithaca stood and where now stands the Seaver House. It was 24 by 36 feet, covered with shakes, and had an old-fashioned stick "chimbly." This is mentioned for the purpose of recording the fact that the dedication of the cabin, August 28th, called out the greatest crowd ever seen in Gratiot County at a political demonstration. A fair estimate placed the attendance of outsiders at 7,000.

# ST. LOUIS—VILLAGE AND CITY.

## Settlement—Elections—Biographies, etc.

### Location and Subdivisions.

In all of the early writings and records covering Gratiot County, mention is frequently made of the "Old Indian Trail", running from Maple Rapids up through Fulton, Newark and Arcada Townships to Pine River and down that stream to the Lutheran Mission a mile and a half below the spot where later on the Village of St. Louis became a point of interest on the map of Gratiot County; or, more correctly, a point on the landscape of Gratiot County. A map of Gratiot County, in the earlier days, if such a thing had existed, would have shown the outlines of a square, 24 miles on a side, with "unbroken forest" written all over the space enclosed.

And speaking of early day maps, quite distinctly I remember the old map of Michigan possessed by the family away back in the '40s. Probably the old relic had been constructed as early as about 1830, for the main portion of the state was one big, irregularly-shaped yellow splotch between the lakes, with a few lines criss-crossing it, a few crooked marks to represent rivers, and evidently put in by guess, and some fuzzy looking figures meant to represent mountains that were presumed to exist along up through the center of the state. As near as I can remember there were but two words—conspicuous words, at least—to break the monotony of that vast area of yellow. "Unorganized territory" were the words, and they were spread out to cover, I should say, at least two-thirds of the lower penisula. "Unorganized" commenced, as I remember it, about where Grand Rapids now stands, and, running up through the regions now occupied by the names Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, Kalkaska, Charlevoix, etc., ended in the vicinity of Mackinaw Straits. "Territory" struck in about where Lansing afterward appeared, and wended its way northward up through Clinton, Gratiot, Midland, and so on, with the final "Y" at the head of Thunder Bay, about where Alpena is now located.

This reference to the old map is more reminiscent than historical; and as a reminiscence it is somewhat vague. But however difficult it might be to corroborate, at this late day, the facts stated, it would be equally difficult to disprove them. So the affirmative stands as written.

### The Old Indian Trail.

But to return to the Old Indian Trail. The trail, as it existed in Indian days, was not a wagon-road; it was practically a mere path. Sidney S. Hastings tells how it became a so-called road. Mr. Hastings, it will be noted, took up his residence in St. Louis in 1855, and knew whereof he wrote. Mr. Hastings wrote:

"Mr. Joseph F. Clapp, a resident of Sandusky County, Ohio, came to the place where St. Louis is now located, in the spring of 1853, having recently returned from California. He was in search of a good water power site. He learned by way of some parties in Dewitt, that on Pine River, near the Indian Mission, there was a good site. He came on, following the Indian trail to the Mission. He was pleased with the country, and located

some tracts of land in the vicinity, and then made arrangements for moving and settling here. He employed Sylvanus Groom, a young married man of Sandusky County, Ohio, to come with him. At Maple Rapids he hired a number of men for the purpose of cutting a wagon-road through to Pine River. They followed the Indian trail with an ox team, moving the family of Mr. Groom. At night the campfires were built, and supper was prepared for the men by Mrs. Groom. The party were a number of days cutting the road through to Pine River, a distance of 30 miles. The opening of the road was a great pioneer work toward the settlement of Gratiot County, and to Mr. Clapp belongs the credit."

Joseph Clapp and Sylvanus Groom first moved into a shanty built some years previously by Wm. A. McOmber for traffic with the Indians. It was located near the Indian Mission, down the river. During the fall of 1853 they built a log house for Mr. Groom near the present location of Main Street bridge, close to the spot now occupied by the residence of James Stafford. So the first step was taken toward forming a settlement which was destined to grow into the flourishing Town of St. Louis.

### They Must Have Lumber.

As may well be imagined, with the country a wilderness of timber, and the nearest sawmill many miles away, one of the first things to be considered would be the construction of a sawmill with which to convert the timber into the lumber necessary in the establishment of a settlement. And furthermore, as Mr. Clapp's object in coming into the timbered wilds of Gratiot was the selection of a water power site and the erection of a sawmill, he spent the winter of 1853-4, together with some employees who were wintering with him, in getting out the timber for a sawmill. In the spring following, as soon as the stage of water would permit, he commenced the construction of a dam across Pine River. A small section of the old dam is still in sight, showing above the surface of the lake formed by the new dam built farther down stream a few years ago. The frame of the sawmill was raised in July of the year 1854. The heavy timbers required the united efforts of every available man for miles around, and it is said that even then the raising would have proved a failure but for the help of what women could be pressed into the service.



JOSEPH CLAPP.

In the meantime Mr. Clapp had taken to himself a wife, in the person of Miss Matilda Smith, a daughter of John and Catharine (Seaman) Smith, of Sandusky County, Ohio. Her brothers, Elias W. and Seaman Smith, came on in April, 1854, and the first-named entered the employ of Mr. Clapp, continuing to work for him for over a year. Instead of receiving cash wages he took from Mr. Clapp a tract of 115 acres of land on the north side of the river; a tract that later became an addition to the surveyed plat of St. Louis, and known as "Smith's Addition." Mr. Smith became a permanent resident, one of the solid citizens of St. Louis, and died there in the year 1882. (See sketch.)

In the summer of 1854, after his marriage, Mr. Clapp built a log house for himself and wife on the south bank of the river, on ground just back of the present residence of Harrison Husted. The building of the sawmill seems to have hung fire somewhat, for when Sidney S. Hastings made his advent on the scene in June, 1855, he says that "Mr. Clapp, the first settler, has the frame up and the roof on his sawmill, and the race is partly dug." The first sawing was done in April, 1856.

### What S. S. Hastings Found in 1855.

S. S. Hastings tells in a diary, of his first introduction to Gratiot County. In the spring of 1855, while in search of a location for a permanent residence, Mr. Hastings spent about two months in Lansing. There he became acquainted with Dr. A. M. Crawford, who had already become interested in Gratiot County, having become possessed of lands where St. Louis is located, and had platted the Village of Pine River. Mr. Crawford had been in attendance at the session of the legislature, as an interested visitor, and had secured the passage of an act calling for the organization of the county and for an election to be held in the following fall. From Dr. Crawford's representations of the advantages and prospects here, Mr. Hastings concluded to visit the county and see for himself. An extract from his diary will give a good idea of the newness of the country and of what he found to interest him:

"June 14, 1855—I left Lansing this morning for Pine River, Gratiot County, Mich., in company with Dr. A. M. Crawford, a man who is interested in that county, and who has been up there a number of times. We go on foot. It is woods a good share of the way from Lansing to Dewitt. The latter is a thriving little place with about three stores. We went on some seven miles from there to the residence of a man named Ferguson, where we took dinner. It is a fine country. We came on in the afternoon to a tavern kept by a man named Gardner, where we arrived a little before five o'clock, some twenty-three miles from Lansing." [Gardner's tavern was located on section 6 of Bingham Township, Clinton County, the northwest corner of the township.] "Here we stop over night. Some of the old settlers have been here sixteen years. We crossed the railroad track a mile or so back. It is all graded." [This was before St. Johns was founded, and they probably crossed the railroad grade at or near the site of the present City of St. Johns.]

"June 15, 1855—Have found a chance to ride to Maple River, ten miles, on a load of flour. Noon. Sitting on a log eating a few cakes, in the woods. We got to Maple Rapids half after nine in the forenoon. Passed through some delightful country in Essex Township. We crossed Maple River on the dam, and took a trail for nearly a mile when we came to a wagon trail bearing a little east of north, which we followed all day. Stopped at night one mile north of the center of Gratiot County. Came through a rich country; all woods except three little openings in twenty-two miles. Saw only three little swamps in the whole distance. Back about four miles from here we came to a camp of Indians. We bought a ham of venison for a quarter, and brought it here for our supper.

"June 16, 1855—Got to Pine River about five o'clock. The city here is like many of the Michigan cities—only built on paper. There is some twenty acres cut down and the brush burned, and the ground planted to corn and potatoes, between the logs. There are two houses built and occupied, one

by Mr. Clapp, the first settler, and the other by Mr. Groom. Mr. Clapp has the frame up and the roof on his sawmill. The mill race is partly dug. This was all the improvements I could find in the great Pine River City, but there is plenty of room to make a city. Most of the timber along the river is hemlock. A few rods back from the river there is plenty of pine.

"June 17, 1855—Left this morning for Saginaw in a boat down Pine River. There were a couple of Dutchmen here who brought some goods up the river. They were going back this morning and we engaged passage. I was sorry to leave so soon, as I had no time to look at vacant land. Pine River is a fine stream, about fifty feet wide with a rapid current; mill privileges every three or four miles."

Speaking of the Saginaw River and the country near Saginaw, Mr. Hastings says: "It is a very rich country, with some good houses built, and this is truly a magnificent river. Within five miles of Saginaw we left the river and went across to Saginaw by land, saving seven miles. Saginaw is a much larger place than I expected to find. There are some fifteen or eighteen large steam sawmills which cut near 2,000 logs a day, and a good many shingle factories. It is destined to be a large place; but it is not healthy in the summer.

"June 19, 1855—Took the stage at Saginaw this morning for Flint, by way of a plank road. The country is level but rich, with scattering pine most of the way. It is very sparsely settled. Got to Flint a little after noon, and entered 200 acres of land on section 27, town 12 north, range 2 west, (Bethany) Gratiot County." Mr. Hastings' diary shows that he returned to Lansing from Flint by way of Dewitt. Traveling along the Looking Glass river many miles he says he traveled through "the worst looking country I have seen in Michigan. Got to Dewitt about six, and left on foot for Lansing at seven, getting to Lansing at ten, tired and wet."

After remaining a few days in Lansing, Mr. Hastings concluded that Gratiot County would do, so he set out again for the Village of Pine River, arriving there July 5, 1855, and commenced his career as a pioneer of Gratiot County. He built a log house, the third house in the place. It was located about where the rear end of Carlton Smith's store stands, and back from Mill Street three or four rods. It was torn down about the year 1870 to make room for improvements that were called for by the march of events and the needs of the growing town. He had to clear away the primeval forest to make room for his house, and the raising took the combined efforts of four white men and twelve Indians. Mr. Hastings then sent for his family, consisting of wife and child, going to Saginaw to meet them and bringing them up the river by boat.

### Pine River Village Was Platted.

In the spring of 1855, Dr. Abram M. Crawford came from Lansing with the idea in his mind of establishing a village site at, or adjacent to, the place where Mr. Clapp was erecting his saw mill. Mr. Clapp secured a surveyor from Lansing, L. D. Preston by name, and, in conjunction with Dr. Crawford caused to be surveyed and platted 130 acres of land into village lots and streets, calling the embryo village "Pine River." They had the plat recorded in the archives of Saginaw County, Gratiot not yet having been organized as a county. The platted tract was that portion of the present St. Louis lying in the center of the map and embracing the business portion and some adjacent territory. The tract embraced about 100 acres on sections 24 and 25 of Pine River, extending from Pine River on the

north to Hazel Street on the south, taking in the territory between Main Street, (the township line), and Delaware Avenue. It also took in territory on section 19 of Bethany Township, extending from the river to Washington Avenue and from Main Street east to East Street. This was recorded in Saginaw County July, 1855. In January, 1856, Gratiot County having been organized early in that month, it was placed on the records of Gratiot County.

### Also Many Additions.

In the course of time other tracts have been platted and recorded as "additions." One plat, however, that platted by Edward T. Cheesman and Gilbert E. Pratt in 1859, cannot be classed as an addition, for it was platted as a separate and independent village and named "St. Louis"; and when the two were consolidated in 1865, the twain became one, and that one was "St. Louis." The Cheesman plat lies to the south of the plat of Pine River, extending south to the quarter line of section 25 of Pine River Township, and contains about 50 acres. It was not placed upon the records in the office of the register of deeds until April 23, 1873; Ella T. Chapin, register.

In May, 1868, S. S. Hastings platted a small addition lying south of Washington Avenue and east of East Street; recorded by Theo. Nelson, register.

March 24, 1875, Mr. Hastings made another plat of territory adjoining his first plat on the east and south.

J. F. Newton platted 40 acres July 29, 1867; a tract lying south of Washington Avenue and east of Main Street, being the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 30, Bethany. October 30, 1873, he platted another 40 acres lying south of his original plat and extending to the quarter line, or Prospect Street.

In November, 1865, Lucius C. Knapp platted an addition on the north side of the river, the territory being the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 24, Pine River. Recorded by Henry P. Howd, register, March 5, 1866.

In January, 1869, Holcomb & Evans platted a strip of territory lying on the west side of the original plat of Pine River, and extending from the river on the north to the river on the south and containing about 80 acres.

Henry L. Holcomb, in 1884, platted about 40 acres adjoining the H. & E. addition on the west. The original depot grounds of the Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan Railroad were located on this tract.

In December, 1869, John L. Frary platted an addition on the north side of the river, adjoining Knapp's addition on the west.

In September, 1875, Ervin H. Ewell platted land lying north of the Frary addition and extending to the cemetery on the north.

E. W. Smith's addition lies north of the river and east of the town line, being on the northwest quarter of section 19, Bethany Township. It was recorded October 5, 1882.

In December, 1882, Mary E. Giddings platted about 60 acres adjoining the Smith addition on the east.

In February, 1884, Mr. Hastings platted a small tract lying south of his other addition and extending from East Street to Euclid Street.

April 29, 1902, Olney J. McWethy had recorded a five-acre plat just outside of the corporate limits on the north, between Corinth and Berea Streets.

By a circuit court decree made July 7, 1902, the recorded plat of block 49 of Newton's addition, lying just south of the Public Square, was vacated, and in October following, the block was re-platted by George L. Ulmer, the same being recorded November 3, 1902.

### The Original St. Louis.

A little recapitulation or repetition here, in the matter of the Cheesman plat will doubtless be forgiven. At any rate the writer will take the risk. So, in 1859 Pratt & Cheesman—Gilbert E. Pratt and Edward T. Cheesman—the latter a brother of Dr. John R. Cheesman who was destined to be a prominent figure in Gratiot's early history, bought a tract of land lying in what is now the south part of St. Louis, and adjacent to Pine River Village, and had it surveyed and platted, not as an addition to Pine River, but as an original village. They named it "St. Louis." On this plat they erected a frame store building and launched out in merchandising. In January, 1860, Dr. John R. Cheesman—who had been one of the earliest settlers in Hamilton Township, losing his wife there by death in August, 1857, and marrying again in September, 1858—came back to the county after a residence "outside" covering a period of three years. He settled in St. Louis, purchasing of his brother the land platted, and taking charge of the store which he stocked up with drugs, groceries, provisions, dry goods, notions, hardware; anything and everything needed by the settlers. After a thriving business covering about seven years the mercantile business of the town concentrated down near the river and the Cheesman store lost its usefulness and ceased its operations.

But I have gone a little ahead of the regular procession of events. In the fall of 1855, Joseph Clapp was mainly instrumental in securing the establishment of a postoffice in the recently platted Village of Pine River; and he received the appointment of postmaster. The name of the postoffice was "Pine River", and the office was kept in the house of Mr. Clapp. Previous to that time all mail matter came from Maple Rapids. Someone has said that the mail was supposed to come once a week, but that "once in a while" would be nearer the fact. Billy Gruett, the half-breed French-Indian, son of the Indian Mission interpreter, James Gruett, carried the mail to and from Maple Rapids for individuals before the Pine River postoffice was established, and carried it for the government for several years after the establishment of that postoffice. Billy is getting along to the "sere and yellow leaf" period, and still resides near St. Louis. His picture occupies a place of honor in this volume, and, as much as anything else in the book, serves as a connecting link, manifest to the eye, between the strenuous times and events of pioneer days, the details of which need not be recapitulated here, and the present year of our Lord, when it would seem that nothing more could be desired in the way of comforts, conveniences and luxuries, the details also of which need not be here rehearsed. The reader catches the idea? Yes!

The two villages—Pine River and St. Louis—though really nothing but two sections of the same settlement, retained their separate names until 1865, when the name Pine River was dropped, and the whole settlement became St. Louis, the name of the postoffice also being changed to St. Louis.

I have mentioned and located the first two houses erected in the village. The third one was erected by Sidney S. Hastings and stood near

the southwest corner of block 39; about where the rear end of Carlton Smith's grocery store is located, only it stood pretty well back from the line of Mill Street.

In the fall of 1855 Jacob G. Wilden erected a log building for a dwelling and a store, over on Main Street, about where Jay Smith's residence now stands. His venture was the first attempt in the line of merchandising in St. Louis. He brought his first load of goods by ox team from Ohio, but afterward shipped everything from Saginaw, by canoe, up the river.

At this point I notice that thus far a proper statement relative to the location of St. Louis, by some unaccountable miscarriage of consistency, has not yet been made. I, therefore, halt long enough to transcribe a description of the topographical features of the town from an article written in 1869 by James K. Wright, the veteran Gratiot County attorney who settled in St. Louis in November, 1867, and who still continues an honored resident of the town. The article referred to was written for, and published in the June number—No. 3—of the Michigan State Advance, a monthly publication established in St. Louis in the spring of 1869, by A. D. & E. G. Rust; a paper designed to boom Central Michigan in general and Gratiot County in particular and which lived and flourished, in a measure, for a year or two.

Here is Mr. Wright's description of St. Louis' location: "St. Louis is situated at a point where Pine River crosses the line between Bethany and Pine River Township. The location of the village as to health, beauty and convenience is all that could be desired. It is as nicely arranged as if carved by the hand of Nature for the express purpose of providing an ideal site for a beautiful town. The river here makes a detour in the shape of an ox-bow, the peninsula thus formed being nearly circular in shape, and from three-fourths of a mile to a mile in diameter, and rising moderately from the margin to the very center to an altitude of 30 or 35 feet, the surface taking somewhat the form of an inverted saucer. Circumscribing this plain is a beautiful chain of elevations or bluffs rising to a height of about 50 or 60 feet. For residence purposes these elevations are unsurpassed anywhere in the state. The town is eight miles north of the geographical center of the county (Ithaca), and perhaps even nearer than that to the center of the lower peninsula. Its location is in the midst of one of the most fertile and promising farming countries in the West; and when we connect with this the great advantages to be derived from the immense forests of pine up the rivers to the west and northwest, we can but predict for it the rank and position of a very important town, and that not far in the future. The village is due west of Saginaw about 30 miles and about the same distance north of St. Johns, which are important railroad towns; the former, for the manufacture of salt and lumber, being perhaps second to none on the continent."

A very good and truthful portrayal of conditions and prospects as they existed at that time; and time has witnessed and verified, in a measure, many of the conclusions and predictions of the passages quoted.

In the fall of 1856 Dr. Abram M. Crawford commenced the erection of a frame building for a hotel. It was located on the northwest corner of block 36, facing north, on North Street. It was finished during the winter, and thereafter the postoffice was kept there.

Dr. Crawford went from St. Louis to St. Johns and in 1859 built the first brick house in that village. Later he was engaged in the practice of medicine at Eaton Rapids and Lansing, and still later he removed to Jack-



FROM NORTH SIDE, LOOKING SOUTH—1913.

son and was engaged in the practice of his profession there until the year 1905, when he took up his abode in Michigan Center, a suburb of Jackson, and where he died in June, 1909, at the age of 80 years.

Frank Clapp was the first white child born in St. Louis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clapp; born in July, 1855.

The first death of a white person to occur in St. Louis, and probably the second one in the county, was that of Effie Groom, aged four years, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus Groom. She died in March, 1856. Her funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Lafayette Church of Arcada Township.

In May, 1856, Mr. Clapp disposed of his entire St. Louis possessions, consisting of village plat, sawmill property, and about 1,500 acres of forest land to Hillyer, Clark & Davis—Richard G. Hillyer, Lewis M. Clark and Mr. Davis—of Saginaw. This firm also purchased the store and stock of goods of J. G. Wilden. The new owners pushed improvements and lumbering operations with vigor. Saginaw firms and others owning pine lands in western Gratiot and in Montcalm and Mecosta Counties, began to operate extensively in lumbering, utilizing the streams for floating their logs to their mills located in Saginaw, Bay City and along the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers. Thus Pine River became a stream of immense importance from this time on, for a period of twenty years or more, each spring bringing its processions of log drives with millions of feet of logs; and scores of woodsmen and log drivers to make music and business for towns on the river, as well as noise and excitement all along the river's course. St. Louis and Alma thus became important frontier towns, and as such, for many years were beneficiaries of the lumbering business in many ways. The towns also shared in the disadvantages naturally accompanying and incident to the rough and roystering ways of many of those making up the gangs.

### They Sell to Henry L. Holcomb.

The firm of Clark, Hillyer & Davis conducted business until the year 1860, when they sold out to Henry L. Holcomb, a native of Connecticut, a cousin of Richard G. Hillyer. Mr. Holcomb was a man of energy and integrity, and was blessed with ample financial resources. The work of improving conditions in the village, clearing up his acres and conducting his lumbering activities, was prosecuted with vigor, and, considering that the Civil War times were present and handicapping enterprise in many ways, the place improved satisfactorily and increased in population. The old sawmill having burned down in 1861, Mr. Holcomb built a much larger and better one to take it place, erected a good grist mill, and built himself a fine residence building, the building now occupied by the present Mrs. Holcomb, and which was moved to its present location in 1881 to clear the ground for the big brick block on the corner of Mill and Center Streets, the block commonly designated as Holcomb's Opera House Block.

When Mr. Holcomb bought the St. Louis property, Mr. Hillyer remained with him and aided in the management of the business and as bookkeeper.

Records show that in the spring of 1865 the three big villages of the county had populations about as follows: St. Louis, 140; Alma, 160; Ithaca, 100.

### Holcomb & Evans Take Hold.

In the year 1867 Mr. Holcomb sold all his St. Louis and Gratiot County interests to Holcomb & Evans—Thos. H. Holcomb and John L. Evans. Thos. Holcomb was a nephew of Henry L. Holcomb. The new men were comparatively young, full of energy and were evidently bent on making as much as possible out of their opportunities. As landlords, employers of labor, and leading men generally, they were not in the same class with Henry L. Holcomb in the estimation of those with whom they had to deal. Mr. Evans was the resident partner, and, though doubtless a good business man in many particulars, was not of the proper make-up to inspire a large and overpowering degree of love and confidence. Excepting with a few intimates his manner was pompous and overbearing and well calculated to convey the impression that he considered himself constructed from a better quality of material than most people. Possibly he may have been, but even so, the fact, if it was a fact, was difficult of assimilation by the common herd.

In 1869 the Kress block was erected, corner of Mill and Saginaw Streets; the site now occupied by the Drury block; a three-story wooden structure about 50 by 100 feet on the ground; rooms for two stores on the first floor, a large hall on the second floor with offices in front, and Masonic lodge rooms on the third floor. The hall was "Kress Hall", the best in the county for many years, and of great service to the town for all purposes requiring a large hall—lectures, church services, shows, socials, etc. The building burned in the big fire of March 24, 1888.

### The Mineral Springs.

In the summer of 1869 something happened to St. Louis that immediately produced a marked effect; an effect that showed plainly for many years, and which is still far from being obliterated. Referring to the discovery of mineral waters 200 feet under the surface of the ground, and which bubbled to the surface and flowed from the pipe eight or ten feet above the surface. Holcomb & Evans were boring for salt, having incubated the idea—if the expression may be forgiven—that inasmuch as Saginaw, 30 miles distant, had salt wells and salt manufactories equal to anything of the kind in the world, there might be something in it for St. Louis. So they procured the necessary paraphernalia and, taking power from their sawmill, proceeded to investigate, starting proceedings under the southeast corner of the sawmill. In short it was the exact spot where the Park House Sanitarium waters are now flowing for the cure of many diseases. At the depth of about 200 feet a bountiful vein of water was struck which overflowed everything, as before stated, necessitating a halt in the proceedings. The water had a salubrious taste; so different but not bad. Everybody had to see the outpour and everybody had to have a taste. Then it was discovered that the water had such an effect upon the system, and upon certain functions of the human anatomy and machinery, that it seemed certain that it had great medicinal value. Then somebody—George Helmer, a salesman from Detroit—held a rheumatic hand and wrist in the flowing stream, and the rheumatics disappeared forthwith.

Then it was that the sensible thing was done, to-wit: A sample of the water was sent to an eminent chemist and it was found that the water contained remedial agents equal or superior in quantity and value to any mineral water in the world; and it also had magnetic properties far in

excess of anything of the kind ever heard of. This knowledge decided the proprietors to abandon the search for salt and to utilize the water for the healing of the sick.

So a bath house with the necessary appliances for doing business was erected, the water was piped to it, some advertising was done, and while the preliminary bathing was being administered to local invalids and near-invalids, the outside people were assimilating the advertising matter, studying up the chemical constituents of the water as shown by the analysis, and preparing to move upon the town. And then they came! They came from all parts of the country, and with all manner of ailments. Wonderful cures were effected. I do not feel called upon to prove that the use of the water, both externally and internally, did very great things in many cases, thus furnishing indisputable proof of its medicinal value and great efficacy, for no sane person could deny it, who was on the ground to see for himself, and no reasonable person can doubt the host of witnesses who, for the past 40 years have been giving testimony in its behalf.



PARK HOUSE—MAGNETIC SPRINGS HOTEL.

Hotels were filled to overflowing, private houses were turned into boarding houses, new boarding houses and hotels were built and still the accommodations were insufficient. The bath house accommodations had to be revised and enlarged, and finally new buildings with vastly increased facilities had to be provided. But the excitement and the rush had its day. Other towns began to discover mineral wells and springs, the trade was divided up and the healing business after a while assumed more rational proportions.

During the excitement and rush to the St. Louis Magnetic Springs, many men of note in the nation took advantage of the healing waters to get rid of their various ailments. Among the most prominent who came and that I am able to recall to mind at this time were Gen. Dan. Sickles and Gen. Jo. Hooker, famous generals in the Civil War; Chief Justice Salmon

P. Chase, of the United States Supreme Court. Another, who was a celebrity at that time was Allan Pinkerton, originator of the noted Pinkerton Detective Agency and at that time its head and front.

Up to 1880 the management of the springs was under the control of several different individuals and medical directors. In that year Drs. Combs & Andrews came into possession and in 1881 built the first installment of the present Park House Sanitarium, installing complete facilities for conducting an institution of that kind in a modern and up-to-date manner. After a few years Dr. Andrews bought his partner's interest and assumed sole ownership, control and management. A few years ago the building was greatly enlarged and its facilities as a sanitarium and hotel largely added to and improved; and now for many years probably no institution of the kind in the state has been able to show greater popularity or prosperity.

### Great Pine Logs by the Million.

There are but very few of the old settlers left to remember the interesting spring seasons of the '60s and '70s when the river was full of pine logs on their journey to Saginaw. The mill pond would become literally packed full with logs; and the log drivers would be kept busy to prevent jams and to break them when formed, and to keep the logs moving toward their destination. The work of coaxing them to the chute and shooting them down the long incline to the on-rushing river below was always



WHERE THE PLEASANT WATERS FLOW—THE NEW DAM.

an interesting operation to the on-looker; and on many a Sunday the on-lookers included a good share of the population of the town. Remember the never-failing "wonnagon"? It was a broad raft or a sort of an expanded flat-boat that always brought up the rear of a drive, and was the last thing to go through the chute. On the "wonnagon" all the cooking for the men was done, and there the men slept when they had a chance to indulge in that luxury. It was always a gala day when the "wonnagon"

went over the dam, and the time being known by previous proclamation, half the town was likely to be present to witness it. Sometimes the creature would swerve from its proper course, and, striking the whirlpool below at an unfortunate angle, would be submerged, and everything on board soaked, or worse still, washed away. And the fishing below the chute with the huge dip-nets was always full of anticipation. But the nets were not always full of fish, by any means, though there were some fine suckers and mullett caught off and on.

But the logs long since ceased to run; and the old chute and the old waste-weir and the whole dam paraphernalia, including the dam itself, have been for some years things of the past—torn out, washed away or submerged by the waters corralled by the new dam built further down stream. The new artificial lake extension now covers the ground formerly occupied by piles and piles of lumber, much of it of a quality to bring $50 to $80 today but which in the early days the carpenters considered dear at $10 to $20.

### Plank Road and Railroad Improve Matters.

In the early days there was no getting to Saginaw by team excepting when the ground and the water and the swamps were frozen solid. In 1869 the St. Louis and Saginaw plank road was constructed, and then navigation was possible. In 1872 the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis Railroad was completed; and then the facilities for ingress and egress were as good as anybody's. Previous to this, almost the entire traffic of the country was carried on with St. Johns. With the advent of the railroad into the county, business took on new life, particularly where the products of the forests were concerned. The markets of the outside world called for lumber, square timber, staves, hoops, shingles, everything that is made of wood; and here was the timber in seemingly unlimited amount. Up to this time the forest timber had been a burdensome encumbrance to the land, and the great question with the farmer was how to get rid of it in the quickest possible manner. The new facilities for shipping brought the demand within reach of the supply, and forest products became valuable. Stave and hoop factories were established in the towns, and stave dealers bought all manner of staves, heading and hoops brought in by the farmers. The shook factories of St. Louis, of which there were several, were important institutions, employing skilled workmen, trained to the trade. And it may not be amiss, in the interest of many readers, to explain that the shook maker constructs his barrel, or hogshead, or pipe complete, shaving his staves and jointing them true and accurate, setting them up with his heavy truss hoops and fitting in the heads, making a job air-tight and water-tight, and all ready for the permanent hoops. Then he numbers the staves, each one to go in its proper place; and then he knocks off the truss hoops, bundles up the staves and heading pieces into a "shook", and binds it securely with wire. It is then ready to be shipped to where it is to be used, there to be set up, hooped and filled.

Probably the shook factories of Warren Crandall, Wm. Rose and E. W. Traver & Co. were the most important of those doing business in St. Louis. E. W. Traver & Co., also manufactured hoops. The firm of Crawford Bros. did an extensive business in the manufacture of hoops.

The industries mentioned, and others operating in materials of the forest were carried on with much activity, energy and profit for many years, commencing, say, in 1872 and continuing as important activities till along up to 1890.

McRae's sawmill, located on the banks of the river in the west part of the St. Louis "peninsula", was an important and busy institution for several years in the '70s; also the mill of A. F. Smith & Co., located on the ground later occupied by the Chemical factory.

It seems appropriate to halt here and mention at least a few names that come to mind as belonging to some of the early residents of St. Louis, not already referred to; residents who were on the sod, say, not later than 1870. Without claiming to hit all of them, I call to mind the names, faces and figures of the following: A. B. Darragh, Geo. G. Nichols, J. C. Giddings and sons, John T. Noble, John L. Sinclair, Nathan Vliet, Jas. Vliet, Joseph Vliet, Jack. Vliet, John Vliet, Sam. Vliet, Jacob M. Kemp, Silas Randolph, Sam. Gordon, Rev. J. T. Willett, Rev. Randall Faurot, Rev. Stephen Dodge, Steward and Hunter Harrison, John H. Suydam, Jas. Paddock, Ed. L. Drake, W. L. Stebbins, A. F. Wright, Jas. K. Wright, Hiram Harrington, John Tuger, Geo. Luce, Fred. D. Weller, E. J. Holiday, Chas. Easterly, John W. Tackabury, Geo. Wooley, L. J. Totten, Steve Ostrander, Ed. Griffin, Jim. Chase, Edmund Welch, Marshall Burton, Degrasse Shippey, Henry Shippey, Hi. Hewitt, Moses Sanborn, Herb. Sanborn, John Christman, Jim. Christman, Geo. W. McHenry, Jacob Burnham, L. B. Longwell, Reuben D. Perrine, Jonathan W. Salsbury, Henry M. Martin, Erv. Stewart, Wm. B. Harris, Jim. Dodge, Dan. C. Dodge, Justin Hill, J. Clark Serrels, Levi O. Rowland, Dr. Jas. R. Baldwin, Dr. Congdon, Erv. Ewell, Sylvanus Ewell, Aaron Strouse, Jim. Cummings, Geo. L. Patch, Eli S. Brooke, Geo. W. Hale, Lucius C. Knapp, A. J. Harrington, Dan. O. Cuff, Jas. S. Eager, Eliab Going, Carlisle Miller, John J. Shook, Chas. B. Kress, Wm. H. Ostrom, Z. V. Payne, Dr. Hilem E. Branch, Aaaron Wessels, Jas. W. Wessels, J. Milt. Putman, Peter Snyder, Albert D. Rust, Wm. Barber, Nathan E. Barber, Jas. H. Foster, Wm. H. Crow, Heman Tyler, Theodore H. Foland, Albert P. Foland, Jacob Francisco, John A. Wilcox, Ira G. Dillon, Sam. C. Skinner, Luther Smith.

Here are about 100 names of men now mostly dead. As near as I can figure it there are not more than 20 of them left on earth at this time.

### Incorporated as a Village.

St. Louis became an incorporated municipality in the fall of 1868, the first election, ordered by the board of supervisors, taking place on the 16th of November. It was the first village incorporated in the county. As is usual in such cases, improvements followed apace—sidewalks, sewers, fire protection. Pine River as an outlet for the sewerage system could not be improved upon; and Pine River as furnishing a never-failing supply of the raw material for the extinguishment of fires was all that could be desired, and has been well utilized.

### The First Newspaper.

Another important enterprise that followed closely upon the incorporation was the founding of a newspaper. Some of the principal promoters were Holcomb & Evans, Luther Smith, Erv. Ewell and probably some others. They induced Wm. H. H Bartram, a Bay City publisher, to come to St. Louis with enough of a newspaper outfit to start business with. He brought a few cases of type, a couple of chases, a stick or two, a composing slab and a Washington hand-press. Of course there were some other small items of truck like leads, slugs, furniture and a dab of ink. Ira G. Dillon had a small cabinet shop on the corner now occupied by the American Transfer Company's building, and he and this writer built a couple of racks to hold the cases of type, and also a stout stand to hold the lone composing

stone. Bartram brought along a few columns of ready-set Bay City ads, borrowed from his Bay City publication, to help along in filling up the surplus space that was sure to be a prominent feature of the first issue.

St. Louis was lucky in having two citizens who had served time in a printing office, to-wit: Jas. Paddock and Dr. Jas. R. Baldwin, and they were pressed into service as typesetters and helpers in getting out the first issue of the paper.

After much travail the paper went to press on the evening of Friday, January 8, 1869, and Volume 1, Number 1, of "The St. Louis Gazette" bore —and bears—that date; for I have preserved and cherished a copy of that first issue all these years, and have it before me at this writing. It is a good-looking paper, for a pioneer; a large, eight-column, four-page sheet, and well printed. One side—two pages—were printed in Bay City. The other two pages are quite well balanced up with local items, miscellaneous stuff and advertising matter, the latter item being helped along materially with about five columns from Bay City.

The St. Louis advertisers were Jas. K. Wright, attorney at law; J. R. Baldwin, physician and surgeon; John Tuger, druggist and apothecary; Wessels House, A. J. Harrington, Prop'r; Holcomb & Evans, lumber of all kinds, and foundry work; Geo. L. Patch, general store; Saint & Shiffer, hardware; Chas. B. Kress, sash, door and blind factory; E. H. Ewell & Co., general merchandise; J. W. Tackabury, tin shop; Jas. W. Wessels, general store. Ithaca contributed one ad, that of Peck & Marvin—Elijah Peck and Wm. H. Marvin—telling about their real estate, insurance and collection business.



EIGHT-INCH FLOWING WELL—1886.

The subsequent history of the Gazette and its successor, the Herald, is told under a separate heading in connection with other early newspaper ventures in St. Louis as as well as those of the present day.

In the year 1886, thinking that it would be well to have the inhabitants of the village supplied with well water for domestic and drinking purposes, the authorities put down an eight-inch boring on the west side of Mill Street, north of the old mill race. At the depth of 158 feet a fine flow of water was struck which rose to the height of ten or twelve feet when confined in a pipe of small dimensions. In the eight-inch pipe it flowed as shown in the fine illustration herewith presented, the height being about four feet. The picture is from an actual photograph taken by Almon Bisbee, the local photographer for many years.

### James F. Newton Takes a Hand.

Up to the winter of 1866 the southeast portion of St. Louis, the tract of territory cornering at Washington Avenue and Main Street, had remained pretty much in a state of nature excepting that two or three acres in the extreme corner had been partially cleared. The tract had previously been bought by Jas. F. Newton, of St. Johns, a prominent citizen of that town. That winter he had about 40 acres of the tract slashed, and the next summer it was burned off and cleared. Mr. Newton then had it platted into lots and streets and it was recorded as an addition to St. Louis. Mr. Newton erected a double store building on the corner, facing on Washington Avenue, in the fall of the same year—1867—and a long contest for supremacy, or at least for advantage, was thus inaugurated between his section and his interests on the one hand, and the older and original business center on the other hand. The situation and the strife had some advantages and more disadvantages. The rivalry stimulated local enterprise at each end of the town, each striving to outdo the other, in private improvements and in showing up inducements. That was good. But when it came to the consideration of public improvements and the encouragement of outside institutions and capital to do business in St. Louis, the rival interests interfered with harmonious, concerted action, and the results did not always reach the high degree of fruition hoped for, and to which the town, as a whole, was justly entitled. However, the rapid settlement of the county, coupled with the discovery of the magnetic water, as already narrated, kept up interest and stimulated growth.

With the view of providing more adequate accommodations for the public, and possibly in an incidental way to give his end of town an even chance at least, with the other end that had captured the magnetic waters, Mr. Newton, in 1870, erected a large hotel building, on the corner of Washington Avenue and Franklin Street. This was the "Eastman House" which became famous as the most complete and high-class hotel in Michigan, outside of the large cities. It was a wooden, three-story structure. In the early, palmy days of St. Louis, when the town was overflowing with strangers drawn by the celebrated healing waters, the Eastman House took its pick of them and did great business. Hon. Wm. H. Taylor, of Saginaw, was the first landlord. Next it was Taylor and Truesdell; then on the death of Mr. Truesdell it was Taylor & Mrs. Truesdell. Kroll & Bullock tried their hands at it, followed by Guy A. Johnston and Mrs. Truesdell, in 1876. After them Ike Bradley, who had been clerk up to that time, assumed the management. He was followed by Jas. McHenry, and he by Mrs. S. A. Morrison in 1878. Then the big hotel and business generally in that part of town went into a decline from which it has never recovered. The old hotel was dismembered and removed piecemeal, and its site has been occupied for many years by the Presbyterian Church. There is now not much left to testify to the former business activity of that section.

The St. Louis House, on the corner of Pine River and North Streets, was conducted by Geo. W. McHenry for about ten years, beginning in 1857. He was postmaster and kept the office in his hotel.

In 1866 Jas. Cummings built a hotel on the corner of Mill and Center Streets and named it the Loder House. The name was afterward changed to Exchange Hotel, later it was the Commercial House. It was the leading hotel a good share of the time for more than twenty years, and was then transformed into a department store and so used by the Alexanders until its destruction by fire March 20, 1911. Eli S. Brooke, Jim. McHenry, P. T.

Cornell, Steve Potter, Marv. Richardson, Jo. Barden and maybe others, were its landlords.

In the year 1867 a hotel was built on the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street. Its landlords at different times were George Wooley and Steward Harrison, Aaron Wessels, Jacob M. Kemp and A. J. Harrington, J. B. Waterman, Jacob M. Kemp, George W. Seaman, Mr. Leonard and others. It was torn down in 1891.

The present Exchange Hotel was built about the year 1872, by Aaron Wessels and was called the Wessels House. Later it was re-christened the Exchange. It has had various and sundry proprietors, Frank D. Lane being the first, continuing the longest in the capacity of landlord.

The Harrington, in the fine brick block, corner of Mill and Saginaw Streets was erected in 1881 by Hiram Harrington. The first landlord was Sam. Congdon, and it afterward had a variety of managers.

In 1912, the hotel having been out of commission for several years, the entire block was remodeled and the hotel became a thing of the past; a mere reminiscence.

Of hotels of minor importance St. Louis has had quite an assortment, but none of them that can now be recalled to mind could plausibly be considered worthy of special mention.

### Henry L. Holcomb Again Takes Hold.

In the year 1873 Henry L. Holcomb again came into possession of his St. Louis property, the firm of Holcomb & Evans having failed to fulfill the terms of their bargain for the purchase of the property.

In 1868 the Presbyterians, generously aided by well-wishing neighbors, erected the first church building in St. Louis. It was a large and good-looking structure located on the angling street, near the site now occupied by the High School building. In after years it was removed to the present site of the Presbyterian church and was utilized in the construction of the present fine church building.

In 1873-74 the Methodists erected a brick church building on their lot, corner of Washington Avenue and Pine Street. This was quite a pretentious building for a town of the size of St. Louis. It did duty for more than thirty years; until superseded by the present fine church building. Samuel F. Anderson, the Alma architect and builder—and still a resident of Alma—was the boss mechanic in the construction of the old brick church.

In 1875, in order to establish better means of communication between St. Louis and the farming community to the westward, Washington Avenue bridge was constructed over the river and mill pond, Wm. M. Reeves being the contractor. Pine River Township appropriated $500, and the people of St. Louis subscribed $700 toward the project, besides opening and grading Washington Avenue.

J. F. Newton erected his fine brick residence, on the hill, in 1874.

Henry M. Martin built his wooden block, corner of Washington Avenue and Mill Street in 1876. In the second story was "Martin's Opera House", the town's first opera house. It had a good stage, fine scenery, and was a credit to its proprietor and the town. The building was torn down in 1909, to be succeeded by the Colonial Theater block.

E. H. Ewell, W. H. Remington and Dawes brothers had a factory in 1876-77 located near the north end of the mill dam, on the site of a brick

yard that was operated in the '60s by Ellery Foote. The firm manufactured sash, doors and furniture, and did miscellaneous work in the line of planing, turning, mould-sticking, etc.

In 1877 the village built a bridge across the river, on Mill Street, which proved a great convenience, connecting as it did, the "north side" and the country beyond, with the principal business street of the town. The same year the brick jail—still doing duty—was built, following the destruction, by fire, of the old plank jail located on the public square, together with an unfortunate inmate, put in for safe-keeping over night by Sheriff Geo. L. Patch.

The east Union School building, now called the Grammar Department building, was erected in 1879; Clark & Terry contractors for the stone work, and H. B. Sunbury for the superstructure and the job of finishing it.

St. Louis experienced a great building boom in 1881, more money being expended that year for brick buildings than in any other five years, perhaps. The Park House Sanitarium, already spoken of; Holcomb's Opera House block; the Harrington House block, and a block of four stores by Aaron Wessels, east side of Mill Street. In the fall of 1880 H. L. Holcomb commenced drilling for brine on block 71, between North Street and the mill pond. The salt rock was found early in October at a depth of 1,050 feet. Works were then erected for the manufacture of salt, and in November, 1881—the memorable building year—the manufacture of salt was begun. Besides these building and manufacturing improvements, there were others of less importance, including the erection of the Adventist Church in the east part of town—a building 28 by 42 feet in size. One estimate of the amount of money expended in building during that year made figures at about $90,000. Another estimate—a newspaper man's figures—made the amount $161,000. The working in of that extra $1,000 would seem to go far to prove that the newspaper man had figured it down fine and had got it extremely accurate.

Several other things happened this year of 1881 besides the construction of brick blocks; happenings that interested the people one way or another. The Sanborn bridge, an old wooden structure that spanned the pond just outside of the corporation on the northwest, went down July 9th and took with it G. W. Howarth with a team and load of lath. The horses were drowned; but Howarth, the wagon and the lath were salvage—mostly saved; so Pine River Township got out of it by the payment of $365. No efforts were ever made to resuscitate the old bridge.

The next thing that comes to mind as happening that year was the payment, by the village, of the sum of $1,284.17; a debt incurred some years previously by the purchase of an assortment of "Babcock squirt guns" as they were called by those mean citizens who didn't favor the purchase. The "extinguishers" never extinguished anything but the sum stated; unless by a play on words it might be said that many hot citizens were considerably "put out" by them.

Another occurrence of that year that bobs up in memory was the appointment of Jesse H. Fleming, of St. Louis, as Indian Agent at the Moquis Pueblo agency, Arizona Territory. A mighty good man banished to a mighty unattractive job. It is a compliment to him and a comfort to know that when Jesse left the job a year or two later his work had been so thorough that there was no further use for a missionary and so the agency was abolished.

Just one more remembrance of 1881 and then I will mercifully ring off on an overworked memory. A notoriously fragrant resort a mile north of

town, bearing the suburban and enphonious name of the "Sand Hill", prevalent in that part of Pine River Township for many years, and a source, among other things, of much trouble and shame to the community, was cleaned out, root and branch, through the determined action of Supervisor Dan. O. Cuff, a pioneer of St. Louis and of Pine River Township from 1862, and supervisor for as many years as he desired the office; or nearly as many. Ed. Stockton and his family of eight inmates have never since been heard of in the county, while Dan. remains as a landmark, as it were, hale and hearty at 77, and with friends to beat all.

Holcomb's splendid new opera house with a seating capacity for 1,500 people, was opened to the public Friday and Saturday evenings, June 9 and 10, 1882, with the "Galley Slave" Friday evening and "My Geraldine" Saturday evening. Before the opening Rev. Theodore Nelson made a short complimentary and congratulatory address to Mr. Holcomb and the audience, to which the former responded briefly; and the latter gave a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Holcomb.



ST. LOUIS FLOURING MILLS.

In September, 1882, H. L. Holcomb sold his saw and grist mill, water power, mill pond and lands connected, to Jas. Henry, late of Cedar Lake, Mich., who had recently become a resident of St. Louis and had erected for himself a substantial residence in the east part of the village. The consideration for the mill property was said to be $20,500.

In December, 1882, Henry L. Wood purchased Mr. Holcomb's brick and tile works, located west of the river.

In the summer of 1883 Wm. Groff and Henry Martin erected a three-story brick block adjoining Martin's Opera House on the north.

The year 1883 witnessed the erection of the finest and most expensive residence building ever built in St. Louis—the John A. Elwell residence on Delaware Avenue, corner of Washington Avenue.

The Ann Arbor Railroad was finished to St. Louis in 1884, and the event was duly celebrated with a banquet.

Jas. Henry's saw and planing mill, purchased of Mr. Holcomb the previous year, was burned, January 19, 1883. It was not rebuilt.

An event of much importance to St. Louis was the burning of the extensive flouring mills of Jas. Henry, on the morning of August 5, 1890. Mr. Henry was not disposed to rebuild right away, and that fact caused so much uneasiness among the citizens, and was considered such a drawback to the interests and well-being of the town, that Mr. Holcomb was induced to take hold of the matter himself. So he purchased the site of Mr. Henry, and in August, 1891, commenced work on what was to be one of the most complete mills in this part of the state. But Mr. Holcomb did not live to see it completed. He had the building enclosed and was ready to install the machinery, when he was stricken with a fatal illness, and died December 28, 1891, at the age of 83 years.

### Didn't Prove Successful.

The Michigan Central Union Fair Association which was organized in 1875, and held its fairs midway between Alma and St. Louis, though continuing in business until 1886, got so down at the heal that St. Louis people decided to organize an association and start a fair of their own. So in August, 1883, the St. Louis Agricultural Society was organized, and a fair was held that year on grounds just outside of the village limits, on the south. The grounds had been established by the St. Louis Driving Park Association two years previously. The first officers of the new Agricultural Society, were as follows: President—D. R. Sullivan, of Pine River; Secretary—J. O. Hilton, St. Louis; Treasurer—Aaron Wessels, St. Louis. The first fair was successful, as also were others that followed, in a measure, but interest flagged, financial returns were inadequate as an attraction, and after three or four years the association dissolved.

In 1887 another organization took a start at the business, with the following as officers: President—A. J. Hatfield; Secretary—Hiram U. Woodin; Treasurer—Nathaniel White; Directors—N. S. Baldwin, T. J. Clark, H. B. Angell, F. C. Seymour, Hamp. Shank, John E. Brown, A. R. Garbutt. The first fair was very encouraging, but the next two, on account of bad weather, were disastrous to the hopes of the promoters, and from 1889 —when the record showed 316 entries and total receipts $347—the fair has been but a memory to most people, though probably a deficiency, as well, to several whose money was invested in the enterprise.

### Chemical Works.

A few pages back, mention was made of the fact that in 1880 Mr. Holcomb prospected for salt on block 71, between North Street and the river. Brine was struck and salt was manufactured to some extent, but evidently without satisfactory financial results, for the enterprise was abandoned, and attention for a time was directed to the manufacture of bromine from the salt water, J. F. Dickey, an experienced manufacturer from Midland, conducting operations for some time. This proving unremunerative, the business languished, and the buildings were used by John Frazier for the manufacture of hoops for a few years. Then a stock company revived the manufacture of bromine, with John Faulkner, an expert, as manager. After the

expenditure of a lot of money without satisfactory results the work was abandoned for good, and not much but the big smoke-stack remains to show where the extensive plant was located. A large number of local people lost heavily in the unfortunate and disastrous enterprise.

St. Louis' commodious city building was erected in 1888. It houses the fire fighting apparatus on the ground floor, the council room, clerk's office, firemen's hall and teamster's residence on the second, and has fraternity quarters in the third story. The predecessor of this building was about 22 by 50, with room for the hand fire engine and hose cart below, and the council room above. It was built in 1871, and was destroyed in the big fire of March 24, 1888.



ST. LOUIS CITY BUILDING.

For the past 20 years St. Louis has enjoyed a reasonable degree of prosperity, holding its own well, but with no especial boom to record. It was incorporated as a city in 1891, holding its first city election April 7th of that year. At the time of the incorporation, the law provided that there should be but one assessing officer for the city, and he should represent the city as a member of the board of supervisors. This provision prevailed until the year 1895 when the legislature enacted the law for the incorporation and government of fourth-class cities, the provisions of which allowed a supervisor for each ward. When the four supervisors from St. Louis essayed to take their seats as members of the board in June, 1896, it required a writ of mandamus, approved and confirmed by the supreme court, to get them seated. But they got there.

There is much merit in the contention at that time vehemently advanced, that towns of the size of any in Gratiot County, whose population and valuation were only about the same as the best of the townships, should not, in justice, have four times the representation of a township. Alma people were the hardest kickers, with Ithaca a close second, and all the townships backing them. Alma's incorporation as a city in 1905, with four supervisors, evened things up again as between Alma and St. Louis. And the spirit of rivalry and jealousy seems latterly to be very much abated

between all parts of the county, and no section seems now to be looking for or anticipating a gouge from any other section, as was fomerly the case.

Improvements of various kinds have been inaugurated as time has passed, and in the matter of sewers, sidewalks, electric lighting, water works, paved streets and fire protection the city is fully up to the times. Some of these subjects are touched upon in this volume under separate headings.

## INCORPORATION AND ELECTIONS.

St. Louis was incorporated as a village by action of the board of supervisors, October 15, 1868, in accordance with the provisions of law. Supervisor J. C. Giddings, of Bethany, presented a petition of 44 freeholders of the territory to be incorporated, asking incorporation as a village for the following specified territory: The northeast quarter of section 25; the southeast quarter of section 24; the south half of the northeast quarter of section 24, all in town 12 north, range 3 west, (Pine River). Also the south half of the northwest quarter of section 19; the southwest fractional quarter of section 19; the northwest fractional quarter of section 30, all in town 12 north, range 2 west, (Bethany).

Accompany the petition was a census of the inhabitants of the territory to be incorporated, showing a population of 477. The census was taken by Chas. W. Giddings, September 30, 1868.

The names of the petitioners follow: Henry M. Martin, Chas. W. Giddings, Joseph T. Willett, Sidney S. Hastings, John H. Suydam, Wm. H. Ostrom, Aaron Wessels, J. Milt. Putman, John W. Tackabury, Geo. Woolly, Peter Snyder, Allen Martin, Geo. Luce, Zach. V. Payne, Sylvanus Ewell, Jas. K. Wright, Albert D. Rust, Geo. W. Hale, Geo. L. Patch, Wm. Barber, Justin Hill, John L. Evans, Wm. H. Crow, D. McCartney, Jas. H. Foster, Ervin H. Ewell, J. C. Giddings, Fred. D. Weller, Heman Tyler, Wolcott L. Stebbins, Theo H. Foland, Willard D. Tucker, Hiram Harrington, Jas. S. Eager, Jacob Francisco, Chas. B. Kress, E. M. Plumb, Jas. D. Christman, A. J. Harrington, John Tuger, John A. Wilcox, J. Atkinson, Daniel O. Cuff, Richard G. Hillyer, Thos. Holcomb.

A remonstrance against incorporation, with 18 signatures, was also received, and the whole matter was referred to a committee composed of Supervisors Geo. Chandler, of Arcada, J. H. Seaver, of Hamilton, and Barney Swope, of Wheeler. The committee's report was favorable, and on motion of Supervisor Seaver the report was adopted.

The resolution of incorporation that followed provided for an election to be held Monday, November 16, 1868, at the hotel of Aaron Wessels, which was located on the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street, St. Louis. Fred D. Weller, Ervin H. Ewell and Thos. Holcomb were designated as inspectors of election. The officers elected to hold their respective offices until their successors should be elected on the first Tuesday of the following March.

A non-partisan caucus was held and but one ticket was put in the field. There were 79 votes cast. There was not yet a printing office in St. Louis, so, rather than go eight miles—to Ithaca—to have tickets printed, they were all written with pen and ink.

The election board organized with F. D. Weller, chairman, E. H. Ewell, and Wm. H. Ostrom, the latter in place of Thos. Holcomb who failed to appear for duty. Jas. K. Wright was appointed election clerk. The following named officers were elected as the first set of officials for St. Louis Village:

**Nov., 1868:** Pres.—John L. Evans; Clk.—Jas. K. Wright; Treas.—Justin R. Hill; Ass'r—Jas. H. Foster, Sidney S. Hastings; Trustees—Chas. B. Kress, Ervin H. Ewell, Jas. W. Wessels, Geo. L. Patch, Randall Faurot, Jonathan W. Salsbury; Mar.—Fred D. Weller; St. Com'rs—Hiram Harrington, Ira G. Dillon, Willard D. Tucker; Poundmaster—Geo. Loeffler.

**March, 1869:** Pres.—John L. Evans; Trustees—Randall Faurot, Chas. B. Kress, Elias W. Smith, Joseph T. Willett, Jas. W. Wessels, J. W. Tackabury; Clk.—Jas. K. Wright; Treas.—John R. Cheesman; Ass'rs—Geo. W. McHenry, Sam. C. Skinner; Mar.—F. D. Weller; St. Com.—Ira G. Dillon, Lucius C. Knapp, Hiram Harrington; Poundmaster—Geo. Loeffler.

May 18, 1869, Randall Faurot resigned as trustee and the board appointed Luther Smith to the vacancy.

**1870:** The official record of this election is very meager and incomplete. The board of trustees was composed as follows: Pres.—John L. Evans; Trustees—C. B. Kress, J. T. Willett, Albert G. Ferris, J. W. Tackabury, Geo. A. Saint, Elias W. Smith; Clk.—James K. Wright.

**1871:** Pres.—Joseph T. Willett; Trustees, 2 yrs.—Jas. H. Foster, Daniel O. Cuff, H. Harrington; 1 yr.—E. H. Ewell, S. S. Hastings, Chas. R. Holliday; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—A. B. Darragh; Ass'rs—S. C. Skinner, Timothy Hutchings; Mar.—Jacob Burnham; St. Com.—J. Burnham, J. A. Wilcox, Jas. P. Dodge; Fire W.—Jas. Vliet, I. G. Dillon, Albert Earl.

Wm. W. Cook was later appointed trustee vice Harrington, resigned.

**1872:** Pres.—Schuyler W. Ambler; Trustees—Henry M. Shiffer, Chas. R. Holliday, Lucius C. Knapp; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—A. B. Darragh; Ass'rs—John R. Cheesman, John A. Wilcox; Mar.—Theo. H. Foland; St. C.—J. Burnham, Jas. Vliet, Jas. P. Dodge; Poundmaster—John Christman; Fire W.—A. Earl, J. Burnham, A. Wessels.

**1873:** Pres.—Daniel O. Cuff; Trustees—J. C. Giddings, L. C. Knapp, H. M. Shiffer, Willard D. Tucker, John A. Wilcox, Sidney S. Hastings; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—A. B. Darragh; Ass'rs—Silas C. Crossman, Reuben D. Perrine; Mar.—John Christman; St. C.—Jere. Marks, John Christman.

Andrew J. Utley was appointed village attorney.

**April 29, 1873:** The legislature having granted a new charter, the first election under its provisions was held April 29, 1873, the following being the result:

Pres.—Daniel O. Cuff; Trustees, 2 yrs.—Willard D. Tucker, Jas. H. Foster, Geo. W. McHenry; 1 yr.—Zealous Sperry, Silas C. Crossman, Wm. H. Rennels; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—Chas. J. Willett; Ass'r—Chas. M. Fleming. Appointments: Mar.—John Christman; Fire W.—A. Earl, J. Christman, J. Marks; Pd. M.—Harley S. Doty; Deputy Mar. and N. Watch.—De Grasse Shippey.

Jan. 6, '74, John L. McCurdy was appointed to the vacancy caused by the resignation of D. Shippey.

**1874:** Pres.—D. O. Cuff; Trustees—Jas. K. Wright, Stiles Kennedy, J. C. Giddings; Clk.—Jas. Paddock; Treas.—Wm. H. Rennels; Ass'r—Luther Smith; Mar. (appointed)—Carlton Abbott.

March 3, 74, Geo. McHenry resigned as trustee, and Zealous Sperry was appointed to the vacancy.

**1875:** Pres.—Jerome P. Kroll; Trustees—C. R. Holliday, Oscar F. Jackson, Silas Randolph; Clk.—Willard D. Tucker; Treas.—Franklin C. Seymour; Ass'r—L. Smith; Mar. (ap.)—C. Abbott.

**1876:** Pres.—Joseph T. Willett; Trustees—Warren Crandall, Jere. Marks, John B. Clark; Clk.—W. D. Tucker; Treas.—A. B. Darragh; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; Mar. (ap.)—Jas. A. McKibben.

Nov. 10, '76, Levi Algyre was appointed marshal vice McKibben, resigned.

**1877:** Pres.—J. T. Willett; Trustees—Zachary V. Payne, Jas. Paddock, John A. Wilcox; Clk.—W. D. Tucker; Treas.—A. B. Darragh; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; Mar. (ap.)—W. D. Tucker.

**1878:** Pres.—Chas. J. Willett; Trustees—J. R. Cheesman, C. R. Holliday, Jas. F. Newton; Clk.—O. F. Jackson; Treas.—Sylvester C. Smith; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; Mar. (ap.)—Jeremiah Marks.

Jan. 28, '79, O. F. Jackson resigned as clerk and W. D. Tucker was appointed to the vacancy.

**1879:** Pres.—A. B. Darragh; Trustees—Chas. W. Giddings, Jas. H. Foster, E. H. Ewell; Clk.—L T Wright; Treas.—H. Harrington; Ass'r—Jas. Paddock; Mar. (ap.)—Henry M. Martin.

A special election was held June 18, '79, to vote on bonding for $10,000 to establish additional fire protection, and to decide on the system to be adopted. For bonding the vote was, yes—181; no, 22. Holly system, 181; steam fire engine, 43; two hand engines, 1.

**1880:** Pres.—D. O. Cuff; Trustees—Jas. T. Hall, Samuel Gordon, Jas. O. Hilton; Clk.—Wm. C. Garbutt; Treas.—H. Harrington; Ass'r—Fred. D. Wheeler; Mar.—H. M. Martin.

**1881:** Pres.—D. O. Cuff; Trustees—Aciel F. Wright, Stephen Ostrander, Jas. W. Barnard; Clk.—Albert H. Lowry; Treas.—Frank G. Kneeland; Ass'r—J. C. Giddings; Mar.—Wm. H. Ostrom; Water Com.—Stiles Kennedy, Jas. K. Wright, Eugene King.

**1882:** Pres.—D. O. Cuff; Trustees—Aaron Wessels, F. C. Seymour, Sylvester C. Smith; Clk.—A. H. Lowry; Treas.—F. G. Kneeland; Ass'r—E. R. Landon; Mar.—W. H. Ostrom; Water Com.—S. Kennedy, Eugene King, Jas. K. Wright.

**1883:** Pres.—Willard D. Tucker; Trustees—Stephen Ostrander, Wm. C. Garbutt, Chas. R. Holliday; Clk.—Hiram U. Woodin; Treas.—Alfred K. Smith; Ass'r—J. A. Wilcox; Mar.—Andrew N. Martin; W. Com.—J. K. Wright.

**1884:** Pres.—Willard D. Tucker; Trustees—Wm. Goffe, Jerome V. Johnson, A. F. Wright; Clk.—H. U. Woodin; Treas.—A. K. Smith; Ass'r—J. A. Wilcox; Mar.—A. N. Martin; W. C.—Eugene King.

**1885:** Pres.—Parker Merrill; Trustees—Gideon S. Case, H. M. Martin, Thos. J. Nichols; 1 yr.—Stiles Kennedy (vice J. V. Johnson); Clk.—H. U. Woodin; Treas.—A. K. Smith; Ass'r—Geo. W. Perry; Mar.—Philip D. Bordine; W. C.—Hunter Harrison.

Dec. 12, '85, Elias Sutphin was appointed trustee vice Goffe, resigned.

**1886:** The record is very defective, but the following will be found about correct; entirely so, probably:

Pres.—Chester W. Martin; Trustees—J. W. Bernard, F. E. Hughes, J. P. Madden; Clk.—Fred. E. Murdock; Treas.—Andrew S. McIntyre; Ass'r—F. D. Weller; Mar.—P. D. Bordine; W. C.—Hunter Harrison, John A. Clark, Eugene King.

**1887:** The village was re-incorporated under the general law, and the election held March 14, '87.

Pres.—Aaron R. Wheeler; Trustees, 2 yrs.—J. P. Madden, Henry J. Tuger, A. H. Lowry; 1 yr.—Geo. L. Harrington, John L. McCurdy, Frank

J. Fritz; Clk.—Myron E. Hull; Treas.—Ezekiel Arnold; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; St. Com.—H. S. Doty; Const.—P. D. Bordine.

Ap.: Mar.—John Kline; Ch. Fire D.—A. F. Wright; Atty.—C. W. Giddings; H. O.—G. S. Case.

**1888:** Pres.—A. R. Wheeler; Trustees—Fred C. Henry, Frank J. Fritz, Daniel L. Geiger; Clk.—John B. Wallace; Treas.—John Archie Weller; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; St. Com.—H. S. Doty; Const.—Almon Bisbee.

Ap.: Mar. and Supt. W. W.—John Kline; Atty.—C. W. Giddings; H. O.—Dr. Franks.

Oct. 8, '88, Fred D. Weller was appointed clerk vice Wallace, resigned.

**1889:** Pres.—John A. Elwell; Trustees—Thos. McGuire, Calvin A. Case, Jas. A. Templar; Clk.—Frank M. Vandercook; Treas.—J. A. Weller; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; St. Com.—Geo. W. Seaman; Const.—Victor Lagatree.

Ap.: Mar.—L. J. Thompson; Atty.—C. J. Willett; Ch. F. D.—John T. Noble; Supt. W. W.—Eugene King; H. O.—Dr. G. S. Case.

**1890:** Pres.—J. A. Elwell; Trustees—Chas. H. Crandall, A. N. Martin, Robert Robinson; 1 yr.—J. Marks; Clk.—Joseph F. Hofstetter; Treas.—Jas. A. Wheeler; Ass'r—D. O. Cuff; St. Com.—C. R. Holliday; Const.—Chas. W. Weaver.

Ap.: Mar.—C. R. Holliday; Supt .W. W.—L. J. Thompson; Ch. F. D.—Carlton Smith; H. O.—Dr. G. S. Case.

Sept. 8, '90, E. Arnold was appointed trustee vice C. A. Case, resigned. Arnold declined and Thos. Bamborough was appointed.

Jan. 30, '91, Samuel Porter Tuttle was appointed clerk vice Hoffstetter, resigned.

**1891:** Pres.—Jas. O. Hilton; Trustees—Thos. Bamborough, A. H. Lowry, Richard D. Phillips; Clk.—F. M. Vandercook; Treas.—Jas. A. Wheeler; Ass'r—Geo. L. Patch; St. Com.—C. R. Holliday; Const.—Raymond J. Titus.

Ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—Allen Warren; Eng. W. W.—L. J. Thompson; Ch. F. D.—John T. Noble; H. O.—Dr. S. Kennedy; Sur.—Parker Merrill.

These were the last officers under the village charter. They were succeeded in April by the city officers.

## ST. LOUIS VILLAGE OFFICERS.

### Presidents.

John L. Evans, 1868, '69, '70.
Joseph T. Willett, 1871, '76, '77.
Schuyler W. Ambler, 1872.
Daniel O. Cuff, 1873, '74, '80, '81, '82.
Jerome P. Kroll, 1875.
Chas. J. Willett, 1878.
Archibald B. Darragh, 1879.
Willard D. Tucker, 1883, '84.
Parker Merrill, 1885.
Chester W. Martin, 1886.
Aaron R. Wheeler, 1887, '88.
John A. Elwell, 1889, '90.
Jas. O. Hilton, 1891.

### Clerks.

Jas. K. Wright, 1868, '69.
Jas. Paddock, 1871, '72, '73, '74.
Willard D. Tucker, 1875, '76, '77; ap. Jan., '79.
Oscar F. Jackson, 1878.
L. T. Wright, 1879.
Wm. C. Garbutt, 1880.
Albert H. Lowry, 1881, '82.

Hiram U. Woodin, 1883, '84, '85.
Fred E. Murdock, 1886.
Myron E. Hull, 1887.
John B. Wallace, 1888.
Fred D. Weller, ap. Oct. 8, '88.
Frank M. Vandercook, 1889, '91.
Joseph F. Hofstetter, 1890.
Sam. Porter Tuttle, ap. Jan. 30, '91.

**Treasurers.**

Justin R. Hill, 1868.
John R. Cheesman, 1869.
A. B. Darragh, 1871, '72, '73, '76, '77.
Chas. J. Willett, el. April 29, '73.
Wm. H. Rennels, 1874.
Franklin C. Seymour, 1875.
Sylvester C. Smith, 1878.
Hiram Harrington, 1879, '80.
Frank G. Kneeland, 1881, '82.
Alfred K. Smith, 1883, '84, '85.
Andrew S. McIntyre, 1886.
Ezekiel Arnold, 1887.
J. Archie Weller, 1888, '89.
Jas. A. Wheeler, 1890, '91.

**Assessors.**

Jas. H. Foster, 1868.
Sidney S. Hastings, 1868.
Geo. W. McHenry, 1869.
Sam. C. Skinner, 1869, '71.
Timothy Hutchings, 1871.
J. R. Cheesman, 1872.
John A. Wilcox, 1872.
Silas C. Crossman, 1873.
Reuben D. Perrine, 1873.
Chas. M. Fleming, el. April 29, '73.
Luther Smith, 1874, '75.
Daniel O. Cuff, 1876, '77, '78, '87, '88, '89, '90.
Jas. Paddock, 1879.
Fred D. Wheeler, 1880.
J. C. Giddings, 1881.
Edwin R. Landon, 1882.
John A. Wilcox, 1883, '84.
Geo. W. Perry, 1885.
Geo. L. Patch, 1891.

**Marshals.**

Fred D. Weller, 1868, '69.
Jacob Burnham, 1871.
Theo. H. Foland, 1872.
John Christman, 1873.
Carlton Abbott, 1874, '75.
Jas. A. McKibben, 1876.
Levi Algyre, ap. Nov. 10, '76.
Willard D. Tucker, 1877.
Jere. Marks, 1878.
Henry M. Martin, 1879, '80.
Wm. H. Ostrom, 1881, '82.
Andrew Nelson Martin, 1884.
Philip D. Bordine, 1885, '86.
John Kline, 1887, '88.
L. J. Thompson, 1889.
Chas. R. Holliday, 1890.
Allen Warren, 1891.

## ST. LOUIS AS A CITY — ELECTIONS.

St. Louis was incorporated as a city in the spring of 1891. The territory was divided into four wards, and the first election was held April 7, 1891. Detailed results of the elections to the present time are here given, together with a list of the appointive officers, year by year.

**April 7, 1891:** The whole number of votes cast was 525, and following is the result:

Mayor—Aaron R. Wheeler; Clk.—Joseph F. Hofstetter; Treas.—Jas. A. Wheeler; Ass'r—Stephen Ostrander; J. P., long term—Elias C. Phillips; short term—Geo. D. Reeves; Sch. Insp., 3 yrs.—Henry L. Beebe; 2 yrs.—Stiles Kennedy; 1 yr.—Chas. B. Northrup.

First ward: Alderman, 2 yrs.—Byron S. Nelson; 1 yr.—Fred. N. Humphrey; Const.—John A. Clark.

Second ward: Ald., 2 yrs.—Adam Stronach; 1 yr.—Chauncey C. Porter; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Third ward: Ald., 2 yrs.—G. S. Case; 1 yr.—J. A. Weller; Const.—Peter Robinson.

Fourth ward: Ald., 2 yrs.—A. H. Lowry; 1 yr.—Josiah B. Locke; Const.—Henry W. Pettis.

Off. ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—Allen Warren; St. C.—Millard Franks; Sur.—P. Merrill; Eng. W. W.—L. J. Thompson; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; H. O.—S. Kennedy.

The assessor represented the city on the board of supervisors.

**1892:** Mayor—A. R. Wheeler; Clk.—Russell A. Moore; Treas.—A. S. McIntyre; Ass'r—A. J. Hatfield; Sch. Insp.—Calvin P. Faunce.

First ward: Ald.—P. C. Faunce; Const.—Wm. J. Swarthout.

Second ward: Ald.—Cooley C. Green; Const.—Reuben King.

Third ward: Ald.—Melvin J. Claggett; Const.—Carlton Smith.

Fourth ward: Ald.—John Burns; Const.—Isaac Laclear.

Off. ap.: Atty.—T. W. Whitney; Mar.—Carlton Smith; St. Com.—M. Franks; Sur.—S. S. Hastings; Eng. W. W.—John Kline; H. O.—Dr. G. W. Pettey.

**1893:** Mayor—A. B. Darragh; Clk.—R. A. Moore; Treas.—A. S. McIntyre; Ass'r—A. J. Hatfield; J. P.—John Shelt; Sch. Insp.—F. J. Fritz.

First ward: Ald.—John C. Sias; Const.—Jacob M. Wilson.

Second ward: Ald.—Chas. Morrow; Const.—J. C. Chappell.

Third ward: Ald.—C. W. Giddings; Const.—Carlton Smith.

Fourth ward: Ald.—Jas. E. Bush; Const.—J. A. Clark.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Geo. D. Reeves; Mar. and St. C.—Carlton Smith; Sur.—S. S. Hastings; Eng. W. W.—J. A. Clark; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; H. O.—Dr. A. R. Wheeler.

Jan. 8, '94, at a special election in the 4th ward, Geo. W. Long was elected alderman to fill a vacancy.

**1894:** Mayor—A. B. Darragh; Clk.—R. A. Moore; Treas.—Henry J. Tuger; Ass'r—Jas. A. Templar; Sch. Insp.—Parmenius C. Faunce.

First ward: Ald.—Ervin H. Ewell; Const.—Peter Dunevant.

Second ward: Ald.—Augustus S. Adams; Const.—Sebastian A. Homes.

Third ward: Ald.—M. J. Claggett; Const.—Clarence Giddings.

Fourth ward: Ald.—Geo. D. Reeves; Const.—J. A. Clark.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Jas. C. Davison; Sur.—S. S. Hastings; Eng. W. W.—A. S. Thompson; St. C.—Jacob Wilson; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; H. O.—Dr. G. M. Pettey.

**1895:** Mayor—Aciel F. Wright; Clk.—Willis G. West; Treas.—H. J. Tuger; Ass'r—J. A. Templar; J. P.—Thos. Bamborough; Sch. Insp.—Calvin P. Faunce.

First ward: Ald.—J. C. Sias; Const.—Peter Dunevant.

Second ward: Ald.—Chas. Morrow; Const.—Josiah N. Robinson.

Third ward: Ald.—Newell M. Cook; Const.—Clarence Giddings.

Fourth ward: Ald.—Newel Smith; Const.—Wm. S. Thompson.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Carlton Smith; Sur.—P. Merrill; Eng. W. W.—A. S. Thompson; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; St. C.—I. G. Laclear.

**1896:** By a supreme court decision, each ward was entitled to a supervisor, and the supervisors were all entitled to seats with the board of supervisors. The office of village assessor thus became obsolete.

Mayor—Chas. H. Crandall; Clk.—W. G. West; Treas.—Lewis A. Drury; J. P.—John P. Madden; Sch. Insp.—Chas. S. Hastings.

First ward: Sup. S. Ostrander; Ald.—E. H. Ewell; Const.—John Reeves.

Second ward: Sup.—Geo. W. Saunders; Ald.—Manley A. Stevens; Const.—Frank Glynn.

Third ward: Sup.—J. Marks; Ald.—R. E. Hughes; Const.—Carlton Smith.

Fourth ward: Sup.—J. A. Templar; Ald.—Henry A. Weiss; Const.—Harry Snook.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Newell Leonard; Mar.—Carl. Smith; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; Sur.—P. Merrill; Eng. W. W.—Levi S. McIntyre; H. O.—Dr. G. W. Pettey; St. C.—I. G. Laclear; Bd. P. W.—D. O. Cuff, Geo. W. Long, W. L. Yost, F. M. Vandercook.

**1897:** Mayor—Parker Merrill; Clk.—John R. Wilson; Treas.—L. A. Drury; J. P.—Willard B. Darcey.

First ward: Sup.—C. P. Faunce; Ald.—B. S. Nelson; Const.—John Reeves.

Second ward: Sup.—Gil. E. Hall; Ald.—Alfred T. Kitchen; Const.—Lewis Smith.

Third ward: Sup.—J. Marks; Ald.—N. M. Cook; Const.—W. P. Andrews.

Fourth ward: Sup.—J. P. Madden; Ald.—Wm. L. Yost; Const.—Bert McCarty.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Chas. Morrow; Ch. F. D.—J. T. Noble; Eng. W. W.—L. S. McIntyre; St. C.—Rob't Gladstone; H. O.—C. D. Knight.

**1898:** Mayor—P. Merrill; Clk.—J. R. Wilson; Treas.—A. H. Lowry; Sch. Insp.—Geo. W. Long; vacancy, C. P. Faunce.

First ward: Sup.—C. P. Faunce; Ald.—E. H. Ewell; Const.—John Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—G. E. Hall; Ald.—M. A. Stevens; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Third ward: Sup.—J. Marks; Ald.—N. E. Bartrem; Const.—Edwin J. Clark.

Fourth ward: Sup.—J. P. Madden; Ald.—H. A. Weiss; Const.—John W. Hagerman.

Off. ap.: Atty.—J. R. Wilson; Mar.—Chas. Morrow; Ch. F. D.—A. H. Lowry; Eng. W. W.—L. S. McIntyre; St. C.—I. G. Laclear; H. O.—Dr. G. W. Pettey; Bd. P. W.—E. Arnold, John Burns, Geo. S. Aldrich.

**1899:** Mayor—Henry J. Tuger; Clk.—Chas. A. Throop; Treas.—Edward J. Hofstetter; J. P.—J. P. Madden; Sch. Insp.—Roy M. Ludlum.

First ward: Sup.—S. Ostrander; Ald.—Geo. L. Patch; Const.—Jas. E. Merrill.

Second ward: Sup.—Thos. G. Duff; Ald.—Delta K. Andrews; vacancy, N. E. Bartrem; Const.—L. W. Beach.

Third ward: Sup.—Jere. Marks; Ald.—N. M. Cook; vacancy, A. S. Adams; Const.—Frank Maynard.

Fourth ward: Sup.—Rob't C. Martin; Ald.—R. E. Hughes; vacancy, E. Arnold; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Mar.—Chas. Morrow; St. C.—Clarence Giddings; Bd. P. W.—F. M. Vandercook, Joel Gager, A. A. Andrus, P. Merrill.

**1900:** Mayor—H. J. Tuger; Clk.—C. A. Throop; Treas.—Geo. W. Long; J. P.—Wickham Broadhead; Sch. Insp.—Myron E. Hull.

First ward: Sup.—S. Ostrander; Ald.—John C. Haines; Const.—P. Dunevant.

Second ward: Sup.—T. G. Duff; Ald.—Carl. Smith; vacancy, Fred. Humphrey; Const.—Dan. Black.

Third ward: Sup.—J. Marks; Ald.—M. A. Stevens; Const.—J. C. Chappell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—R. C. Martin; Ald.—E. Arnold; Const.—Ernest Madden.

Off. ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—Chas. Morrow; Ch. F. D.—A. W. Pequegnat; Ass't Ch.—E. H. Branch; H. O.—Dr. Pettey; Bd. P. W.—A. R. Wheeler, S. Kennedy, Joel Gager; Park Com.—C. W. Giddings, C. H. Crandall, A. H. Lowry.

**1901:** Mayor—Geo. S. Aldrich; Clk.—Fred Newgrean; Treas.—Geo. W. Long; J. P.—W. Broadhead.

First ward: Sup.—B. S. Nelson; Ald.—Harry Snook; Const.—P. Dunevant.

Second ward: Sup.—Eli Oswald; Ald.—Robert Gladstone; Const.—Samuel E. Gustin.

Third ward: Sup.—W. F. Nesen; Ald.—A. L. Buchanan; Const.—J. N. Robinson.

Fourth ward: Sup.—N. Smith; Ald.—J. T. Noble; vacancy, R. E Green; Const. E. Madden.

Off. ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—Chas. Morrow; Ch. F. D.—E. H. Branch; St. C.—I. G. Laclear; H. O.—Dr. Pettey; Park Com.—S. Kennedy, O. M. Everden.

May 6, '01, R. C. Martin appointed alderman vice R. E. Green, resigned.

**1902:** Mayor—Chas. H. Crandall; Clk.—Fred A. Newgrean; Treas.—C. A. Throop; J. P.—C. P. Faunce; Sch. Insp.—Duane I. Fleming.

First ward: Sup.—L. B. Rumsey; Ald.—J. C. Haines; Const.—P. Dunevant.

Second ward: Sup.—T. G. Duff; Ald.—Frank Ramsey; Const.—Sam. E. Gustin.

Third ward: Sup.—J. Marks; Ald.—J. N. Bonney; Const.—J. Robinson.

Fourth ward: Sup.—Richard E. Hughes; Ald.—Geo. Smith; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Bd. P. W.—H. J. Tuger, E. H. Ewell; Atty.—Jas. K. Wright; Mar.—John Hagerman; H. O.—Dr. Geo. W. Pettey; Ch. F. D.—E. H. Branch; Eng. W. W.—L. J. Thompson.

**1903:** Mayor—Geo. S. Aldrich; Clk.—F. A. Newgrean; Treas.—Wm. L. Yost; J. P.—N. Smith.

First ward: Sup.—L. B. Rumsey; Ald.—Seldon Caldwell; Const.—John Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—T. G. Duff; Ald.—Rob't Gladstone; Const.—Sam. E. Gustin.

Third ward: Sup.—M. A. Stevens; Ald.—A. L. Buchanan; Const.—Wm. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—R. E. Hughes; Ald.—Alvin R. Beadle; Const.—Geo. W. Palmer.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Jas. K. Wright; Ch. F. D.—Fred S. Kemp; Mar.—Wm. H. Caswell; St. C.—Stephen Parks; H. O. Dr. Pettey.

**1904:** Mayor—Geo. S. Aldrich; Clk.—C. A. Throop; Treas.—W. L. Yost.

First ward: Sup.—Frank J. Fritz; Ald.—John Foglesong; Const.—P. Dunevant.

Second ward: Sup.—T. G. Duff; Ald.—Otto F. Mey; Const.—Albert Driedopple.

Third ward: Sup.—Allen Reed; Ald.—Forest B. Hastings; Const.—Wm. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—R. E. Hughes; Ald.—C. C. Green; vacancy, N. Smith; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Ebin Wilson; Park Com.—F. H. Bernard; St. C.—Perry Richardson; H. O.—Dr. Pettey; Bd. P. W.—E. Arnold; Sur.—Parker Merrill; Mar.—Wm. H. Caswell.

Oct., 1904, A. H. Lowry ap. sup. vice Hughes, resigned, elected superintendent of the poor.

**1905:** Mayor—John Burns; Clk.—C. A. Throop; Treas.—Hiram B. Giddings; J. P.—Gil. E. Hall.

First ward: Sup.—F. J. Fritz; Ald.—Geo. Whittaker; Const.—Howard Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—T. G. Duff; Ald.—Fred H. Hubbard; Const.—M. E. Hull.

Third ward: Sup.—Allen Reed; Ald.—Geo. E. Smith; Const.—W. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—Geo. Houseman; Ald.—Austin Davison; Const.—Adelbert Curtis.

April 17, 1905, Perry Richardson was appointed supervisor in place of Geo. Houseman, resigned.

Off. ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—N. E. Bartrem; Sur.—F. W. Hastings; Park Com.—J. O. Hilton, D. O. Cuff; Bd. P. W.—C. H. Crandall; Ch. F. D.—Fred S. Kemp; H. O.—H. E. Branch.

**1906:** Mayor—John Burns; Clk.—C. A. Throop; Treas.—H. B. Giddings; J. P.—M. A. Stevens.

First ward: Sup.—S. Ostrander; Ald.—Francis Wight; Const.—H. Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—Fred C. Newton; Ald.—T. Powers; Const.—J. Sigourney.

Third ward: Sup.—F. B. Hastings; Ald.—Hiram Turner; Const.—W. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—Perry Richardson; Ald.—C. C. Green; Const.—A. Curtis.

Off. ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—N. E. Bartrem; Sur.—F. W. Hastings; Park Com.—J. O. Hilton, D. O. Cuff; Bd. P. W.—C. H. Crandall; Ch. F. D.—Fred S. Kemp; H. O.—H. E. Branch.

**1907:** Mayor—John Burns; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—Frank D. Bacon; J. P.—N. Smith.

First ward: Sup.—S. Ostrander; Ald.—Ed. Hendershott; Const.—H. Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—Fred C. Newton; Ald.—T. Powers; Const.—F. Rumsey.

Third ward: Sup.—F. B. Hastings; Ald.—C. J. Ross; Const.—W. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—A. H. Lowry; Ald.—Geo. Houseman; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—Hunter Harrison; St. Com.—N. E. Bartrem; Auditor—W. G. West; Bd. P. W.—E. C. Phillips; Park Com.—David Kleinhans; Sur.—F. W. Hastings; Ch. F. D.—Fred C. Newton; H. O.—Dr. D. K. Andrews.

**1908:** Mayor—Lewis B. Alger; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—H. B. Giddings.

First ward: Sup.—F. J. Fritz; Ald.—Francis B. Wight; Const.—Howard Aldrich.

Second ward: Sup.—Fred C. Newton; Ald.—Robert Gladstone; Const.—Byron F. Steel.

Third ward: Sup.—W. J. Wilson; Ald.—Jerome B. Halbert; Const.—Warren H. Whitney.

Fourth ward: Sup.—A. H. Lowry; Ald.—Eli M. Wagner; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Atty.—C. W. Giddings; Mar.—W. H. Caswell; St. C.—Ed. McLean; Ch. F. D.—Fred C. Newton; H. O.—Dr. Pettey.

**1909:** Mayor—John Burns; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—H. B. Giddings; J. P.—Geo. J. Corwin.

First ward: Sup.—F. J. Fritz; Ald.—Wm. Hugh; Const.—H. B. Husted.

Second ward: Sup.—F. C. Newton; Ald.—Grant Brewer; Const.—Byron F. Steel.

Third ward: Sup.—W. J. Wilson; Ald.—Thos. J. Powers; Const.—Wm. Townsend.

Fourth ward: Sup.—A. H. Lowry; Ald.—Geo. Houseman; Const.—Chas. Morrow.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Jas. K. Wright; Mar.—F. D. Bacon; St. C.—S. Ostrander; Ch. F. D.—F. C. Newton; H. O.—R. J. Davison.

**1910:** Mayor—E. C. Phillips; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—W. L. Yost.

First ward: Sup.—S. Ostrander Sr.; Ald.—F. B. Wight; Const.—Judson Kent.

Second ward: Sup.—F. C. Newton; Ald.—W. H. Bartholomew; Const.—B. F. Steel.

Third ward: Sup.—Aciel F. Wright; Ald.—W. H. Townsend; Const.—Wm. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—Amos A. Andrus; Ald.—W. D. Iseman; Const.—Adelbert Curtis.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Newel Smith; Auditor—A. H. Lowry; Mar. and St. Com.—W. H. Caswell; Bd. P. W.—Frank M. Thedgar; Park Bd.—Fred C. Henry; Ch. F. D.—F. C. Newton; Ass't Ch.—John Stewart; H. O.—Dr. G. W. Pettey.

Dec., 1910, Edward C. Grice was appointed supervisor of the first ward in place of S. Ostrander, removed from the ward.

**1911:** Mayor—Chas. W. Giddings; Clerk—Frank Deline; Treas.—W. Lee Yost; J. P.—Newel Smith; vacancy, Jas. K. Wright.

First ward: Sup.—Edward C. Grice; Ald.—Geo. Mull; Const.—Judson Kent.

Second ward: Sup.—Fred C. Newton; Ald.—Grant L. Brewer; Const.—Lucius W. Beach.

Third ward: Sup.—A. F. Wright; Ald.—Forest B. Hastings; Const.—W. H. Caswell.

Fourth ward: Sup.—A. A. Andrus; Ald.—Geo. Houseman; Const.—Stillman Dickinson.

Off. ap.: Atty.—Newel Smith; Mar. and St. Com.—W. H. Caswell; Auditor—Fred A. Bieber; Bd. P. W.—Geo. E. Smith; Park Com.—David Kleinhans; Ch. F. D.—F. C. Newton; Sur.—Chas. A. Scholtz; H. O.—Dr. Geo. W. Pettey.

**1912:** Mayor—Chas. W. Giddings; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—H. B. Giddings.

First ward: Sup.—Ed. C. Grice; Ald.—Myron E. Hull.
Second ward: Sup.—F. C. Newton; Ald.—F. D. Bacon.
Third ward: Sup.—I. L. Huntoon; Ald.—A. L. Buchanan.
Fourth ward: Sup.—A. A. Andrus; Ald.—Geo. E. Smith; Const.—Wm. H. Caswell.

Off. ap.: Atty.—G. S. Aldrich; Mar. and St. Com.—Geo. Cummings; Aud.—Fred A. Bieber; H. O.—Dr. Geo. W. Pettey; Sur.—Chas. A. Scholtz; Ch. F. D.—Roy McCall; Ass't Ch.—Sylvester White.

**1913:** Mayor—Frank D .Bacon; Clk.—Frank Deline; Treas.—H. B. Giddings.

First ward: Sup.—John C. Haines; Ald.—Ed. Hendershott; Const.—Judson Kent.
Second ward: Sup.—F. C. Newton; Ald.—Grant Brewer; Const.—Geo. H. Eldredge.
Third ward: Sup.—A. F. Wright; Ald.—F. B. Hastings; Const.—Wm. Hurl.
Fourth ward: Sup.—Geo. Houseman; Ald.—W. D. Iseman; Const.—Hunter Harrison.

Constitutional amendment on Women's suffrage: Yes, 156; no, 189.
On county road system: Yes, 280; no, 262.
On granting gas franchise to Wagner Bros.: Yes, 325; no, 32.

Off. ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—Carlton Smith; Bd. Pub. W.—John Burns; Cem. and Park Bds.—David Kleinhans; Atty.—J. K. Wright; H. O. —Dr. J. W. Campbell; Sur.—Ira D. Suydam; Auditor—Fred A. Bieber; Night Police—Lewis Dean; Ch. F. D.—Roy McCall.

## ST. LOUIS CITY OFFICERS.

### Mayors.

Aaron R. Wheeler, 1891, '92.
A. B. Darragh, 1893, '94.
Aciel F. Wright, 1895.
Chas. H. Crandall, 1896, '02.
Parker Merrill, 1897, '98.
Henry J. Tuger, 1899, '00.
Geo. S. Aldrich, 1901, '03, '04.
John Burns, 1905, '06, '07, '09.
L. B. Alger, 1908.
Elias C. Phillips, 1910.
Chas. W. Giddings, 1911, '12.
Frank D. Bacon, 1913.

### Clerks.

Joseph F. Hofstetter, 1891.
Russell A. Moore, 1892, '93, '94.
Willis G. West, 1895, '96.
John R. Wilson, 1897, '98.
Chas. A. Throop, 1899,'00,'04,'05,'06.
Fred Newgrean, 1901, '02, '03.
Frank Deline, 1907, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Jas. A. Wheeler, 1891.
A. S. McIntyre, 1892, '93.
Henry J. Tuger, 1894, '95.
Lewis A. Drury, 1896, '97.
A. H. Lowry, 1898.
Edward J. Hofstetter, 1899.
Geo. W. Long, 1900, '01.
Chas. A. Throop, 1902.
Wm. L. Yost, 1903, '04, '10, '11.
Hiram B. Giddings, 1905, '06, '08, '09, '12, '13.
Frank D. Bacon, 1907.

### Assessors.

Stephen Ostrander, 1891.
A. J. Hatfield, 1892, '93.
Jas. A. Templar, 1894, '95.

### Marshals.

Allen Warren, 1891.
Carlton Smith, 1892, '93, '95, '96, '13.
Jas. C. Davison, 1894.
Chas. Morrow, 1897, '98, '99, '00, '01.
John Hagerman, 1902.
Wm. H. Caswell, 1903,'04,'08,'10,'11.
N. E. Bartrem, 1905.
Hunter Harrison, 1906, '07.
F. D. Bacon, 1909.
Geo. Cummings, 1912.

### Supervisors.

Ward. 1896.
1—Stephen Ostrander.
2—Geo. W. Saunders.
Ap., Chas. W. Weaver.
3—Jere. Marks.
4—Jas. A. Templar.

Ward. 1897.
1—C. P. Faunce.
2—Gil. E. Hall.
3—Jere. Marks.
4—J. P. Madden.

Ward. 1898.
1—C. P. Faunce.
2—G. E. Hall.
3—Jere. Marks.
4—J. P. Madden.

Ward. 1899.
1—S. Ostrander.
2—Thos. G. Duff.
3—Manly A. Stevens.
4—Rob. C. Martin.

Ward. 1900.
1—S. Ostrander.
2—T. G. Duff.
3—J. Marks.
4—R. C. Martin.

Ward. 1901.
1—Byron S. Nelson.
2—Eli Oswald.
3—W. F. Nesen.
4—Newel Smith.

Ward. 1902.
1—L. B. Rumsey.
2—T. G. Duff.
3—J. Marks.
4—Richard E. Hughes.

Ward. 1903.
1—L. B. Rumsey.
2—T. G. Duff.
3—M. A. Stevens.
4—R. E. Hughes.

Ward. 1904.
1—Frank J. Fritz.
2—T. G. Duff.
3—Allen Reed.
4—R. E. Hughes.
Ap. A. H. Lowry.

Ward. 1905.
1—F. J. Fritz.
2—T. G. Duff.
3—Allen Reed.
4—Geo. Houseman.
P. Richardson, ap. Apr. 17, '05.

Ward. 1906.
1—S. Ostrander.
2—Fred C. Newton.
3—Forest B. Hastings.
4—Perry Richardson.

Ward. 1907.
1—S. Ostrander.
2—Fred C. Newton.
3—F. B. Hastings.
4—Albert H. Lowry.

Ward. 1908.
1—F. J. Fritz.
2—F. C. Newton.
3—W. J. Wilson.
4—A. H. Lowry.

Ward. 1909.
1—F. J. Fritz.
2—F. C. Newton.
3—W. J. Wilson.
4—A. H. Lowry.

Ward. 1910.
1—S. Ostrander.
Ed. C. Grice, ap. Dec., 1910
2—F. C. Newton.
3—A. F. Wright.
4—A. A. Andrus.

Ward. 1911.
1—Edward C. Grice.
2—Fred C. Newton.
3—A. F. Wright.
4—A. A. Andrus.

Ward. 1912.
1—Ed. C. Grice.
2—F. C. Newton.
3—I. L. Huntoon.
4—A. A. Andrus.

Ward. 1913.
1—John C. Haines.
2—F. C. Newton.
3—A. F. Wright.
4—Geo. Houseman.

## ST. LOUIS BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### HASTINGS.

Among the names of Gratiot County's early settlers that of Sidney S. Hastings should have a prominent place. He was not only a pioneer but he was also one of the foremost citizens for about forty years.



SIDNEY S. HASTINGS.

Sidney S. Hastings was born in Champion, Jefferson County, Ohio, August 25, 1827. His parents were Sidney S. and Clarissa (Fitch) Hastings. He was married March 2, 1854, in Guilford, Medina County, Ohio, to Julia, daughter of David and Harriet Dix. They came to Gratiot County in 1855, reaching St. Louis from Saginaw by canoe by way of the Tittabawassee and Pine Rivers. Their log house erected by them on the northeast corner of Washington Avenue and Mill Street, (at that time a dense forest) was the third house in the settlement; the other two being those of Joseph Clapp and Sylvanus Groom. An extract from Mr. Hastings' diary, date of December 2, 1855, tells of the conditions existing in the new town at that time:

"We moved into our house on the 31st of October. I employed an Indian and his canoe to bring us up the river. We were two and one-half days coming up; slept in the woods both nights. I went after my other things with a large canoe and two Indians. I have been surveying on a road from the Forks (now Midland) to the county line, up Pine River, nine days and was at work at the Forks one week. I was elected county surveyor. We have had open weather this fall, and a large amount of rain. Provisions are very scarce; road so bad nothing can be drawn in. Potatoes are 75 cents; butter, none to be had; sugar and other groceries the same; flour almost all out, and not to be had at any price. Unless there is sleighing soon we will all have to leave the woods."

But they did not leave the woods notwithstanding the hard times, and the starvation period that followed found Mr. Hastings still on the spot and active in distributing supplies sent in and doing his full share for the relief of the distressed settlers.

Mr. Hastings was a surveyor and his services were in great demand in laying out roads and drains, and in platting villages and their additions. He was elected county surveyor many times.



MRS. S. S. HASTINGS 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Hastings were parents of children as follows: Frank W., Forest B., Russell M., Fannie E., Charles S., and Hattie C.

The death of Mr. Hastings occurred at his home in St. Louis, November 21, 1894. Mrs. Hastings is still living and is enjoying quite vigorous health. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings were always active members of the Baptist Church.

## TUGER.

John Tuger (now deceased) was for more than thirty years one of St. Louis' most prominent business men and one who stood high in the esteem of all, not only as a business man but as an energetic, progressive citizen and an honorable and considerate friend and neighbor. He was born December 27, 1823, at Heppenheim, Province of Starkenburg, Grand Duchy of Hesse, Germany, son of George and Anna Tuger. He left his native land and came to America at the age of 21 years, locating first in Massachusetts where he worked at his trade of cabinet maker. He had received a good education in his youth in the common schools, finishing with a college course at Heidelburg, Germany. After a time spent in Massachusetts he went to Albany, N. Y., remaining there until in the early '50s when he came to Michigan and took up his residence at Adrian.

While residing at Adrian Mr. Tuger was united in marriage, March 4, 1855, to Christina Barbara Wagner of that city. She was born at Furth, Bavaria, January 21, 1838, daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth Wagner. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. J. J. Trautman.

Shortly after his marriage Mr. Tuger removed to Portland, Mich., where he continued his labors as a cabinet maker, the trade including at that time the making of coffins as required, and doing "custom work" in those lines for people of the surrounding country. He also engaged in the grocery trade, adding boots and shoes later. In the year 1864 he removed with his family to St. Johns, Mich., where he continued in the grocery and shoe trade. In February, 1866, he removed to St. Louis, this county, purchasing a lot at the corner of Center and Mill Streets and the same year erecting a store building thereon; the building now and for several years occupied by H. Randolph. Here he continued his grocery business and added a drug stock. In 1873 he built a store building one hundred feet or more north on the same block, on the site of the Milo Harrington store which had been destroyed by fire, putting in groceries and dry goods. Soon afterward he bought the brick store adjoining this building on the south, and in 1898 filled in the intervening space with a structure which, with the other buildings mentioned, gave him a business frontage of five stores, which he at once occupied with his rapidly expanding mercantile business.

Mr. Tuger was officially connected with a local bank for many years, and at the time of his death, November 4, 1900, and for several years previously, was its vice-president. He was also connected with other business enterprises, and was a very busy man up to his last years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tuger were the parents of three children: Philip, died in infancy, August, 1856. Henry John was born July 28, 1857. His biographical sketch follows this of his parents. Alice M. was born May 30, 1864. She married Fred C. Henry and died August, 1909.

Mrs. John Tuger, the mother, passed to the other world November 29, 1911. The portrait of Mr. Tuger appears in this connection, a fact that will be gratifying to the old settlers still remaining, and may properly be considered one of the interesting features of this volume.



JOHN TUGER.

## TUGER.

Henry J. Tuger, a leading merchant of St. Louis, was born in Portland, Mich., July 28, 1857, son of John and Christina Barbara Tuger. The sketch of his parents, immediately preceding this, gives all available facts regarding his ancestry, and to that sketch the attention of the reader is directed for details not elaborated here.



HENRY J. TUGER.

Coming to St. Louis with his parents in the year 1866 Henry J. Tuger attended the village schools, securing a good common school education. Between terms and after he left school he assisted his father in his mercantile labors. After attaining his majority he was taken into partnership by his father, the firm being known as "John Tuger & Son." This continued until his father's death in 1900. The business then came into his hands exclusively, and after a time the firm name was changed to H. J. Tuger and so continues to the present time. It is safe to presume that his is the most extensive mercantile establishment in Gratiot County. It is of the department variety, with departments devoted to dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries. Mr. Tuger superintends the entire business besides filling in as a salesman and making himself generally useful. He is indeed a very busy man. Nevertheless he finds time to be interested in several other lines of activity. He has for many years been connected officially with the Gratiot County State Bank, located at St. Louis, and at the present time is its vice-president. He owns farming lands and devotes much attention to their cultivation and improvement. He has served his city in many positions, among them being alderman, treasurer and mayor. He belongs to a few of the secret or fraternal organizations, and gives them some attention between times. The following constitutes a part of them: Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, National Union, Loyal Guards, Modern Woodmen of America.



MRS. H. J. TUGER.

Henry J. Tuger was married to Miss Carrie C. Barker, May 30, 1883. She was born in Dearborn, Mich., September 28, 1858. Her father — Philander Madison Barker — was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., May 24, 1828, and died at Pontiac, Mich., September 9, 1896. Her mother — Louise (Merrill) Barker was born January 8, 1834, in Dearborn. They were married in Wayne County, Mich., February 22, 1853. There were two children born to their union—Ida J., married to Chester W. Martin who is now American Consul at Barbados, British West Indies, and Carrie C., now Mrs. Tuger. Mrs. Louise Barker, the mother, is still living, a resident at the home of her children, Henry J. and Carrie C. Tuger.

Six children have come from the union of Mr. and Mrs. Tuger in the following order and with birth-dates as designated, and, all born at St. Louis: Alice Louise, December 6, 1886; John Henry, October 6, 1890; Chris Barker, November 17, 1893; Christine Barbara and Louise Esther (twins), December 15, 1898; Carolyn Maude, January 17, 1900, died December 13, 1900.

Alice Louise Tuger is pursuing musical studies in Boston, Mass. The others are at the parental home in St. Louis, John Henry being engaged with his father in mercantile pursuits while the two young daughters are students in the public schools of the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Tuger, their son John and daughters Alice, Christine and Louise are all valued members of the Episcopal Church, at St. Louis.

This brief sketch of one of St. Louis' most esteemed families will be welcomed as an appropriate and valuable addition to the pages of this volume, the portraits adding much to the interest of the family history.

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## WHEELER.

Dr. Aaron R. Wheeler, of St. Louis, Mich., was born in York, Washtenaw County, Mich., December 20, 1858, son of Charles and Eliza J. (Miller) Wheeler, being one of three children. Naturally studious, he made such rapid progress in his studies that at the age of fourteen years he entered the State Normal College at Ypsilanti which he attended four years. In the fall of 1876 he was matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan, graduating therefrom in the class of 1879. While at the university he held the office of assistant to the chair of surgery for one year, and was the first resident physician of the new State Hospital opened in 1880, holding that position until October 1, 1882.

During this period Dr. Wheeler's studies and investigations in the botanical field were bearing fruit in the shape of important contributions to the University and to the State Medical Society. He made noteworthy additions to an already extensive list of the flora of Washtenaw County, (published in 1881) among which were two species of Dicentra, one of which was thought to be extinct. He collected and arranged a herbarium for the medical department of the State University, the specimens being designed for use in the lectures of the medical faculty. He had already made material progress in his private collection which is now acknowledged to be one of the most valuable in the state, comprising thousands of specimens, indigenous and foreign, the latter collected by correspondence and exchange. The flora of the Pacific Coast and of the Lake Superior region are especially complete. In 1882 Dr. Wheeler presented to the State Medical Society an exhaustive list of medicinal plants indigenous to Michigan, an addition to the botanical knowledge of the state and country of the utmost value.

In April, 1883, Dr. Wheeler located in St. Louis, succeeding to the practice of Dr. C. H. Lutes. His experience in the State Hospital had afforded him unusual facilities for the broad study and treatment of surgical diseases, in which field he was at once recognized as specially skillful.

Dr. Wheeler's record as a practitioner places him in the front ranks of his profession. His ability and his skill are recognized and conceded by the community in which he has so long been a resident. He is a member of the County and State Medical Societies and of the American Medical Association. He was for eight years a member and vice-president of the Michigan State Board of Health. He served four years as president of the U. S. Pension Board for Gratiot County.



DR. AARON R. WHEELER.

In civic and educational affairs Dr. Wheeler has always been a leader. He was the first mayor of the City of St. Louis, being at the head of its municipal service four terms, and for the past fourteen years has been president of the Board of Education. He has been postmaster of St. Louis since January 10, 1898.

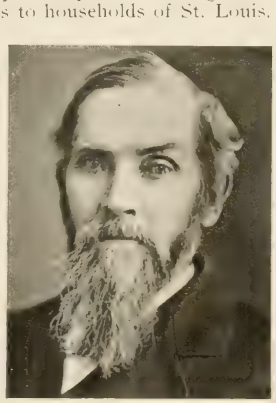
Dr. Wheeler is prominent as a Mason. He is a member of St. Louis Blue Lodge of which he served several years as master; also a member of the Chapter, R. A. M., of which he was high priest in 1897 and '98; of Ithaca Commandery, Knights Templar; of Michigan Sovereign Consistory thirty-second degree, and of the Shrine, (Moslem Temple). For many years he has been a leader in the I. O. O. F., of which in 1886 he was major and assistant surgeon general for the State of Michigan, departments Patriarchs Militant and Uniform Rank. He is also affiliated with the Royal Arcanum, the Foresters and the Woodmen of the World.

November 19, 1890, Dr. Wheeler was married to Miss Helen L., daughter of Col. John A. Elwell, a retired capitalist of St. Louis, now deceased. They have one child, Robert I., born October 13, 1894.

The correct conclusion to be drawn from the foregoing sketch is that Dr. Wheeler is a man of varied and superior abilities in many lines of activity. And his worth is fully recognized not only locally but throughout the entire state as well.

## CHEESMAN.

The name of Dr. John R. Cheesman was one of the most familiar in Gratiot County households for a period of thirty-three years, counting from the year 1860. This is more particularly true as to households of St. Louis, where the Doctor resided all those years. To take up the usual formula: John R. Cheesman was born in Cazenovia, N. Y., March 10, 1820. He was the son of Joseph B. and Sarah (Rowling) Cheesman, the former a native of Long Island, the latter born in Yorkshire, England. John R. spent his youth and acquired his education mainly in the City of New York. In 1839 the family removed to Auburn, N. Y., where John R. attended the academy in that city for a time and then went to Chicago and, in company with his brother, William H., went into the drug trade. After a time, in the course of which he took up the study of medicine and attended lectures at Rush Medical College, he took up his residence at Brooklyn, Mich. While a resident there he was married to Mary Ann Chapman, of Chittenango, N. Y., October 13, 1847, and three children came to the union—Laura A., afterward the wife of Rev. Theodore Nelson, and now a resident of Saginaw; Jesse C., afterward wife of Samuel A. Vliet, and now residing in Alma; Frank, who died in infancy.



DR. JOHN R. CHEESMAN.

Dr. Cheesman removed with his family to Hamilton Township, this county, in 1854, settling on a tract of land on sections 6 and 7. Here he combined the labors of clearing up his wild farm with the practice of his profession among the scattering settlers, and had experiences, that, to

narrate, would fill a volume. The wife and mother died August 1, 1857. September 26, 1858, Doctor Cheesman married Mrs. Ellen E. (Slack) Moulton, of Napoleon, Mich. To this union was born Minnie M., now a resident of Alma.

In January , 1860, Dr. Cheesman moved with his family to St. Louis, this county, and there remained until his death. His brother, Edward T., had got there before him and had secured a tract of land upon which the south portion of St. Louis is now located. Dr. Cheesman purchased the land and established a general store for the sale of drugs, dry goods, groceries, and hardware, in a building that had already been erected by his brother. He also platted the land into a village which he named St. Louis, the original plat, farther north, being called Pine River. The two were afterward consolidated under one name—St. Louis. The Doctor continued in mercantile trade for about ten years. He continued in active practice of medicine until about the year 1880.

From his first settlement in the county, Dr. Cheesman took an active interest in all affairs of his locality and county. At the first county election, that of November, 1855, while he was a resident of Hamilton Township, he was chosen judge of probate, holding the office until the election of November, 1856, when he was succeeded by Francis Nelson. He was the candidate of his party (Democrat) many times for county and legislative official honors, but being in the minority party was defeated; for representative in 1862, '64 and '70; for county clerk in 1868, and probate judge in 1860. He served as assessor and councilman in St. Louis, and was for many years a member of the St. Louis Board of Education. In whatever position he was placed he could be depended upon for faithful, conscientious and intelligent service. He was a leading member of the Masonic order, and of the Presbyterian Church. He died at his home June 8, 1893. Mrs. Ellen E. Cheesman was one of St. Louis' most estimable ladies, a prominent and active member of the Baptist Church. She passed away September 18, 1900. Both lie buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis. (See sketch of S. A. Vliet and of Rev. Theo. Nelson.)

## PETTEY.

Dr. George W. Pettey, now and for many years past a practicing physician at St. Louis, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, January 6, 1844. He is descended from New England people, and his early ancestors, on the side of both his father and mother, were English, immigrating to this country at an early period of its settlement. A great grandfather, William Hobart, served in the Revolutionary War, and his grandfather, Michael Pettey, did military duty in the War of 1812.

Dr. Pettey came to Gratiot County in the spring of 1869 with his father, who settled on section 16, of Bethany Township. Ephraim Pettey, the father, devoted his time and energies to gardening on his Bethany farm until about 1885, when he moved to St. Louis where he resided until his death in 1901. His wife, the Doctor's mother, passed away at their home in St. Louis, in the year 1899. They were people of the highest integrity, enjoying the respect and confidence of the entire community. While a resident of Bethany, Ephraim Pettey served his township efficiently for sixteen years as justice of the peace.

Dr. Pettey was educated in the public schools of Cleveland, and previous to his settlement in this county had taken up, and nearly completed, the study of medicine at the Western Reserve University. After teaching two

terms of school, he returned to Cleveland, completed his medical studies at the University, graduating therefrom in 1873. Returning to Bethany he practiced medicine there until 1877 when he returned to Ohio, and practiced his profession at Fremont until 1887, at which time he returned to Bethany and settled upon a forty-acre farm that he had owned for a number of years. In 1891 he sold the farm and moved to St. Louis where he has since resided, engaged in the practice of his profession.

The Doctor was married to Emma L. Quidort, at Fremont, Ohio, in 1878. Three children were born there. William M., the eldest, died in St. Louis in 1893; Jennie B. married R. Boyd Cawthorp, who is engaged in the drug business at Cedar Springs, Mich.; Blanche M. married Hallett S. Curtis, of Pine River, who has been for the past ten years, and is at the present time, mail carrier on Route 1, St. Louis. They have three children—Castle, Boyd and Josephine.

In the summer of 1864, Dr. Pettey was in the military service, a member of Company D, 150th Ohio Vol. Infantry. He has been a member of the Gratiot County Board of Pension Examiners for a number of years. He has served as city health officer of St. Louis for seventeen years, and was recently appointed by the State Board of Health as a special medical inspector for the 11th congressional district. He is a member of the Gratiot County and Michigan State Medical Societies. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masons—a member of St. Louis Lodge and Chapter, F. & A. M. and R. A. M.

## HOLCOMB.

The name of Henry L. Holcomb is more intimately connected with the early history and life of St. Louis, Mich., than that of any other person. Others were earlier on the ground and did more individual pioneer work; and some of them still remained in the harness when he passed away. But from the time of his arrival in 1860, when he purchased the mill property and the water power, together with much of the village site and large tracts of timber lands in the vicinity, until his death, in 1891, he may quite properly be considered to have been the most important personage of the locality. This statement, however, may be slightly modified by the fact that for about six years —from 1867 when he sold his interests to Thomas H. Holcomb and John L. Evans, until his resumption of the control of those interests in 1873—he was absent from the village, and the active management of the important properties was in the hands of Holcomb & Evans as owners.



HENRY L. HOLCOMB.

Henry L. Holcomb was born in Granby, Hartford County, Connecticut, August 22, 1808, son of Thomas and Clara (Pettibone) Holcomb. His earlier years were devoted to farming, and to railroad and canal building. In 1860 he purchased the St. Louis property from his cousin, Richard G. Hillyer, and Lewis M. Clark, who had succeeded to the property by purchase from the original owners, Joseph Clapp, Sylvanus Groom and Abram

M. Crawford. Mr. Holcomb prosecuted the work of manufacturing lumber, clearing and improving his lands, and in many other ways—either directly or incidentally—promoting and advancing the interests of the village and community.

The Opera House Block, northwest corner of Mill and Center Streets, built by Mr. Holcomb in 1881, is probably the most conspicuous monument to his enterprise now remaining. Other activities to which he devoted his time, attention and money were salt manufacturing, milling (flouring and lumbering) brickmaking, etc.

Mr. Holcomb was married to Miss Aura P. Pinney, September 28, 1828, at Granby, Connecticut. She died at St. Louis, May 5, 1883. He married as his second wife Miss Mary P. Richards, of Tariffville, Connecticut, April, 1884. Mr. Holcomb died at St. Louis, December 28, 1891. His wife still survives, living in the old homestead on Center Street, St. Louis. There were no children.

## BURNS.

John Burns, a resident of St. Louis, Mich., since 1883, was born in Pickering, Ontario, January 18, 1860. He is a son of Hugh and Elizabeth (McCormack) Burns, the former born in Bay Qunite, Canada, July, 1826, the latter also being a native of Canada. Hugh and Elizabeth Burns were the parents of five children, whose names and birthdates were as follows, all being born in Pickering, Canada: Robert, born in 1856; Hector, born in 1858, died in 1873; Margaret, born in 1852, died in 1874; Anna, born in 1854; John, born in 1860.

Mr. Burns has spent nearly his whole life in the harness and saddlery business, first serving an apprenticeship of four years in Whitby, Ontario. He came to Michigan in 1879, first locating in Bay City, but in the fall of 1881 he opened a store in Portland, Mich. In 1883 he removed to St. Louis, this county, and established himself in business in his chosen line, continuing therein with marked success to the present time.

Since Mr. Burns has been a resident of St. Louis, he has always been recognized not only as an honorable and energetic business man, but in all projects and enterprises for the improvement of his town and for the betterment of his fellow-citizens he has always taken a commendable interest, and has done his full share to bring about the best possible conditions. He was elected mayor of the City of St. Louis in the spring of 1905, and was re-elected in 1906 and 1907, and was again chosen in 1909. He is a Democrat in politics, and his election for so many terms in a city that is generally carried by the Republicans, is satisfactory evidence that the people, regardless of party, have entire confidence in his ability and in his loyalty to their best interests.

In public work in the line of his business, Mr. Burns has occupied many important positions. He is at present one of a committee of three appointed by the National Association of Retail Harness dealers to confer with a like committee from the Manufacturers' Association, with the view of bettering conditions in the general harness trade.

Mr. Burns has long been an active member of the Knights of Pythias, serving as Captain and Colonel of the Third Regiment of Michigan, and later as Chief of Staff of Michigan Brigade of the Uniform Rank, K. of P. He is also a member of the Elks, and of many other fraternal orders.

Of Scotch-Irish extraction, Mr. Burns possesses a strong personality, and, as would naturally be expected, is a warm and true friend. As an



JOHN BURNS.



MRS. FRANCES E. BURNS.

implacable enemy of graft, and of policies and conditions that allow the few to live and profit at the expense of the many, he takes a firm and uncompromising stand. His ancestors were driven out of two countries on account of the stand taken by them in politics and religion; and, like his forbears, Mr. Burns straddles no fence in his attitude on any public question.

John Burns was married at Ionia, Mich., Oct. 26, 1887, to Miss Frances E. Sanford. She is a daughter of James B. Sanford who was born in Camden, N. Y., August 8, 1822, and Maria S. (Yeomans) Sanford, born in German Flats, N. Y., May 3, 1826. Mrs. Burns is one of a family of ten children born to James B. and Maria Sanford, as follows: Edward, born in 1849, died in 1889; Mary, born in 1851; Herbert, born in 1853; Willard, born in 1855; George, born in 1857; Hiram, born in 1859 and died the same year; Frank, born in 1861; Adelaide, born in 1864; Frances E., born in 1866; James Brunson, born in 1867.

**MRS. FRANCES E. BURNS** was born in Easton, Ionia County, Mich., May 2, 1866. She is a granddaughter of Judge E. T. Yeomans, of Herkimer County, N. Y., who, with six other families, cut their way through the wilderness from Detroit to the present site of Ionia, and made the first settlement there in 1833, with no neighbors nearer than Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, from which points supplies were purchased twice a year. Mrs. Burns grew up on a farm one and one-half miles from Ionia; a farm that has been in the possession of the family from 1836 to the present time. They still have the original patent from Martin Van Buren, president of the United States.

Mrs. Burns, as a girl, attended school in the old red school house, often called the "Rice School", as Alonzo Rice donated the ground on which the building stood. Later she graduated from the Ionia High School, and in 1884 became a teacher in the St. Louis schools. Since her marriage, in 1887, she has resided continuously in St. Louis.

Mrs. Frances E. Burns has attained an enviable eminence as a fraternity woman, particularly in the order of the Ladies of the Modern Maccabees. In 1894 she was elected Great Lieutenant Commander of that order, and after two years' service was made Great Commander, which position she has since held continuously, having been re-elected unanimously seven times. There were but 7,000 members in the order when Mrs. Burns began work therein. It has since grown to 80,000 members under her fostering care. When she began work, the order, which was organized in 1886 and was the first to give fraternal insurance to women, worked in one state only. Now its work is carried on in twenty-two states. It has disbursed over $7,000,000 in death, disability and old age benefits, and maintains five endowed beds in leading hospitals, through which over 1,100 women and children have been won back from the gates of death to once more gladden the hearts and homes of their loved ones.

Mrs. Burns is an accomplished parliamentarian and public speaker, and was for five years recording secretary of the National Council of Women, resigning finally on account of press of other cares. She is at the present time serving her third term as secretary of the president's section of the National Fraternal Congress, and is chairman of the committee on resolutions of the Associated Fraternities of America. She has long been a member of the Eastern Star, Ben Hur, Ladies of the Maccabees of the World, Loyal Guard, Michigan Women's Press Association, Eastern Michigan Press Club, and in 1908 was one of the ten women to represent the

United States in the International Council of Women who met in Toronto. The next meeting will be in Rome, Italy, in 1914. This great representative body of women meets only once in five years—in 1893 at Chicago, in 1898 in London, in 1903 at Berlin, and in 1908 at Toronto. Women of twenty-five countries are to be found in its assemblies, and many are sent at the expense of their governments.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns have two children—Elizabeth M., born March 14, 1889, a graduate of the St. Louis High School and of the Mt. Pleasant Normal, and later, for two years, a teacher in the St. Louis schools; now principal of the Lenawee County Normal School. Robert S. Burns was born April 27, 1891. He is a graduate of the St. Louis High School, and is now a Junior in the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Michigan University.

## HOLTON.

The subject of this biography—Joseph E. Holton—is a resident of St. Louis, this county. He was born on the 1st day of August, 1842, in Buckinghamshire, England, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Holton, and one of a family of five sons and three daughters. The family came to America in 1849, and settled in Jackson County, Mich., where they engaged in farming. In September, 1861, when only 19 years of age, Joseph E. Holton enlisted in Capt. Mathew Elder's company—E, 8th Mich. Vol. Infantry. Going first to Grand Rapids, the regiment soon went to Fort Wayne, Detroit. His father, not being in hearty sympathy with the cause of the North, soon appeared on the scene and took the young man back home. A year later, Joseph took a fresh start and again enlisted in the same regiment and company, joining it near Washington, just after the second Bull Run.

Mr. Holton remained in the service during the war and was engaged in all of the many battles in which the regiment took part—South Mountain, Antietam, The Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, Bethesda Church near Cold Harbor, Petersburg and many others, including the advance in front of Petersburg on the 2nd day of April, 1865, when he received a gunshot wound in the left thigh. He was sent to Harwood Hospital, Washington, and from there to Harper Hospital, Detroit. Being discharged August 28, 1865, he returned to his home in Jackson, and soon afterward entered Albion Commercial College, where he took a course of bookkeeping under Prof. Ira Mayhew.

In March, 1866, Mr. Holton came to Gratiot County, settling on section 14, Bethany, and on March 19, 1866, was married to Miss Dorinda Fox, daughter of the late Bernard Fox. To this union six children were born—Harvey B., now living at Corunna; Ida May, married to Guy Boyd, residing two and a half miles east of Ithaca; Carrie L., wife of John W. Graham, now living on the old farm; George W. died at the age of 12 years; Jesse E. and Fred N. died in infancy. The wife, Mrs. Dorinda Holton, died January 26, 1890. On the 23rd day of September, 1891, Mr. Holton was married to Mary C. Damon, of Findlay, Ohio. In December, 1900, on account of impaired health, Mr. and Mrs. Holton removed to St. Louis, where they are able to live a less strenuous life than was required on the farm.

Mr. Holton is esteemed as an upright citizen, and has been honored with numerous offices of trust, both in the Township of Bethany and the City of St. Louis.

## CUFF.

The name of Daniel O. Cuff stands well up toward the head in the list of prominent early settlers of the county, still remaining in the flesh. He is a resident of St. Louis where he has passed his life since 1862, with the exception of the time he spent as a soldier in the Civil War. He was born in Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont, May 12, 1836. His father, Thomas Cuff, was a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, born August 12, 1811. His mother, Clarissa (Frost) Cuff, was born in Brandon, Vermont, February 4, 1810. A brief mention of the twelve children of Thomas and Clarissa Cuff follows, giving names and dates of birth: Elizabeth, born December 30, 1832, in Cornwall, Vermont, died September 30, 1833; Emma, born August 17, 1834, in Manchester, Vermont, died March 4, 1837; Daniel O'Connell, our subject; Norman John, born January 16, 1838, at Brandon, married Libby Shorter; Emily, born April 20, 1840, at Jackson, Michigan, married to Giles Mattison, September, 1857; Mary, born May 28, 1842, died June 16, 1842; Clara, born September 11, 1843, at Jackson, Mich., was married April 11, 1859, to Alexander Brown; Jane, born December 29, 1845, at Sandstone, Mich., married William Rome, March 19, 1868; Margaret, born February 22, 1848, married Peter Laravie and died in Roscommon, Mich., May 9, 1889; Belle, born October 3, 1850, in Sandstone, married Dwight Stringham; Thomas Francis, born September 23, 1852, in Sandstone, married Nellie Shaw; Lizzie, born July 7, 1854, married Perry Stringham.



DANIEL O. CUFF.



MRS. D. O. CUFF.

Thomas Cuff removed to Michigan in 1838, settling in Jackson, at that time a mere hamlet. In Jackson he was engaged in various matters among which was the building of the original "wall" around the prison. The wall was constructed of tamarack poles or trees 22 feet long and planted side by side in the ground, making a tamarack "wall" 15 or 18 feet in height surrounding the prison. Hence arose the old expression, familiar among the early timers, of "putting a man behind the tamaracks." Later on he was engaged on contract work in the construction of the Michigan Central Railroad west from Jackson. He finally bought a large tract of land in Sandstone Township, next west of Jackson, and settled down as a tiller of the soil. He died there December, 1884. The wife and mother died in 1891.

Daniel O. Cuff aided his father in his various enterprises until he went for himself at the age of 20 years. Coming north into Ionia County, he engaged in various activities — rafting square timber down the Grand from Lyons to Ionia and Grand Rapids; working on the extension of the

Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad westward from St. Johns; later holding responsible positions in the employ of the railroad company, and finally locating at Hubbardston, employed first as a foreman in a mill and lumber yard, then as clerk in a drug store.

While a resident of Hubbardston Mr. Cuff enlisted—August 9, 1862—in the military service of his country, entering Co. K, 21st Mich. Infantry. On the organization of his company he was appointed a sergeant, and later on was promoted to the position of second lieutenant. The regiment left the state early in September, going to Louisville where it was assigned to Gen. Sheridan's division. Then came the Battle of Perryville, Ky., followed by those of Nashville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and then with Sherman to Atlanta, Jonesboro, Bentonville, etc. Mr. Cuff was mustered out of the service June 20, 1865, at Washington, D. C.

After his discharge from the service Mr. Cuff located permanently at St. Louis, this county, where he has since resided. He was engaged for many years as foreman for Henry L. Holcomb in his lumbering business, and later in the same capacity for Holcomb & Evans.

Daniel O. Cuff was married December 10, 1859, at Hubbardston, Mich., to Harriet E. Marlett, who was born April 13, 1843, daughter of Elijah B. Marlett, who was born November 30, 1802, in Scipio, Cayuga County, N. Y., and died in Ionia, Mich., February 24, 1845. Her mother was Sarah (Goodwin) Marlett, born October 13, 1809, in Steuben, Oneida County, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Marlett removed to Ionia County, Mich., in 1836. Mrs. Cuff was one of a family of six children whose names and birthdates are as follows: Richard Ely, born March 18, 1829, died March 29, 1865; Clinton Erastus, born February 12, 1832, died October 28, 1834; Sarah Marie, born October 20, 1834, died June 2, 1906; Celia Sophia, born April 17, 1837, died September 7, 1842; William H., born July 21, 1841; Harriet E.—Mrs. Cuff.

Mr. and Mrs. Cuff became the parents of six children, three of whom have passed to the other world. In the order of their birth they are as follows: Florence E., born September 5, 1860, died October 17, 1865; Horace E., born February 1, 1863, died October 12, 1870; Norman E., born October 15, 1867; William H., born September 7, 1869; Harriet E., born June 24, 1877; D. O., born October 24, 1880, died May 6, 1883. Norman E. Cuff married Nellie Abbott, St. Louis, May 6, 1895. William H. Cuff married Hilda Pierow, Owosso, December 25, 1901. Harriet E. Cuff was married August 9, 1904, to John J. Keon, of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Keon have one son—D. O. Cuff Keon, born May 25, 1905.

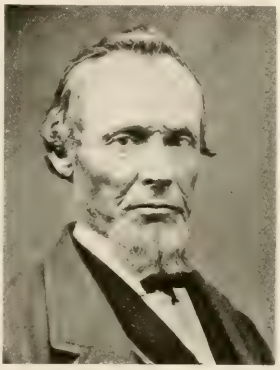
Mrs. Harriet E. Cuff, the wife and mother, passed to her reward at the family home, St. Louis, Sunday morning, December 14, 1912, at the age of 69 years. Her death created a feeling and sentiment of profound sorrow in the community. She was a good and noble woman; kind and sympathetic to all who were favored with her acquaintance. She was a charter member of the Baptist Church of St. Louis, and had been one of its faithful and reliable pillars for more than 47 years, and was for more than 30 years a teacher in the Sunday school; active also in all departments of church work. The funeral was conducted by Rev. John E. Smith, of Kalamazoo, who, as a St. Louis boy, son of Charles H. Smith, was a pupil in Mrs. Cuff's Sunday school class.

Daniel O. Cuff's record as an official in his village, township and county is one of which he has a right to feel proud. In 1871 and '72 he served as a village trustee. In March, 1873, he was elected village president, was re-elected April 29, 1873, under the new charter, and was re-elected also in

'74, '80, '81 and '82. He was seven times elected village assessor. Commencing in 1877 he was elected supervisor of Pine River Township six successive years, and later served three more years—1888, '89 and '90. In the fall of 1882 he was the Fusion (Democrat and Greenback) candidate for representative in the state legislature, running against A. B. Darragh, Republican, the latter winning by 62 votes. In January, 1883 he was appointed under-sheriff by Sheriff Peet, and also served as under-sheriff in Sheriff King's adminstration which began January 1, 1891. In 1890 he was elected a member of the St. Louis Board of Education, and held the office of treasurer three years. He was re-elected in 1893, resigning the position in 1894. As an official and as a citizen he has always enjoyed the confidence and good-will of his fellow-citizens.

## FLEMING.

Charles Moshier Fleming, for many years a well-known and valued resident of Pine River Township and St. Louis Village, was born in Romulus, Seneca County, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1809; died at Brooklyn, Mich., March 19, 1892.



CHARLES M. FLEMING.

John Fleming, the grandfather of Mr. Fleming, came to the western part of New York from Harrisburg, Penn., at the close of the Revolutionary War, and purchased a tract of land between the Seneca and Cayuga lakes, on what was then known as the "military tract", and settled upon it. He belonged to the Scotch-Irish stock, so well known in the development and growth of the Republic. He is said to have been deeply religious.

Chas. M. Fleming was the second son in a family of eight children. In early life he learned the blacksmith's trade, which occupation he followed industriously until obliged to retire from the business on account of injuries received in shoeing horses. The most of his active life afterward was passed on the farm. He was twice married and was the father of ten children. His first wife was Peninnah J. Amsbury, who died young, leaving two small children to the care of the father.

In 1832 Mr. Fleming came west and settled in Ann Arbor, pursuing his trade as a blacksmith. In the late '30s he removed to Jacksonburg (Jackson), then a small hamlet on Grand River. In December, 1840, he was married to Elvira Humphrey, of Concord, Jackson county. Leonard Humphrey, brother of Elvira, acted as best man and his young bride was bridesmaid at the marriage. Fifty years later, at Brooklyn, in the same county, Mr. and Mrs. Fleming celebrated their golden wedding at the home of their son who was then pastor of the Presbyterian Church in that village: and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Humphrey were present and took part in celebrating that delightful anniversary.

Mrs. Elvira Fleming was the mother of six children. Two of them —Jas. W. and Jesse H.—served as privates in the Civil War. James was wounded at Shiloh while bearing a wounded comrade from the field, and died in April, 1862. Two of the sons—Jesse H. and Daniel C. entered the

Christian ministry. Jesse H. is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, and at the present time is a resident of Alma, this county. Daniel C. was ordained to the ministry in the U. B. Church. He filled some important charges in Central Michigan. He died in Charlotte, Mich., March 18, 1912, after a lingering illness; a conscientious Christian and faithful minister.

Robert Franklin Fleming, the oldest son, was a farmer, all his life. In 1865 he bought a farm in the western part of Pine River Township which he greatly improved, and where he lived until his death in 1886. His widow, a son and a daughter still live there.

Chas. L. Fleming, a traveling salesman for about 50 years, died at his home in Madison, Wis., June 13, 1912, at the age of 70 years. He was for several years a resident of St. Louis. He was a successful business man and an upright, Christian citizen. He was an active Presbyterian, and at the time of his death was a ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Madison.

Irving L. Fleming began his married life on a farm in Seville Township. For about twenty years he has been in the grocery business either as clerk or proprietor. At present he and his family live in the State of Washington, his present residence being at Meadow Lake, Wash.

Mary E. Fleming remained at home, caring for her father and mother in their declining years. Her present home is Saginaw, where she is frequently employed as nurse.

Delon, the youngest son, has lived in Gratiot County the most of the time since his majority, as merchant at Riverdale and as lumberman. He owns a large tract of timbered land in Ogemaw County and his home is at West Branch.

Mrs. Elvira Fleming, wife of Chas. M. Fleming, lived to the ripe age of 85 years, and in the full possession of all her faculties. She died January 14, 1904, at the home of her son Jesse H., at that time the pastor of the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, Saginaw. Of a singularly retiring and affectionate nature, Mrs. Fleming endeared herself to all who knew her well. She united with the Presbyterian Church early in life and remained to the last an example of Christian fortitude and unobtrusive loyalty. "She lived for those she loved." Home and the church of her early vows were her sanctuaries. It may be said of her as truthfully as was recorded of the ideal mother nearly 3,000 years ago, "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

Chas. M. Fleming embraced the Christian faith in 1823, and in all the 69 years of his active Christian life he was a faithful and earnest Christian, and a trusted counsellor in the official work of the church. In October, 1865, he removed with his family from Parma, Mich., to a farm in the western part of Pine River Township, this county. There he lived until 1869, when he moved to St. Louis and where he lived till 1889. From St. Louis Mr. and Mrs. Fleming went to live with their son who had just been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Brooklyn, Mich.

Mr. Fleming's residence of 24 years in Gratiot County was always characterized by strict habits of fidelity in all matters of public or private enterprise. He was ever keenly alive to the growth and development of the county. As township treasurer of Pine River in the late '60s his services were faithfully and efficiently rendered. In 1867 he was active in securing the organization of the Presbyterian Church of Pine River which was designed to include in its membership residents of both Alma and St. Louis. The church building was, however, erected in St. Louis, and the organiza-

tion, after the lapse of a few years, took the name of the village in which it was located. A singular fact is brought out in relation to that event, namely, that of the twelve charter members of that early organization, just one-half belonged to the family of Chas. M. Fleming.

In the late '60s the county was being rapidly reinforced with settlers. The disbanded union army furnished many valuable recruits to the enterprise of felling the forests and clearing the lands in this part of the state. Something else also was required to make of these pioneers prosperous and capable citizens, besides lands and houses. Mr. Fleming, with others, threw himself into the work of securing religious services in all the school houses in the vicinity of his home. This was done chiefly through the organization of Sunday schools, in which work her was generally successful.

He had been a bible student all his life, as well as a Sunday school worker. As Sunday school superintendent in Albion, Mich., in St. Louis of this county and in the remote school districts, both as organizer and teacher, Mr. Fleming will long be remembered as a citizen above reproach, and as a Christian pioneer whose influence was always on the side of righteousness and good government.

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## FLEMING.

Jesse Humphrey Fleming was born in Parma Township, Jackson County, Mich., October 25, 1843. He attended district school and one term at Albion College, during the intervals of farm work, until in the fall of 1864, when he enlisted as a recruit in the 12th Mich. Infantry which was then doing garrison duty at DeValls Bluff, Arkansas, and vicinity. After thirteen months' service he was mustered out at Camden, Arkansas, September, 1865.



REV. JESSE H. FLEMING.

The following month he accompanied his father's family to their new home in Pine River Township, this county. He taught school in the Wright district the ensuing term and also the winter term the following year in the same district. For several years he was a country school teacher. He also taught private school in St. Louis in the early '70s, and in the public school of Ithaca and St. Louis. He was a student at Albion College about two years, beginning in the fall of 1879.

In the spring of 1881, Mr. Fleming was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Saginaw. In June of the same year he was commissioned as Sunday school missionary in the American Sunday School Union, and labored in Gratiot County until September, when he was directed to work in Tuscola County and in adjoining counties. That part of the state had suffered by a holocaust of fire, without precedent in the history of Michigan. Here he labored under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union, organizing Sunday schools and furnishing clothing to the fire sufferers, sent out by the Union, until December of that year.

Early in November, 1881, Mr. Fleming was commissioned by the President as United States Indian Agent for the Moquis Pueblos in Arizona,

and left in December to assume charge of his duties in that capacity. While Indian Agent he secured from the government a reservation for the Moquis, and made estimates for material and supplies for establishing a school at the agency. This would have resulted in the erection of suitable buildings and the establishment of a school during his administration, but for the necessary delays of purchase of material, and of transportation. The agency was located in a lonely canon, sixty-five miles from a railroad, with which it was connected by the worst possible road. Indeed, there was no road at all. What few travelers passed that way made their own roads over arroyos, and down steep and rough mesas.

Mr. Fleming resigned as Indian Agent in 1883. The mail that brought him the acceptance of his resignation, announced the discontinuance of the agency at that point, and the consolidation of the tribal interests with the Navajos, under one agent, at Fort Defiance, Arizona.

After Mr. Fleming's return to St. Louis, this county, he entered upon home missionary work in Gladwin county, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. After a year's service there, he entered the McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, completing his course three years later, when he accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Florence, Wis.

Mr. Fleming was ordained to the ministry at East Saginaw in June, 1887, and then entered upon his work at Florence. Since then he has served the churches of the Presbyterian faith in Brooklyn, Mich., Erie, Reading and Saginaw. He was in charge of the Washington Avenue Church, Saginaw, nearly six years, when he removed to Grayling, Mich., where he served as pastor until 1912, when he removed to Alma where he now resides, at the same time serving the churches at Coleman and Wise.

Jesse H. Fleming was united in marriage to Sarah Ellen Lowry at Norvell, Mich., September, 1886. Miss Lowry had recently graduated at the Ypsilanti State Normal, and was teaching in Detroit up to the time of her marriage.

Mr. Fleming is one of the few survivors of the Civil War of 50 years ago, now engaged actively in the Christian ministry.

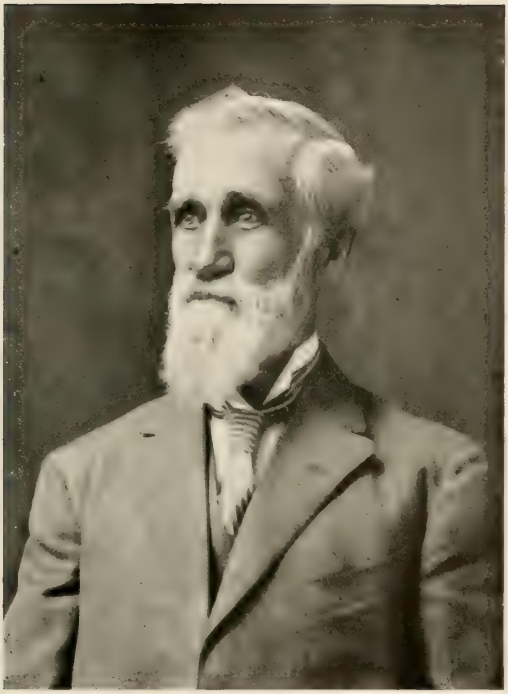
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## WRIGHT.

Among the ablest and most popular attorneys of Gratiot County since it first became an organized municipality the name of James K. Wright, of St. Louis, takes a position among the foremost. As a matter of fact he is also the oldest of the legal fraternity now in active practice in the county; oldest not necessarily in years, but oldest in the sense of having been the earliest in establishing himself in the county as a practitioner at the bar. He was born March 3, 1844, in Parma, Jackson County, Mich. His father, Deotatus E. Wright was born in Williamston, Mass., April 27, 1812, just one hundred years, to a day, previous to the writing of this sketch. While a youth he accompanied his parents to Wayne County, N. Y., where he grew to manhood, and where, on the 26th day of October, 1836, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarena Fox, a native of Wayne County, N. Y.

In 1837 Deodatus and Sarena Wright removed to Parma, Jackson County, Mich., where they settled upon a farm, and where they remained until their deaths many years afterward. They were the parents of nine children besides the subject of this sketch — Nathan E., Aciel F., Albert L., Smith W., Philo D., L T, Charlotte E., Hannah and Ida.

The education of James K. Wright was begun in the common school of his home district, and was completed at Albion College. After finishing



JAMES K. WRIGHT.

school he taught two terms in what is known as the Wright district, in Pine River Township, this county. After finishing his school work he commenced reading law in the office of Thomas G. Pray, at Albion, and after four years of this preparatory work he was admitted to the bar at Jackson, Mich., September 25, 1867.

December 29, 1867, Mr. Wright opened a law office at St. Louis, this county, and has there been in the active practice of his profession until the present time, with the exception of about ten years when he was connected with the United States Land Office, at Grayling, Mich. In 1888 he removed to Grayling to take charge of the U. S. Land Office as register. Subsequently he was appointed receiver of the said office. He continued in the active practice of law in addition to his management of the land office. He returned to St. Louis in 1898 and resumed his legal practice there.

Mr. Wright was married February 15, 1869, to Miss Lorinda Housman, of Parma, Mich. She died at St. Louis, March 10, 1883. Mr. Wright was married again, November 12, 1884, to Carrie E. Reed, of Chicago, Ill., whose birthplace was Syracuse, N. Y. A daughter — Florence Sarena — has been born to this union. She is now a teacher in the High School of her home city, St. Louis.

Mr. Wright has been admitted to practice law in the supreme court of this state as well as in all of the United States courts. In politics he is a Democrat of the old school; has been a Democrat ever since he became a voter. Unfortunately his party has been in the minority a great share of his adult life. Yet he has been honored with official positions frequently; a fact attesting his worth and ability, and his popularity even in the Republican strongholds. He was the first clerk of the Village of St. Louis, and was re-elected in 1869 and '70. In 1869 he was elected supervisor of Pine River Township. He was elected prosecuting attorney of the county in 1870, '74 and '82; also was elected circuit court commissioner two terms. In 1888 he was appointed register of the United States Land Office at Grayling, and in 1893 he was appointed to the position of receiver at that office, serving in that capacity until April, 1897. He has for many years, and is now, a valued member of the St. Louis Board of Education.

Mr. Wright is still hale and hearty, and, in his own language, "is doing his level best to promote the best interests of the Democratic party," of which he has so long been an active and loyal adherent. He is a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. In these later years he is taking a great deal of pleasure in superintending his well-cultivated farm located near St. Louis. His success in life, politically and financially, may properly be attributed to his dominant charactistic traits — perseverance, energy and good business judgment. He and his estimable wife and daughter are enjoying the best things in life in their comfortable home on Washington Avenue, west, a home to which they are all very much devoted, and where they take great pleasure in entertaining their many friends.

## HILLYER.

Richard G. Hillyer was an important personage in the history of St. Louis from 1856 until the time of his death, 25 years later. He was born in Granby, Hartford County, Connecticut, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits at that place until 1852, when he came to Saginaw and went into real estate speculation and other activities of a kindred nature. In 1856 he came to St. Louis and, in company with Lewis M. Clark and a Mr. Davis, under the partnership name of Clark, Hillyer & Davis, bought the interest of Joseph Clapp to the tract platted as the Village of Pine River and on

which he had commenced the erection of a sawmill. The company pushed the improvements along, and in 1860 sold its possessions to Henry L. Holcomb, a cousin of Mr. Hillyer. The latter remained in charge of the improvements already under way, acting in the capacity of manager for Mr. Holcomb, also for Holcomb & Evans, his successors, and again for Mr. Holcomb when he again came into possession of the property.

Mr. Hillyer was a kindly man, in disposition, and was immensely popular with employees as well as with the great number of pioneer settlers with whom he dealt, so many of whom were largely dependent for accommodations and favors.

Mr. Hillyer was a victim of pneumonia, passing away December 13, 1881, at the age of 76 years. He died at the home of Mr. Holcomb, having no immediate family, as he had never married.

## VANDERCOOK.

Frank M. Vandercook, a resident of this county since 1877 and nearly all of that period residing in St. Louis, a well-known newspaper man, was born June 27, 1853, in the Village of Fulton, Fulton County, N. Y. When two years of age he came with his parents to Ingham County, this state, his parents locating on a farm four miles north of Mason, where they resided until 1857, in that year removing to Mason. When ten years of age Mr. Vandercook became the "devil" in the office of the Ingham County News, with which he remained until he finished his trade, attending the public schools three years thereafter.

April 7, 1870, Mr. Vandercook was married to Elvira A. Near, and in February, 1877, removed with his family to St. Louis, Gratiot County, where his wife died April 7, 1884, leaving three daughters—Ethel, now Mrs. Floyd Butler; Maud, now Mrs. Chas. Vandenburgh, and Hattie, now Mrs. S. J. Bole.

In May, 1885, Mr. Vandercook was married to Miss Elsie Livingston, of Saginaw. She died April 14, 1907, and on April 29, 1909, he was married to Mrs. Etta Millard, of Grand Rapids.

In the newspaper business Mr. Vandercook's experience has been varied. Buying a half-interest in the St. Louis Spy in 1879, he continued that publication but a few weeks and then established the St. Louis Leader which he published until 1883, when he sold out and removed to Ithaca, establishing the Ithaca Times which he sold one year later on account of illness, and returned to St. Louis. In 1885 he founded the St. Louis Republican, a semi-weekly, which in 1889 he sold to a stock company, and it and the Leader were consolidated. In 1890 Mr. Vandercook again entered the newspaper field with the St. Louis Independent, which he continued to publish until December, 1909, when again, on account of illness, he disposed of his paper. In 1893 he established the first daily newspaper for St. Louis, which he published for three years. In January, 1910, Mr. Vandercook purchased the St. Louis Leader, the paper he established thirty-three years before. In 1912 he sold the Leader to its present owner, Fred A. Hamlin.

In 1882-83, Mr. Vandercook was elected clerk of Pine River Township on the Republican ticket, a portion of Alma and St. Louis being then included in the township named. In 1889 and 1891 he was elected village clerk of St. Louis, on the Republican ticket, and in 1894 was appointed by the mayor as the first member of the Board of Public Works for a term of

five years. In 1899 he was re-appointed for a like term. In 1891 he was elected as a member of the School Board for a term of three years, and has been re-elected from time to time.

In 1896 he united with the Silver Party, and was elected register of deeds of the county, and was re-elected in 1898. In the latter election he received a majority of 330 votes in his home city although the Republican party had an average majority of 75 votes.

Mr. Vandercook is now at home at his new residence on Prospect Street, west, enjoying life with his family, which consists of his wife, son Isaac Frank, and adopted son Harold.

## BARSTOW.

William Edwin Barstow, M. D., a practicing physician of St. Louis, Gratiot County, Mich., was born in North Star Township in said county, September 15, 1877, son of Adelbert E. and Cassie A. (Barton) Barstow. His paternal grandfather was William M. Barstow who was a son of Elias and Sally (Morgan) Barstow, both of English ancestry. On his mother's side, his grandfather—William Barton, a Scotchman—was a British soldier, a participant in the historic Battle of Waterloo.

Dr. Barstow's parents were married October 2, 1871. They are the parents of four children, one of whom, Lottie, born December 17, 1872, died October 10, 1874. Those living are Hattie, born August 1, 1874; William E., born September 15, 1877; Nellie, born Aug. 15, 1880. Hattie married David G. Colwell a popular dentist, who died at their home in Ithaca, May 26, 1909, leaving, besides the wife, two young sons, John and Bruce. Nellie married Theron A. Goodwin, one of Ithaca's leading druggists. They have four children.

William E. Barstow, our subject, graduated from Ithaca High School June 19, 1896. Entering the jewelry store of Kinch & Van Duzer, Ithaca, as an apprentice, he left after one year to enter the horological department of the Bradley Polytechnical Institute at Peoria, Ill., to complete a course in watch-making, afterward accepting a position in Bergen's jewelry store at Carson City, Mich. After a time he returned to Ithaca, and, forming a partnership with E. R. Van Duzer, they purchased the Scattergood jewelry stock, and continued business until the fall of 1903, when he sold his interest in the business to H. B. Crane. In the meantime—in the fall of 1901—leaving his jewelry business in the hands of his partner, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated June 26, 1905. Immediately after graduation, Dr. Barstow located at St. Louis, Mich., where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession to the present time, enjoying a very satisfactory and constantly increasing patronage.

On the 19th of June, 1901, Dr. Barstow was married to Miss Mary Belle Kurtz, who was born in Deerfield Township, Lenawee County, Mich., March 22, 1877, daughter of Charles and Rosina Kurtz. The father died May 6, 1883. A few years later Mrs. Kurtz married Henry Randolph, a druggist of St. Louis, Mich., where they have since resided. Mrs. Barstow has one sister, Caroline, wife of Austin J. Davison, of Charlevoix, Mich.

Dr. and Mrs. Barstow are the parents of a daughter, Catharine Louise, born April 21, 1904, and of a son, Donald Kurtz, born September 6, 1911. The Doctor is an active member of the Masonic and Maccabee orders, and he and his estimable wife are justly considered among the most popular and wide-awake citizens of their city.

## LEONARD.

The personal and family history of Newell Leonard, for more than thirty years a leading citizen of Gratiot County, may best be told in his own language:

"I was born June 16, 1825, in Hector, Tompkins County—now Schuyler County—New York. When I was three years old my father moved to Wells, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The title to the land being in dispute, settlement in the township was backward. My father bought a man's interest in 110 acres for $100, and when the litigation was over he had to pay $5 per acre additional. I was the second of six children; the oldest and the youngest being girls. My youngest brother and sister are still living, the sister being the wife of Wm. Culver of Bethany Township, three miles southeast of St. Louis, Mich.



NEWELL LEONARD.

"In the early days in Pennsylvania we had the old rate-bill scheme for school purposes; so much per scholar, per day, to be paid by the parents to help out the public money. Children had to work in those days as well as grown people, and I know what pioneer life means. Commencing at 19 I took a two-year term at Troy academy. The winter after I became of age I taught my first school, and every winter after that till the Civil War commenced, except the winter of 1856, when I was in Winona County, Minnesota. I voted there at the first state election. In the spring of 1857 I helped build a raft of a million feet of lumber on the Mississippi, six miles above La Cross, Wisconsin, and helped run it down the river to Keokuk. The following fall I returned to Wells, Pennsylvania. I had become quite noted as a teacher throughout Bradford County, Pennsylvania, and Chemung County, New York, holding a state teacher's certificate from Wickersham, state superintendent of public schools of Pennsylvania. The last public school I taught was as principal of the graded school at Canton, Pennsylvania, winter of 1858-9. When not teaching I had read law in the office of Frank Smith, of Troy, Pennsylvania.



MRS. NEWELL LEONARD.

"On the tenth day of September, 1861, I went to Elmira, N. Y., and enlisted in Battery F, First N. Y. Light Artillery, under Capt. W. R. Wilson, with whom I was well acquainted. He had served in the Mexican War. I was made Q. M. sergeant. We went into camp at Camp Barry, near Washington, D. C., in the latter part of November, 1861. Our first engagement was at the Battle of West Point, Va., May 7, 1862. Our colonel was killed at the battle of Fair Oaks, June 30, 1862. In January, 1863, all but 15 of one battery re-enlisted as veterans. I was promoted to first orderly sergeant and served as such till June 21, 1865, when the battery

was mustered out. Two or three days afterward I received from Gov. Fenton of New York a commission as second lieutenant of N. Y. Light Artillery, which had been made out 11 days before my discharge, and dated the previous 15th of May. While acting as Q. M. sergeant I also acted as clerk of the battery and helped make out the pay rolls, and I now have a complete record of our battery and of all its members.

"After my discharge I went back to my home in Wells, and, having contracted malarial poisoning in the service, I was under the care of Dr. J. H. Cole for a year. Finding myself unable to do hard physical labor, in the fall of 1868 I went to Ann Arbor, Mich., and entered the law class of 1870 in the U. of M. I graduated as bachelor of law, September 30, 1870, and at four o'clock p. m. of the same day was united in marriage to Lucy Blodd at the residence of her brother in Ann Arbor. The next week I went to St. Louis, Mich., and entered into a law partnership with S. J. Scott. After eight years the partnership was dissolved and I moved to Ithaca, the county seat, residing there two years, then sold out and returned to St. Louis where I continued the practice of my profession until November, 1902, making a reasonable success of it without meddling with insurance, money loaning or real estate.

"My children are Oliver B., Louise and W. C. The oldest was born in 1871, the youngest in 1879. All have homes of their own. My wife died June 21, 1901. This event practically broke up my family, my two sons being in business in Chicago. I remained in business a year afterward, and then, by request of my children, I sold my property in St. Louis except a small unplatted piece in block 24 of Cheesman's plat, and on the first day of December, 1902, went to Chicago to live with my children. I spend a portion of every year with my brother-in-law, Wm. Culver, near St. Louis.

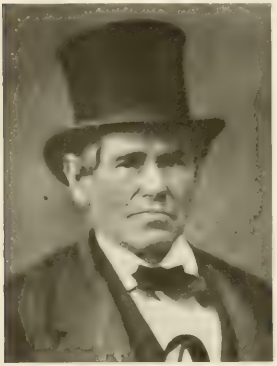
"In my younger days I took an active part in politics; was a delegate to the state convention at Harrisburg, Pa., which put in nomination the electoral ticket for John C. Fremont, in 1856. After settling in St. Louis, I continued to vote with the Republican party for eight or ten years, though not an active partisan. I then took an active part in the Prohibition party and attended all its county and state conventions until the McKinley campaign when I voted for Mr. Bryan, and have since voted with the Democratic party on state and national issues. I served one year as city attorney of St. Louis and three years on its school board."

It is a pleasure to add a few words to Mr. Leonard's interesting story of his life; words by one who has known him well from the time of his first appearance in Gratiot County. He was a man who took a lively interest in everything calculated to enhance the material prosperity of his home town and county; and his influence and efforts were always on the right side in social, civic and educational matters. His contributions to public enterprises—railroads, churches, manufacturing concerns, everything for the good of his fellow citizens—were spontaneous and liberal. And his counsel and advice were just as spontaneous and liberal. As a lawyer he averaged up well, a fact fully proven by the record of his connection with many important cases in this and adjoining counties; and he was extraordinarily successful with cases in the supreme court. As a "side line" he indulged quite extensively in poetry, his efforts in that line adding zest to many a gathering and to many an issue of the county papers.

In short, Mr. Leonard has been a faithful defender of his country; a safe and trustworthy counselor in his professional capacity; honest, liberal and progressive as a citizen; kind and sincere as a neighbor and friend. Those prize him most who know him best.

## McHENRY.

There are many old residents of St. Louis who have a clear recollection of that popular and reliable citizen, George W. McHenry. For nearly thirty years he was one of the town's best-known citizens. He was born in Allegany County, N. Y., January 11, 1813. His father was Matthew McHenry and his mother's maiden name was Anna Dudder. George W. McHenry was married to Lucinda, daughter of Charles and Lucy Holloway, in Almond, N. Y. She was born June 5, 1812.



GEO. W. McHENRY.

Mr. McHenry came to St. Louis in the spring of 1857. He built the first frame hotel building, locating it on the southeast corner of Pine and North Streets. The "St. Louis House," as it was called, did duty as a hotel many years, and also served as a postoffice, Mr. McHenry being postmaster. He was entrusted with many official positions, such as clerk and treasurer of Pine River Township, and was justice of the peace many years; also served as a member of the village council. He was careful and painstaking, and could be trusted implicitly.

Mr. and Mrs. McHenry were the parents of five children—Susannah, Matthew, Augustus, Harriet and Sarah. The latter, now the widow of the late Albert P. Foland, is a resident of Wheeler Village. Mrs. McHenry died June 10, 1880, and Mr. McHenry followed her to the other world May 19, 1884.

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## MUDGE.

Edson H. Mudge, of St. Louis, was born on a farm in Sodus Township, Berrien County, Michigan, November 5, 1860, being the fourth in a family of eight boys. He is a member of one of the really old families of this country, his ancestors having come over from England within 20 years after the landing of the Pilgrim fathers. His grandfather was a Michigan pioneer and one of the original settlers in the region a few miles north of Lowell. His father also fell into the good old habit of pioneering and took his family into the wilds of Northern Newaygo County in 1869. Here the subject of this sketch for eleven years breathed the free air of the woods and learned something of the hardships as well as the consolations of pioneer life.

In 1880 he began the printer's trade at Belding, and has been engaged in printing and newspaper work ever since, mostly in Michigan towns. Though his early schooling was somewhat deficient, he was naturally a good student and became well-informed on a great variety of subjects. These qualifications procured for him in 1901 a situation as proofreader in the large publishing house of the W. B. Conkey Co., at Hammond, Ind., which he held for three years to the entire satisfaction of the firm.

In 1904 he bought the Ashley World and published that paper until the spring of 1912 when he disposed of it to its present publisher, and bought the St. Louis Independent, taking possession of that publication June 1,

1912, and removing to that city. The paper is taking a prominent position as one of the leading papers of the county. While a resident of Ashley Mr. Mudge was actively identified with its business and official affairs, also in religious and reform work, his paper being the only one in the county to actively espouse the cause of the people against the saloons in the local option campaign of 1908.

In 1884 he was married to Norma F. Kimberly, a member of one of the pioneer families of Belding. She also is active in church and reform work and is widely known among the leaders of the W. C. T. U. Their only daughter, Miss Mabelle, is a graduate of the Central State Normal School at Mt. Pleasant and is a successful teacher of public school music and drawing.

## KENNEDY.

Dr. Stiles Kennedy, who passed away at his home in St. Louis, May 27, 1910, was for nearly forty years a well-known, influential and popular citizen of the county. Few citizens of Gratiot, from first to last, have been better known, at least by reputation, in every nook and corner of the county, than he. He was born in Lebanon, Kentucky, April 1, 1838, son of Rev. George W. and Ellen (Jennings) Kennedy. Removing to Delaware in his boyhood, with his parents, he received a liberal education and then took up medicine as his profession. During the Civil War he was appointed surgeon in the Confederate army, serving under "Stonewall" Jackson, and later with Beauregard and Lee, rendering conspicuous service in the prosecution of his duties.



DR. STILES KENNEDY.

In 1871 Dr. Kennedy came to Gratiot and took up his residence at St. Louis where he passed the remainder of his life in the practice of his profession, attaining a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens as a wise and skillful practitioner. He was among the foremost in promoting and encouraging all enterprises calculated to benefit his town. He was a leading member of the medical associations of his county and state, and also of the American Medical Association, and was a frequent contributor to the medical literature of those societies, and of the general press, in many cases upon subjects of world-wide importance.

Dr. Kennedy took an active interest in politics, being an ardent and enthusiastic Democrat. He was for many years chairman of the county committee, and was recognized as one of the foremost leaders of the party, not only in the county, but also in the state. He served locally in various capacities, officially, and was his party's candidate many times for county and legislative offices. Being in the minority party, however, he suffered defeat with his ticket. He was greatly interested in the educational matters of his town, and his constituents, in recognition of this interest and of his value as a leader and official along those lines, kept him on the school board for more than thirty years, and clear up to the time of his death.

Dr. Kennedy was married in Delaware, January 22, 1872, to Mary Reybold, daughter of William Reybold. Three children were born to them —William R., George and Mary. The wife and mother died at the family home in St. Louis, March 22, 1878. October 16, 1883, Dr. Kennedy was married, at Ghent, Kentucky, to Amanda Froman, daughter of Hiram Rroman. Children born to this marriage are—Stiles C. Daniel J. and Alice A.

Dr. Kennedy's death, as heretofore stated, occurred May 27, 1910, and he is buried in St. Louis' beautiful "city of the dead"—Oak Grove Cemetery.

## DARRAGH.

Archibald Bard Darragh was born on a farm in La Salle Township, Monroe County, Mich., December 23, 1840, son of Benjamin F. and Catharine (Bard) Darragh. The Darragh and the Bard families are of Irish and Scotch descent, and settled in Pennsylvania, the former in 1725, the latter in 1741. In the French and Indian War of 1744 to 1756, and in the War of the Revolution they took an active part, many of their names being found in the Colonial Army registers.

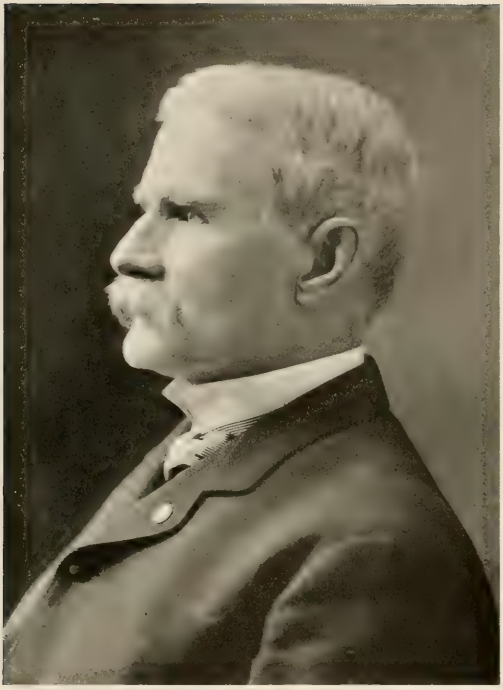
Mr. Darragh's parents settled in Michigan in 1834 and engaged in farming. The subject of this sketch attended the country schools until his twelfth year, at which time his parents moved to Monroe, where, at the old Monroe Academy, he prepared for the University of Michigan, which institution of learning he entered in 1857, and from which he was graduated in 1868.

At the close of the year 1859 he left college and went to the State of Mississippi where he taught for two years. That state was then the hot-bed of secession, and as the Yankee schoolmaster was somewhat outspoken in his opinions, it became necessary for him to take his departure; and only the friendship of two college chums, members of the same college fraternity, enabled him, in May, 1861, to return to his home in Michigan.

He returned to the University at the beginning of the next college year, but found it difficult to settle down to the old-time student life. The nation was grappling in a life and death struggle with a giant rebellion. The need of men was great. Already thousands had gone from Michigan, and thousands more were needed. The students in the old university town were restless, uneasy and excited, and after a year of struggle between the call of his chosen profession and the call of patriotism, he volunteered as a private soldier in Company H, 18th Mich. Vol. Infantry, on August 14, 1862. On September 1st he went to the front with his regiment, which was assigned to Gen. Q. A. Gilmore's brigade, of the United States forces opposing the Confederate Gen. Kirby Smith, in Kentucky. On September 25th Private Darragh was captured, and when exchanged as a prisoner of war in January, 1863, he was transferred to Company D, 9th Mich. Vol. Cavalry, and commissioned as Second Lieutenant.

The regiment first met the enemy in the spring of 1863, when it routed a portion of Buckner's command at Triplet's Bridge, Kentucky. It took a prominent part in the chase after the famous raider, John Morgan, in July, 1863, through Kentucky and Ohio, and compelled his surrender with the remnant of his command at Salineville, Ohio, on July 25th.

In August, 1863, the regiment marched into East Tennessee under Gen. Burnside, and participated in all of the engagements and suffered all of the hardships of that long winter of incessant campaigning in mountainous



HON. ARCHIBALD B. DARRAGH.

East Tennessee and at the siege of Knoxville. In June, 1864, the regiment was again in Kentucky for re-mount and re-equipment, and on the 12th of that month, at Cynthiana, Kentucky, took a prominent part in opposing the enemy's forces under John Morgan, and in driving him from the state.

In July, 1864 the regiment picked its way through Kentucky and Tennessee into Georgia, where it joined the victorious regiments of Gen. Sherman at Marietta. Until the close of the war the 9th Cavalry was in Kilpatrick's Division of the army, and was in many engagements and skirmishes with the rebel cavalry. On July 21, 1865 ,Mr. Darragh was mustered out of the service as captain of his company, having been in the service three years.

After the war Mr. Darragh located at Jackson, Mich., and for two years was engaged in teaching, being at the head of the grammar department of the West Side Union School. In 1867 he was elected the first superintendent of the Jackson County public schools, holding the office two years.

Mr. Darragh came to Gratiot County in 1870, locating in St. Louis where he established a banking institution, the first in the county, and with which he has ever since been officially connected, now known as the Gratiot State Bank. The bank's standing as one of the solid financial institutions of Central Michigan is more fully set forth in another place in this volume.

Mr. Darragh, a Republican in political affiliation, early took an interest in local affairs, holding all of the important offices in the village government, as well as in the city government after St. Louis' incorporation as a city. In 1872 he was elected county treasurer, holding the office one term and refusing a re-election. In 1882 he was elected as Gratiot County's Representative in the State Legislature. After serving one term he refused a re-nomination. In 1900 he received the nomination for Representative in Congress from the 11th Congressional District and was elected by a large majority. His good work in congress is evidenced by the fact that he was three times re-elected, thus serving his district in that capacity eight years.

June 8, 1875, Mr. Darragh was married to Miss Annie P. Culberson, of Monongahela City, Penn., daughter of Albert and Emily (Brown) Culberson. She was born May 14, 1848. Her death occurred at St. Louis, September 8, 1905; buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis.

In fraternal matters Mr. Darragh affiliates with the Masons, Knights of Pythias and the Grand Army of the Republic.

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## SMITH.

Elias W. Smith, for many years a prominent resident of St. Louis, was one of its earliest settlers, locating there early in 1854. He had entered the employ of his brother-in-law, Joseph Clapp, the founder of St. Louis, who had located several hundred acres of land a few months previously, where St. Louis now stands. Mr. Clapp, who is further mentioned elsewhere, will ever be remembered, gratefully, for the gift to the village of the site for the beautiful park, one of the attractions of the village. The land, by the way, is to revert to the Joseph Clapp heirs if it is ever used for other than park purposes. Sylvanus Groom came very soon after Mr. Clapp, locating a tract of land adjoining Mr. Clapp's on the south, the present site of the southern portion of St. Louis.

Elias W. Smith was born in Sandystone, Sussex County, N. J., August 23, 1831, son of John and Catharine (Seaman) Smith. In 1851 he removed with his father's family to Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio. The lumber

districts of Northern and Central Michigan, together with the agricultural possibilities of that region, began to attract attention at about that time. Joseph Clapp and Sylvanus Groom were young men of the section of Ohio mentioned, and when they took a trip north to Central Michigan in July, 1853, locating on the Pine at St. Louis, and returning to tell the story of the advantages and prospects, young Elias and his brother Seaman, determined to launch out and try their fortunes in the new country. The marriage of Joseph Clapp to Matilda Smith, sister of Elias, on the return of the former to Ohio, doubtless had its effect in the Smith boys' decision to return with him to Michigan.

Our subject entered the employ of Mr. Clapp, continuing with him for more than a year, and took for his pay a tract of 115 acres of wild timbered land—the territory now constituting the northeast part of the City of St. Louis. This he set about improving, with the energy and activity which were characteristic of the man, and in the course of time developed his forest tract into a fine improved farm. Its contiguity to the business portion of the village made it particularly valuable for residence purposes. He had 40 acres platted and recorded as Smith's Addition to the Village of St. Louis, and it soon became one of the most desirable and valuable portions of the village. Besides being a thorough farmer, Mr. Smith had learned the trade of a carpenter, working at that business at intervals for several years.

Elias W. Smith was married August 29, 1857, to Martha Ann Woodin, daughter of Abram and Anna M. (Bassett) Woodin, of Pine River Township. She was born in Harmony, Chautauqua County, N. Y., June 23, 1834. Her parents were natives of Ontario County, N. Y. In 1847 they removed to Spring Creek, Warren County, Penn., where Mr. Woodin was extensively engaged in mercantile pursuits and in lumbering. His business was prosperous and placed him in circumstances of affluence and ease. Financial reverses came, however, and in the spring of 1855 he removed to Gratiot County, Mich., and settled on lands between St. Louis and Alma, which he improved and where he lived until his death in 1860. His wife, Anna M. Woodin, lived to the great age of 91 years, passing away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Emery W. Burgess, January 6, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Woodin were among the most prominent, reliable and popular of the early settlers, and did their full share in the pioneer work of Gratiot County. They were the parents of nine children of whom but three are now living: J. A. Woodin, Brighton Sub., Seattle, Wash.; Hiram U. Woodin, Seattle; Mrs. Elizabeth (Farmer) Fields, wife of John Fields, St. Louis, Mich. Mrs. Marcelia Burgess, wife of Emery W. Burgess, of Saginaw, died March 9, 1912.

Mrs. Martha (Woodin) Smith was 21 years of age when, with her father's family, she settled in Pine River Township. The log school house in the district—the Colburn district—had just been completed, and she was engaged as teacher, commencing her term in June, 1855; the first school taught in the county. Wages were $1.50 per week, with board, the teacher boarding around at the homes of the patrons. She taught several terms afterward.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias W. Smith were the parents of seven children, all born in St. Louis, their names and birth-dates as here given; Iola E. B., born July 19, 1858; John, December 4, 1860, died March 20, 1861; Idella M., May 31, 1862, died October 9, 1862; Mary Catharine, December 5, 1863; Holcomb, April 25, 1866, died January 11, 1868; Willard E., July 21, 1868, died July 13, 1870; Seaman W., August 28, 1870.

Iola E. B. Smith was married in Sacramento, Cal., November 5, 1902, to Cyrus A. Lovell, of Sacramento. Mr. Lovell died April 15, 1903. Mrs. Lovell resides on the old homestead at St. Louis, and in Detroit.

Mary Catharine Smith was married to Wm. W. Essig, of Detroit, Mich., February 26, 1904. They have one child—Robert Wm. born October 8, 1905. They reside in Detroit.

Seaman Woodin Smith was married to Emma Ball, of Ashley, Mich. They were the parents of two children—Nina Margaret, born June 3, 1894, and Hazel, born December 9, 1896. Seaman W. Smith married his second wife—Eliza Lowrey, of Wheeler—May 8, 1907. No children have been born to this union.

After the discovery of the now famous Mineral Water at St. Louis, Mr. Smith turned his new home into a boarding house, enlarging it for the purpose, thus enabling him to keep from 25 to 30 guests, coming here to use the water. It was known as the "St. Louis Magnetic Springs House", and was the most aristocratic boarding house in the city, entertaining such noted men as Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, Gen. Geiger, Gen. Joe. Hooker, and many other men of note, who came by stage from St. Johns and Saginaw, no railroad being nearer.

Elias W. Smith, the principal subject of this sketch, met a sudden and untimely death December 29, 1882, at the comparatively early age of 51 years. The particulars of his death, and something of his life were published in the St. Louis Herald under date of January 5, 1883. The article is largely from the pen of Mr. Smith's near neighbor and long-time friend, John A. Wilcox, who was at that time temporarily in charge of the Herald during the absence of the editor on official business at the county seat. A considerable portion of the article is reproduced as follows:

"Our quiet little village was thrown into a fever of excitement on last Friday afternoon at about 5 o'clock by the sad intelligence of the untimely death of one of Gratiot's oldest pioneers, Mr. Elias W. Smith, who was found dead in his wods north of this village. It seems that he was engaged in getting out and hauling logs from his north forty, which adjoins the village corporation on the north, and in pursuit of this work he was in the woods with his ax in the forenoon of the day mentioned, with Anthony Barnes, assisting the latter in the work of loading logs. Mr. Barnes was in the employ of Mr. Smith, and was engaged in hauling the logs to the mill.

"At about 11 o'clock in the forenoon Barnes left the woods with a load of logs, and after unloading, it being nearly noon, did not return to the woods immediately, but stopped for dinner, expecting Mr. Smith to be along soon. But the latter did not appear. When, therefore, Mr. Barnes started again for the woods he was requested by Mrs. Smith, who had become alarmed at Mr. Smith's absence, to search for him and discover whether any accident had befallen him.

"A diligent search by Mr. Barnes, assisted by another man—also named Barnes—resulted finally in finding Mr. Smith a corpse, lying on his face near a tree which he had partially chopped down. A good-sized oak tree had some time previously lodged in a small beech, and the indications were that Mr. Smith, in looking for suitable timber, had determined to secure the oak above mentioned. He had chopped on one side of the small beech, and had taken a few blows on the other, when—the situation and appearances indicate—the tree showed signs of falling, and to get to a safe distance, he had turned and sprung away some ten or twelve feet, then had

fallen forward on his knees, hands and face, and had never moved again. His ax was struck into the ground, partially under him. The body was cold and stiff.

"Justice Landon was immediately notified, a jury impanneled, and the body conveyed to his late residence, to the sad home of the bereaved family; a large concourse of sympathizing citizens assisting in the painful duty. The coroner's jury, aided in their inquiry by an autopsy by Drs. G. S. and C. A. Case and H. E. Branch, returned a verdict that death resulted from natural and unavoidable causes, a small clot of blood having been found at the base of the brain, indicating the bursting of an artery at that vital point; a sufficient cause, in the opinion of the medical gentlemen, for the fatal result.

"Mr. Smith has been a continuous resident of St. Louis since he located here in 1854, and has ever been closely identified with its interests, growth and prosperity. He was a man of indomitable energy and perseverance, and endowed with an exceptionally strong constitution. He has labored hard, and has done his full share toward developing and improving the country, and causing 'the wilderness to blossom as the rose'. It would seem as if he was just ready to enter upon the enjoyment of the results of his long years of labor, when he was so suddenly and unexpectedly called away by the remorseless reaper, Death.

"The funeral, which was held on Monday, January 1st, called together one of the largest assemblages ever convened on a similar occasion in St. Louis, many of the old pioneers of the county being present to pay the last tribute of respect to the deceased. The services were conducted by Rev. Theodore Nelson, himself a pioneer of the county, who preached an appropriate and impressive sermon."

Mr. Smith was an active and valued member of the Masonic order from the time of its organization in St. Louis to the time of his death.

Mrs. Martha Ann (Woodin) Smith died February 4, 1905, at her home in St. Louis, having been an invalid for over 20 years; her last, fatal illness, however, being of less than a week's duration. She was taken with the grippe, heart-failure resulting. She was borne from her home by her four nephews, and through the same door by which she entered as a bride nearly a half century before. It can truthfully be said of her that she was a helpmeet indeed; one who did all in her power for the comfort of her family and for the betterment of society.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith never united with any church, being Universalists in belief. They were active, however, in all movements for the social and financial advancement of their town; aiding liberally in the support of all the churches, and in the erection of the church buildings.

All who remain of Mr. Smith's family (brothers and sisters) are Robert John Smith, of Clyde, Ohio; Mrs. Susan Kelsey, of Toledo, Ohio, and Mrs. Emma B. Clayton, of Bowling Green, Ohio.

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## McOMBER.

William A. McOmber was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., July 15, 1812. He died in Newark Township, this county, September 10, 1891. He came to Michigan in 1832, engaged as a fur trader, and in the fall of that year visited Gratiot County in the pursuit of his avocation. It is presumed that he was the first white man to visit this county. He came again to Michigan and to St. Johns in 1854, at the time that village was being platted, remaining there some time. In 1870 he came to St. Louis, and

went into real estate and insurance business. In 1874 he was elected clerk of Pine River Township, and in 1875 was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Michigan Central Union Fair Association, and was its first secretary. He was a bright, genial, kindly man, extremely optimistic and hopeful by nature, and, though he had characteristics that clearly distinguished him from the angels, he came far from meriting the hard luck of poverty and want that overtook him in his old age.

Further details of Mr. McOmber's life and activities are given earlier in this volume, in the department devoted to the county at large, in its primitive days.

## WILLETT.

Rev. Joseph T. Willett was born at Argyle, Washington County, New York, July 25, 1818.

The progenitor of the Willetts in this country was Thomas Willett, who came from England by way of Holland, and landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1630-1. His father and grandfather were prominent clergymen of the Church of England, and vigorous opponents of the Romish Church. Thomas Willett soon became an important man in the Colony, a member of the Governor's Council, and succeeded Miles Standish as Captain. His business was that of merchant, and he was well-known in New York, and when that city came into the hands of the English, he became, by choice of all, its first Mayor.



REV. JOSEPH T. WILLETT.

From the early days at Plymouth to the present time members of the Willett family have always been ready to fight, if necessary, for their country. The grandfather of the subject of this sketch was a soldier and officer in the Revolutionary War; and his father an officer in the War of 1812; several of his brothers were in the War for the Union. Of special note was Col. Marinus Willett, one of the heroes of the Revolution, afterward Mayor of New York City and when almost 90 years of age president of the electoral college.

Joseph T. Willett was educated in the schools of Washington County and at Union College, Schenectady, New York, where he graduated A. B. in 1840. Part of 1840 and 1841 was spent at Princeton Presbyterian Seminary, and October 14, 1841, he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Troy, New York. After more than 20 years of acceptable service as a Presbyterian pastor in New York he removed to Michigan in 1865. He served the Presbytery of Grand Rapids as a missionary for one year, the latter part of which was spent in Gratiot County, making St. Louis his central point, and which he first reached in the summer of 1866. In May, 1867, he removed his family to St. Louis which became his home until 1879.

"Father Willett," as the older church people loved to call him, organized or assisted at the organization of all the Presbyterian Churches in Gratiot, save that at St. Louis which only numbered 10 members when he arrived upon the ground. Always ready for any church work, never too tired to attend a funeral, or to give words of consolation to the sick, probably no

minister of any denomination ever held a warmer place in the hearts of the people of Gratiot. Mr. Willett was not only an able and useful minister of his church but he also esteemed it a privilege to serve the people when necessary in a secular capacity. He assisted in the organization of St. Louis Village, was a member of its first board of trustees and three times president. Mr. Willett removed to Terrace Park, Ohio, to live with his daughter, Mrs. Spooner, in 1879, at which place he deceased in 1884. He was married in 1840 to Cornelia A. Whallon, daughter of Hon. Reuben Whallon, an early settler of Essex County, New York, who represented nearly all of Northeastern New York in Congress and on the bench. Five children were born of this union: Elnora R., now widow of Judge William Spooner of Cincinnati, Ohio, living in Pasadena, California; Cora, who died in infancy; James S. Whallon, who died in 1864 at the age of 18; Charles J., now a resident of Pasadena, California, and Nettie, who deceased at St. Louis in 1872, aged about 20 years. Mrs. C. A. Willett, the wife and mother died April 24, 1889.

## WILLETT.

Charles J. Willett, son of Rev. Joseph T. Willett, was born June 5, 1849, at Essex, New York, on Lake Champlain. He came to Michigan with the family in 1865, graduated at Grand Rapids High School, 1867, and same month, June, arrived at St. Louis. For four years he attended the University of Michigan, graduating A. B. in 1871. The following year he had charge of the schools at Chelsea. On the close of the schools at Chelsea in June, 1872, he returned to St. Louis, acted for a time as deputy postmaster, then entered the Gratiot County Bank as clerk where he served for two years, and then organized with Messrs Saviers, Harrington and Wessels, what was known as the Merchants' and Farmers' Bank. This bank he managed for two years and was then admitted to the bar as an attorney, his study of the law having employed his spare time for five years. In 1873 Mr. Willett was elected treasurer of the village and served one term. At about the same time he helped to organize the St. Louis Union School District, and became one of the trustees, a place he occupied by successive elections for ten years. In 1878 he was elected president of St. Louis Village and served one term. In 1880 he was elected prosecuting attorney of Gratiot County and served two years. In 1883 he was elected Regent of the University on the state ticket and served for eight years. He was a candidate for Congress in 1882, in the "old" Eighth District and polled a large vote, but his opponent received the certificate of election.

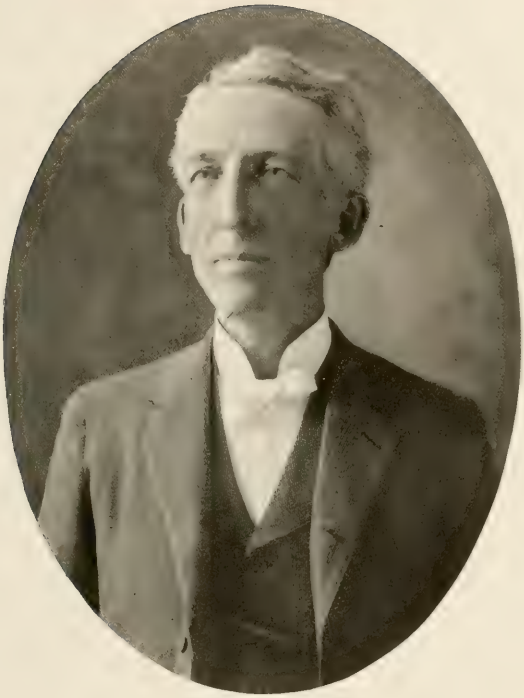
As a public man, Mr. Willett was well-known throughout the state as one who gave freely of his time and energy in advancing those interests which he deemed important, and also as one who faithfully and honorably served his fellow citizens in every office of trust.

Mr. Willett quickly made a reputation as an able, skillful and honorable attorney and counselor at law, building up a fine practice and managing much important litigation.

He removed with his family to Pasadena, California, in 1893. At that city he continues the practice of his profession with success and has occupied and still occupies many positions of honor and trust.

He is a past officer of all subordinate bodies in Masonry and has been presiding grand officer of the state in several, and is of the 33d degree.

Mr. Willett married Hattie Crossman in 1874. She was a sister of the "Crossman Bros.", formerly prominent merchants of St. Louis. Her parents were Abisha R. Crossman and Sophia Dunn Crossman, who were well-known residents of Welland County, Ontario.



HON. CHARLES J. WILLETT.

## ELWELL.

Col. John A. Elwell was born in Sweden, December 13, 1832. He came to America in his youth, and, locating in the City of New York, became prominent in business and official activities. In 1875 he came to St. Louis, this county, in the interest of the Chicago, Saginaw & Canada Railroad, which at that time extended from St. Louis to Lakeview. Getting possession of the road as lessee, he extended, improved and operated it until it was sold to the Detroit, Lansing & Northern in 1883. Later the combination became a part of the Pere Marquette system, and still remains so.



COL. JOHN A. ELWELL.

Col. Elwell was active in St. Louis' social and material advancement, aiding liberally in all matters calculated to serve her best interests. He was president of the village council in 1889 and '90. His death occurred at his residence—which, by the way, is the best in St. Louis, if not in the county—on the 28th of June, 1910. Mrs. Elwell, whose maiden name was Catharine N. Jenkins, died in St. Louis, April 27, 1898, aged 63 years. Children born to them, some of whom are now deceased, were Elizabeth A., Susan Anna, Helen L. and Amy E..

Col. Elwell rendered conspicuous service to his country in the Civil War, serving until ill-health compelled his resignation. For meritorious services he reached the rank of colonel. (See sketch of Dr. A. R. Wheeler.)

## FRITZ.

Francis Josiah Fritz, now a resident of Detroit, was born in Guilford Township, Medina County, Ohio, August 21, 1851, son of Philip and Barbara (Wideman) Fritz, the former born in Venango County, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1822, the latter born in Guilford Township, Medina County, Ohio, December 29, 1826. Jacob Fritz, grandfather of our subject, was born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1793, and settled in Medina County, Ohio, about the year 1835. He died in Newark, this county, May 3, 1882. Great grandfather, Martin Fritz, was a native of Germany, settling in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, when he migrated to this country.

Following are the names and birth-dates of the brothers and sisters of Francis J. Fritz: William O., October 11, 1852; Amos W., August 11, 1854; Jacob M., October 8, 1855; John E., March 13, 1857, died October 11, 1906; R. Jane (Fritz) Rasor, April 2, 1859; Rose A., November 4, 1860; Albert, December 6, 1862; M. Ellen (Fritz) Pressley, September 4, 1864; Florence A., April 17, 1869.

Francis J. Fritz came to Gratiot County with his parents in the spring of 1868, settling on section 36, Newark, where the father, Philip Fritz, died September 16, 1909. The mother died November 12, 1906. All of the family who are deceased are buried in the Fritz cemetery, originally a part of the farm.

December 30, 1877, Francis J. Fritz was married in Pompeii, this county, to M. Etta Barrus, who was born May 20, 1861, daughter of James C. and

Margaret A. (Grippin) Barrus, the former born in Onondaga County, N. Y., june 30, 1828, the latter born in the same county, June 3, 1838. Following are the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Etta Fritz: Clara J. (Barrus) Auten, born November 24, 1856; William H., born March 6, 1859, died in 1875; Ella, born September 28, 1863, died in the same year; Lodema A. (Barrus-Rice) Long, born September 25, 1865; David K., born March 7, 1868. James C. Barrus, the father, on coming to Michigan first settled in Greenbush Township, Clinton County, afterward moving to Pompeii, this county.

Francis J. Fritz and wife are the parents of children as follows: Grace B., born February 18, 1880, married Lee H. Smith, September 17, 1902. They have two children—Donald F., born February 22, 1906; Gretchen E., April 2, 1907. Sibyl L., September 25, 1882, married Earl P. Robinson, September 18, 1907. They have a son—Francis Edwin—born December 24, 1909. Vernie Z., born October 23, 1884, married Frank Kleinhans, July 7, 1909, who died at his home in St. Louis, November 18, 1911; a son—Rudolph F. Kleinhans—being born to them December 17, 1911. J. P. Denton Fritz, born August 22, 1886, married Agnes D. Heinze, September 16, 1908. They have a daughter—Dorotha Erica—born July 6, 1912. A. B. Erma Fritz, born June 18, 1889, lives with her parents.

The Fritz family, in belief and affiliation are Methodists. Francis J. Fritz served several terms as councilman in the City of St. Louis, and as supervisor of his ward. In early life he was a teacher in the county schools. Mrs. Etta Fritz is an official in the order of the L. O. T. M. M. The family removed to Detroit, August 1, 1912, where Mr. Fritz is now engaged in the grocery trade.

## HASTINGS.

The subject of this sketch, Frank Walter Hastings, (now deceased), was born near Seville, Ohio, December 29, 1854; oldest son of Sidney S. and Julia (Dix) Hastings, who were among the earliest settlers in St. Louis, Gratiot County. The father was born August 25, 1827, at Champion, N. Y. The mother was born August 4, 1832, near Seville, Ohio. They were married March 2, 1854, near Seville.



FRANK W. HASTINGS.

Sidney S. Hastings was a surveyor, and after his removal to the then wilds of Michigan, did much of the surveying needed in the new County of Gratiot, where he came with his young wife and child in the fall of 1855, settling in what was later known as St. Louis. Mrs. Hastings, with her ten-months old son in her arms making the journey from Saginaw to St. Louis in a canoe.

Here the son, Frank W., grew up, attending school and helping his father on the farm and at the business of surveying, some of the latter work being done on the first railroad to enter St. Louis. He also taught in the country schools of Gratiot and Isabella Counties before entering the M. A. C. at Lansing and during the vacations of his four-year course. After his graduation in 1879 he taught at Cedar Lake, Montcalm County, resigning his position there when he was appointed postmaster of St. Louis, in 1880.

Other children of Sidney S. Hastings and wife were Forest B., Russell M., Fannie E., Charles S., Harriet C. and Mary; the last mentioned dying in childhood.

October 25, 1881, Frank W. Hastings was united in marriage to Lillian Livingston, who was born January 11, 1857, near Albion, Mich. She was the oldest child of James R. and Charlotte (Fisk) Livingston. James R. Livingston was born September 17, 1833, near Lockport, N. Y. Charlotte Fisk was born August 16, 1834, near Gerard, Pennsylvania. They were married September 9, 1856, near Albion, Mich. In February, 1862, they came to Gratiot County, locating on a homestead on section 19, Pine River Township, where they lived until the spring of 1872, when they removed to St. Louis. Besides their daughter, Lillian, their children were James A., Lottie M. (Wood), and Ernest, who died in infancy.

Here, (in St. Louis), Lillian Livingston attended the village schools, beginning to teach at the age of sixteen years, and, with the exception of a few terms' attendance at school in St. Louis and one at Mt. Pleasant, teaching in the schools of Isabella, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties most of the time until her marriage eight years later.

Mr. and Mrs. Hastings were the parents of two children — Harold, born July 3, 1887, who died in infancy, and Carolyn L., born July 22, 1882, who grew up to womanhood, graduating from the St. Louis High School with the class of 1901, and from Alma College in the class of 1905. On the 24th of June, 1909, she was united in marriage to W. E. Brown, of Olathe, Colorado. To them was born a son, Barker Hastings Brown, June 24, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Hastings also had a foster son, Harmon C. Hastings, born July 4, 1888, whom they took into their home at the age of five years, and who was married to Miss Murl Wilkinson, of Ithaca, September 30, 1909. They have a daughter, Olive Lillian Hastings, born at their home in Corunna, Mich., April 7, 1912.

In the spring of 1886 Frank W. Hastings removed with his family to Lake City, Mich., where they lived three years and then returned to St. Louis and purchased the farm just outside the city limits, on the northeast, which has since been their home, with the exception of about three years spent in the City of St. Louis.

During their residence in and near St. Louis, they were identified with the church, social and club life of the city. Mrs. Hastings, who at the time of her marriage was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, later joined the First Baptist Church, of which she is still a member, having held the office of church clerk for the past three years. She has also been a member of the St. Louis W. C. T. U. for the past twenty years, and for thirteen years was a member of the St. Louis Monday Club. As a delegate from that club to the State Federation of Women's Club she was present at the opening of the Woman's Building of the M. A. C. She also served as a member of the St. Louis Board of Education, having been elected to that office in 1894.

Though a farmer, and at different times engaging in other business, Mr. Hastings' favorite occupation was that of his father — surveying. During the last few years of his life he spent much time in the study of civil engineering, especially municipal and railroad engineering. He helped to survey the electric line from Lansing to St. Johns in 1901. He assisted Parker Merrill during his term of office as drain commissioner of Gratiot County, and was deputy county surveyor under E. W. Redman. Later he was city surveyor of St. Louis. In 1906 he was elected county surveyor, and held that position at the time of his death.

Mr. Hastings united with the First Baptist Church of St. Louis in his early youth, contributed liberally to its support, and took an active part in all Church work. He also served as superintendent of the Sunday School for several years in the late '70s and early '80s. His death occurred at his home, June 9, 1908, in his 54th year, and was greatly regretted by a host of acquaintances and friends.

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## COOK.

Newell M. Cook, for many years a resident of St. Louis, Mich., was born in Henrietta, Lorain County, Ohio, April 16, 1839, and died in St. Louis, January 6, 1906. He was the son of Jesse and Sally (Waugh) Cook, the former born in the State of New York, February 29, 1808, dying in Wakeman, Ohio, May 3, 1880; the latter born November 16, 1816, in Oswego County, N. Y., and passing away at St. Louis, July 16, 1892.



NEWELL M. COOK.

Newell M. Cook was married January 16, 1865, to Cornelia M. Weeks, who was born May 18, 1840, in Brockport, N. Y., daughter of James and Henrietta (Shotzel) Weeks. James Weeks died in Kipton, Ohio, January 10, 1889; Mrs. Weeks died February, 1851, aged 36 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Newell M. Cook were the parents of two children—Jesse Walter, born November 4, 1865, in Rock County, Wis., dying at his parents' home in St. Louis, December 25, 1904, aged 39 years. The daughter, Grace, was born January 1, 1870, near Wakeman, Ohio. She was educated in the schools of St. Louis and Greenville, Mich., graduating from the latter. She was married November 1, 1893, to Rev. Alfred F. Hart, of the M. E. Church. Lawrence, Mich. is their present address. Four children have been born to them: Vera, born in Homer, February 19, 1896; Alta, born in St. Louis, October 24, 1902; Irene, born in St. Louis, April 4, 1904, died January 26, 1908; Kenneth, born in St. Louis May 18, 1906.

Jesse W. Cook was a young man of splendid talents and noble purpose in life, but was handicapped by poor health. For his health he traveled extensively in the West, and also spent a year in Honolulu. He never married.

Mr. Cook and wife first resided two years in Wisconsin, after which they returned to Ohio, and in 1870 removed to St. Louis, this county, where they resided until Mr. Cook's death in 1906. For several years he worked at the carpenter's trade, afterward going into the furniture business, in which he continued for 27 years. He was a reliable and trustworthy business man and citizen. He was chosen township treasurer of Bethany, city treasurer and alderman of St. Louis. He was a faithful member of the M. E. Church for 35 years, holding many official positions therein. In the new church edifice erected in St. Louis, a fine, memorial front window, placed there by his devoted wife, attests his worth, and will perpetuate the memory of his consistent Christian life to the coming generations.

Mrs. Cook, the faithful wife and true helpmeet, survives, a resident at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hart, and enjoying the respect of all who know her.

## ALDRICH.

George Sidney Aldrich, until recently, of St. Louis, was born in Clarence, Erie County, N. Y., September 3, 1853. His father, Rev. Sidney Aldrich, was a minister of the M. E. Church; was born in the Village of Framlingham, County of Suffolk, England. He came to America when he was 15 years old. Mr. Aldrich's mother, Lydia York, was of good old Yankee stock. Her father, Stephen York, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and at the outbreak of the war resided in Canada. He came over the border, however, and enlisted in the American army. For this his estates were confiscated. At that time he owned the land on which the Brock monument was afterward erected. His father was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. On his mother's side she was a descendant of the Franklins, her mother being a daughter of Ashael Franklin's daughter and a grandniece of Benjamin Franklin.



GEORGE S. ALDRICH.

Rev. Sidney Aldrich was married at Clarence, N. Y., to Lydia A. York. As a result of this marriage there were born six children who lived to grow up, only three of whom, however, are now living. The oldest son, Dr. O. W. Aldrich, at present resides in Columbus, Ohio. He was for a time professor in Bloomington (Ill.) Wesleyan University, and later in the Ohio State University at Columbus. He has received the following college degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws and Doctor of Civil Law. He served in the War of the Rebellion and has served two terms as president of the Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution. He has written several text books on legal subjects, and is now practicing law in Columbus. One other son, Frank A., served in the navy during the Civil War, and died about twelve years ago from the effects of his army experiences. One sister, Mrs. Anna Filley, resided in Reed City, Mich., until her death, which occurred August, 1911. One other sister, Mrs. Harriet A. Lewis, is now living in Orange, California.

When about eleven years of age, the subject of this sketch came with his parents to Jackson County, Mich., in the year 1863. He attended the high school in Jackson and graduated in the scientific course in 1872. He taught school one year and then entered the law department of the State University at Ann Arbor. He graduated therefrom in March, 1876, receiving the degree of L. L. B., and was admitted to practice law in April, 1876, at Jackson. Soon afterward he located in Vermontville, Eaton County, Mich., where he practiced law one year and then removed to Richmond, Virginia, and was there in a law and real estate office three years. He then returned to Jackson, Mich., and in 1880 was married at Jackson to Alice Angevine, with whom he is now living happily.

Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich have three children—Iva D., Vern S., and George Franklin. Iva D. is married and resides in Detroit. Her husband, Robert Gordon, is an architect. They have one son, George Donald Gordon, about four years old. Vern S. Aldrich is married and is now manager of the Winkler Manufacturer's plant at Windsor, Ontario. George Franklin Aldrich resides with his parents.

Mr. Aldrich came to St. Louis about twenty years ago and formed a law partnership with Newel Smith. They purchased the business and library of Charles J. Willett. Soon afterward Mr. Aldrich entered into a partnership with George W. Long, later register of deeds for Gratiot County. He has continuously practiced the profession of law from the time he removed to St. Louis to the present time. He also, in addition, has been in the real estate, loan and insurance business with Otto F. Mey as his business partner.

Mr. Aldrich takes a commendable interest in public affairs, and has filled many positions of trust and responsibility. In 1890 he was elected circuit court commissioner and served one term. In the fall of 1910 he was again elected to that office. He served the City of St. Louis three years as mayor—1901-03-04. He served two terms of three years each as a member of the Board of Education of St. Louis. He was five years president of the Union Telephone Co., one of the largest independent telephone companies in Michigan.

Mr. Aldrich has dealt extensively in real estate and at present is the owner of lands in several states, besides having large holdings in Michigan. He has taken several trips to the South land, has visited the Pacific Coast and the Canadian Northwest where he is interested as a land-owner. And he still believes that the United States is a little the best country that exists, to live in, and that Gratiot County is about the choicest portion of the great State of Michigan. For about a year he and his family have resided at Orange, California.

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## GIDDINGS.

Hon. Charles W. Giddings, now and for many years one of the leading attorneys of the county, was born February 9, 1847, in Sherman, Fairfield County, Conn., where his father, Jonathan C. Giddings, was born October 5, 1822. His mother, Mary E. (Conn) Giddings, was born in New Milford, Litchfield County, Conn., August 31, 1822.

In 1848 the elder Giddings removed with his family to Palmyra, Portage County, Ohio, where he resided until the spring of 1866, when he removed with his family, consisting of his wife and three sons—Chas. W., Hiram B. and Clarence—to St. Louis, Gratiot County, Mich. Jonathan C. Giddings was a veteran of the Civil War.

After coming to St. Louis, Jonathan C. Giddings purchased a 60-acre tract of land within the present limits of the city, which was subsequently platted and known as Giddings' Addition to St. Louis. The year following his arrival at St. Louis he was elected supervisor of Bethany, which office he held several years, as well as the office of justice of the peace. He was also a member of the St. Louis Village Council, and took great interest in the development and growth of the village. He was a man of superior ability, of much influence, and had many friends. He died January 14, 1883. His wife, Mary E., survived him for many years. She was a woman of strong personal character and integrity, and died beloved



HON. CHARLES W. GIDDINGS.

by all who knew her, at the old Giddings homestead in St. Louis, January 19, 1902. Hiram B. Giddings still resides in St. Louis. Clarence, soon after his mother's death, went to Pasadena, Cal., where he still resides.

Chas. W. Giddings, the subject of this sketch, acquired his education in the schools of Palmyra, Ohio. Soon after coming to St. Louis he took up the carpenter trade which he prosecuted, together with the furniture and undertaking business, until he began the study of law in 1873. He was admitted to the bar in March, 1877, and since that time has continued in the practice of his profession. During the years he gave to the study of law, he held the office of under-sheriff, and a portion of the time was also a deputy United States marshal. Since his admission to the bar he has at times been a member of the village and city councils, and for many years has been corporation attorney for the city. He was elected circuit court commissioner in 1878 and served two years. He represented his district as state senator during the years 1899 and 1900, and was a member of the State Board of Pardons in 1902 and '03.

When the City of St. Louis took over what is now known as Oak Grove Cemetery, Mr. Giddings was elected as one of the cemetery trustees, which position he held four years, during which period he spent much of his time in its improvement. On being elected mayor of the city in 1911, he resigned as chairman of the Board of Cemetery Trustees. During his first term as mayor he succeeded in bringing about negotiations which resulted in the city purchasing the splendid water power at that point. Few, if any people of the city have given more time or more conscientious work in behalf of municipal affairs of the city than has Mr. Giddings. He was re-elected mayor in the spring of 1912.

As a lawyer, Mr. Giddings has always enjoyed a good practice and the confidence of his clients, among whom are numbered some of the leading business men and farmers of the county. As an advisor he is considered safe and conservative, and has always secured and maintained the respect and regard of the courts. Politically Mr. Giddings has always been identified with the Republican party. In the earlier years, when campaigning was no easy matter, he was found on the stump speaking in behalf of the political principles in which he believed. In professional, official and political affairs his friends and his opponents have always known where to find him. He always makes his position and his beliefs plain; and he never wabbles. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

On November 26, 1871, Mr. Giddings was united in marriage to Miss Lovila Higbee, daughter of Horace Higbee. She was born September 14, 1852, in Youngstown, N. Y., of which state her parents were natives, migrating to Michigan in an early day. Mrs. Giddings has always been active in social and charitable matters, and has a large and loyal circle of acquaintances.

Mr. and Mrs. Giddings are living in their comfortable home, "Riverside Place", a part of the Giddings Addition to St. Louis, the city of their adoption. The latch-string is always out, to their many friends.

## WILCOX.

Rev. C. B. Wilcox, Ph. D., recently a resident and newspaper publisher of St. Louis, Mich., was born in Branch County, Mich., June 18, 1869. He was educated in the common schools of the state and graduated from the Petoskey public schools in 1886. He attended the Northwestern University and received the degree of Ph. D. from Taylor University in 1903. Join-

ing the North Indiana Conference of the M. E. Church in 1891, he rose rapidly in rank, serving some of the largest churches in the Conference.

In 1909 Dr. Wilcox came to St. Louis and purchased the St. Louis Independent, one of the leading newspapers of the county. This he successfully conducted until the spring of 1912, when he sold out to E. H. Mudge the present proprietor of the Independent. His retirement from newspaper work in Gratiot County was regretted by his many friends.

In the summer of 1913 Dr. Wilcox purchased the Grass Lake News, a long-established paper at Grass Lake, Jackson County, Mich., and is now engaged in the work of publishing and building up a first-class and thoroughly up-to-date weekly newspaper. The citizens of his adopted town will find him a valuable addition to the business and social interests of the community.

## WRIGHT.

Aciel F. Wright, for more than forty years, and at the present time, a resident of St. Louis, was born in Parma Township, Jackson County, Mich., August 15, 1846, son of Deodatus E. and Sarena (Fox) Wright, the former a native of Massachusetts, born April 25, 1812, the latter born in Wayne County, N. Y., in 1816. They were the parents of ten children — seven sons and three daughters. Those still living are James K., Charlotte E. Pierce, Albert L., Philo D., L T and Aciel F., our subject. The father came to Michigan with his family in 1837, settling in Parma Township, where he passed the remainder of his life, one of the township's most respected and prominent citizens.



ACIEL F. WRIGHT.

The subject of this sketch did pioneer duty on his father's farm, aiding in clearing it of timber and otherwise improving it. He attended school winters until he was eighteen years old. In the winter of 1869 he came to St. Louis, and, in company with his brother, since deceased, opened an establishment for the sale of agricultural implements, continuing in the business until the death referred to, after which he became sole proprietor. He by degrees changed the character of his business, and owned and operated a hardware store for several years. Later he sold out to Hughes Brothers, and accepted the position of traveling salesman for the sale of engines, saw mills and threshing machines. This business he has followed for years, and at the present time he is traveling salesman for the Port Huron Engine & Thresher Company, one of the largest and best firms of the kind in the whole country.

Mr. Wright has held nearly all of the offices in the city—mayor, clerk, alderman, supervisor, etc. He was early interested in fire protection matters, being prominent in the organization of the State Firemen's Association. He was for many years prominent in the St. Louis Fire Department as secretary, foreman and chief, being the first chief and holding the position several years. In recognition of his good work, he has been the recipient of several valuable presents from the department; choice souvenirs valued very highly by him. When the hand engines were in vogue and firemen's tournaments were the fashion, the St. Louis Department was at the front, under the

leadership of Mr. Wright and his able and enthusiastic assistants, and prize-winning was the prevailing custom with the company; notably the tournaments of 1882 and 1883 at Charlotte and Marshall, respectively.

Mr. Wright has been prominent in secret fraternal society matters; one of the prime movers in the organization of the Knights of Pythias at St. Louis, of the Royal Arcanum and other orders.

Mr. Wright was married to Rebecca Geiger, at Parma, November 25, 1866. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1844, daughter of Daniel R. and Elizabeth (Lachman) Geiger, both natives of Pennsylvania. Those of the family still living are Daniel R. Geiger and Mrs. Rebecca Wright.

There were two children born to Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Wright. The oldest, Sarena, died in infancy. Harriet L., born November 18, 1875, was married September 30, 1896, to Dr. Dee H. Andrews. They reside in St. Louis, and have one child—Mary June—born July 18, 1902.

## ROUNDS.

David C. Rounds, now deceased, was for fifty years a well-known and highly respected citizen of Northern Gratiot. He was born in Dartmouth, (now New Bedford), Massachusetts, September 19, 1836. His father was Joseph Rounds, who was born in Rhode Island, March 4, 1785, and died in Massachusetts August 6, 1862. In early life he was a sailor on the high seas.

Our subject's mother was Mary (Remington) Rounds, born in Rhode Island; she died September 23, 1866. There were seven children born to Joseph and Mary Rounds—Joseph, John, Mary, Sarah, Abbie, Andrew and David C.

At the age of 18 David C. Rounds commenced business on his own account. He was engaged seven years in Louisiana and other places in the South, getting out live-oak timber for ship-building purposes. In 1861 he came to Gratiot, locating on section 36, Wheeler. After a period of eight years he changed his residence to section 2, Lafayette, where he remained engaged in clearing the forests and in general agricultural work until 1902, when he sold his farming possessions and removed to St. Louis, this county.

Mr. Rounds was married August 22, 1870, to Matilda McKenna, who died in the following October. June 4, 1871, he married Mrs. Sarah V. Cornell, widow of Daniel P. Cornell. She is the daughter of the late Bernard Fox, one of the well-known pioneers of Bethany, and was born August 9, 1841, in Steuben County, N. Y. She was an early teacher in Bethany Township, teaching the first school at the Bethany Indian Mission, the mission being at the time under the management of Rev. E. G. H. Meissler. She is one of a family of ten, the children of Bernard and Dorinda (Kennedy) Fox, as follows: Hiero B., Elizabeth A., Peter W., Sarah V., Eleanor, Clarence K., Dorinda, Evangelia E., Leander M., Dewitt C.

Sarah V. Fox was married to Daniel P. Cornell at her father's home in Bethany, May 12, 1863, Rev. E. G. H. Meissler performing the ceremony. As the wife of Mr. Cornell she was the mother of three children—Bertha A., Ray and Daniel O. Bertha died October 10, 1890.

In 1872, while a resident of Lafayette, the school house in Mr. Rounds' district—No. 4—was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Rounds, with two other residents, reorganized the district, the other two being Henry Summerscales and George Bott. The new district took in seven sections and had

only the three families mentioned. The total number of children was eight. The three men held a school meeting, elected themselves to the three offices and voted for the erection of a new school house, which was built forthwith at a cost of $550; no small expenditure for a district with three families and with only eight children. The first school in the new district was taught by Miss Belle Watson. Mr. Rounds held the office of director nine years, and afterward was assessor five years.

Mr. Rounds' home in St. Louis was located in the pleasant residence section on the North Side. There he and his estimable wife were quietly passing the closing years of their lives, in the enjoyment of a comfortable home and a reasonable competency, and with the respect and esteem of a congenial community. This pleasant condition was rudely shattered on the morning of December 18, 1911, by the sudden death of Mr. Rounds, who, for some time had been in failing health with heart trouble. Heart failure was given as the cause of his sudden death.

Mr. Rounds was an earnest and conscientious citizen; in politics a Democrat. Mrs. Rounds, who continues her residence at the old home, is a no less earnest and conscientious member of the Baptist Church.

## LA CLEAR.

Isaac G. La Clear, of St. Louis, Mich., was born in Oneida County, N. Y., February 2, 1840. His father, Shubael La Clear was born in Weston, N. Y., September 8, 1808, and his mother, Anna (Prosser) La Clear, also a native of New York State, was born in June, 1820. They were married in 1839, and became the parents of six children as follows: Isaac G., Peter W., Oscar, Byron, Alice Ann, Francis. Isaac and Oscar are the only ones now living, the latter being a resident of Los Angeles, California. Shubael La Clear, the father, removed to Michigan in 1868, settling in Clinton County. He afterward removed to Ashley, this county, where he died in April, 1893. Anna La Clear, the wife and mother, died in Utica, N. Y., in the year 1903.

Isaac G. La Clear, our principal subject, was married at Carthage, N. Y., July 4, 1865, to Miss Caroline Draper. Two children born to this union, died in infancy, and the wife and mother, Caroline La Clear, passed away in May, 1873. Mr. La Clear was married (second) to Lucinda C. Hoopingarner, in Paulding County, Ohio, June 20, 1875. She is a daughter of Michael and Amanda Hoopingarner. One son has resulted from this union—Francis J. La Clear—born in Paulding County, Ohio, April 10, 1876. He was married to Esther Butts, in St. Louis, Mich., April 20, 1895. They now reside in Grand Rapids, where Mr. La Clear is secretary and manager of the Grand Rapids Cooperage Co.

Isaac G. La Clear came to Michigan in 1869, settling in St. Johns, June 13th of that year. After a residence of two years in St. Johns, he removed to Ohio where he remained four years, and then, in 1875, came to Gratiot County and this has been his place of residence ever since. His trade was that of a hoopmaker, a business which he followed many years, but for the past 15 years he has been engaged in the real estate, insurance and collection business, and is now located in the building formerly the office of the late T. W. Whitney, attorney.

Mr. La Clear was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company C, 94th N. Y. Vet. Vol. Infantry, reaching the rank of sergeant in his company. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is commander of the St. Louis Post; has also served five years as street commissioner of St. Louis. He and his estimable wife are members of the M. E. Church, and stand high in the esteem of the entire community.

**George L. Patch** came to St. Louis in 1866 and was for several years engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was genial, somewhat inclined to be "sporty", and in a way was decidedly popular. He was elected sheriff in 1876 and again in 1878. His death occurred May 24, 1901 at the age of 60 years.

**Theodore H. Foland** came to St. Louis in the early '60s and was for about 30 years a leading citizen engaged in various lines of merchandising. A man of good ability, shrewdness and geniality; consequently was popular. He was village marshal in 1872. Tis death occurred at Pinconning, Mich., May 8, 1895, aged about 60 years.

**John Christman,** born in Tonawanda, N. Y., June 20, 1807, came to St. Louis in 1867. He engaged in the grocery business several years. He took much interest in official matters and was an active, energetic and somewhat eccentric police officer several years, generally as constable, but two years as village marshal. One of his strong characteristics was his uncompromising honesty. He died December 27, 1892, aged 84.

**James F. Newton** was prominently connected with St. Louis interests from 1866 to the time of his death, a period of over 40 years. He came from St. Johns, Mich., where he had been several years in business. He early became the owner of the tract of land constituting the southeast portion of St. Louis, lying east of Main Street and south of Washington Avenue, and his time was devoted to its improvement and exploitation, with merchandising as a side issue. In the early days his great ambition was to make his corner the principal center of trade, and he spared no pains to carry his point. His energy, activity and aggressiveness, not to say "nerve", were unlimited, and for a time he was comparatively successful, building up a business section of gratifying proportions and with a large aggregation of business. At the height of the excitement incident to the discovery of the magnetic water and the rush of people to take advantage of its healing powers, Mr. Newton erected the three-story hotel building—the Eastman House—known far and near as one of the best in central Michigan. Conducted by some of the best hotel men in the country—William H. Taylor, John C. Truesdell and others—it was extremely popular, did an immense business and was a distinct credit to the town and of great value to its business interests. That busy business section of 35 and 40 years ago has seen changes. The Presbyterian Church building has long occupied the site of the old Eastman House, and most of the active and prosperous business of the locality has long since sought and secured quarters in other and more advantageous sections of the town. Mr. Newton died February 11, 1905, aged 83.

**Truman W. Whitney,** attorney, came to St. Louis in 1874, and in the course of time became one of the most prominent members of his profession in this part of the state. In Gratiot County official life he served as prosecuting attorney two terms. He had several characteristics that greatly marred his usefulness and popularity—a fiery temper and an abrupt, harsh and overbearing manner. However, he was an able lawyer and won admirers by his unique and unusual personality. He died quite unexpectedly October, 1909, in Oregon, where he was looking after some property interests, at the age of 63 years. Buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis.

**James W. Bernard** settled in St. Louis in 1879, and soon took an advanced position as a business man and a citizen at all times interested in the well-being of the community. He passed away at his fine home on Center Street, November 3, 1911, aged 67 years. He is survived by his wife and their two sons, Fred and Clare, both prominent business men of the city.

**Jacob M. Kemp** located on a farm a few miles north of St. Louis in 1857 where he remained until 1873 when he came to the village and there spent the remainder of his life, engaged first in the hotel business, later in grocery trade. He was genial, jolly and popular with all. He died November 24, 1891, aged 80 years. His son, Joseph W. Kemp, was his associate in business many years, finally succeeding him, and was a popular and reliable citizen. He died April 29, 1896, aged 62 years.

**Samuel J. Scott,** the well known attorney, settled in St. Louis in 1870 and from that time was closely identified with the interests of his town and county. He was his party's candidate several times for county honors, but being in the minority party he met the fate of many other good, and ambitious citizens. He passed away September 10, 1903, aged 70 years.

**Aaron Wessels** came to St. Louis in 1865, and for more than 30 years was one of her foremost business men, engaged in a multiplicity of enterprises, first and last; anything that promised returns, from the erection of big brick blocks to patiently and industriously picking shingle nails, one by one, out of the discarded shingles shoveled from an old roof. He had many good qualities but circumstances or poor management or both brought reverses in spite of his industry. He died about January 1, 1906, aged 70 years.

**John A. Wilcox** was a resident of St. Louis 33 years, coming in 1869. No citizen stood higher in the general esteem of the community; a man of good education, superior ability and strict integrity. He served as village councilman and assessor, and as justice of the peace for Bethany Township. His death occurred (about) May 25, 1902, at the age of (about) 78 years.

**Charles B. Kress** came to St. Louis in the spring of 1866 and for about ten years was a leading spirit in business and official matters. He was a contractor and builder, and some of his work still remains to prove his skill. In 1868 he built and owned what was at that time the most pretentious block in town—the Kress Block, a three-story structure about 60 by 100 feet on the ground, northeast corner of Mill and Saginaw Streets; later called the Drury Block, and destroyed in the big fire of March 24, 1888. He was school director several years and did good service in that early day for the cause of education, locally.

**John L. Evans,** of the firm of Holcomb & Evans, proprietors of the town's most extensive landed and business interests for several years, succeeding Henry L. Holcomb in 1867, and being again succeeded by him in 1873, was an energetic, autocratic citizen with some degree of popularity. At the incorporation of the village in 1868, he was chosen president and was re-elected the next spring. He was Democractic candidate for state senator in 1872, and for auditor general of the state in 1874, being defeated each time by Gen. Ralph Ely, another Gratiot County man.

**Hiram Harrington** came to St. Louis in the spring of 1866 and engaged in mercantile trade, continuing in the business well along toward the time of his death. He served his village well in various capacities—street commissioner in the early days, and treasurer in 1879 and '80. He was Democratic candidate for county treasurer in 1870. In pushing his business enterprises he was instrumental in promoting the interests of the village variously, the most important instance probably being the erection —in1881—of the fine three-story block, southwest corner of Mill and Saginaw Streets, known as the Harrington House Block. Mr. Harrington died November 30, 1901, aged 65 years.

**Ervin H. Ewell** came to St. Louis in the spring of 1866, engaging in mercantile business in partnership with H. Harrington, later on as an individual dealer. Still later he was engaged in various business vocations and projects, one of his latest being the platting of a large addition to the city cemetery, thus aiding materially in making Oak Grove Cemetery one of the most elaborate and up-to-date burial places in central Michigan, improved and beautified as it has been in late years by the commendable enterprise of St. Louis' citizens. Mr. Ewell served in some local positions of more or less importance, was postmaster during President Harrison's administration, and was county superintendent of the poor several years. He died April 13, 1903, aged 66 years.

**Lemuel Saviers** became a resident of St. Louis in 1874, and was thereafter engaged in banking. He secured distinction as a Civil War soldier, member of the 26th Mich. Infantry, and was advanced to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was quartermaster general of Michigan in the administration of Gov. Chas. M. Crosswell. His death occurred August 19, 1912, at the age of 72 years.

**Parker Merrill** was born October 6, 1845, in Medina County, Ohio, and died at his home three miles south of St. Louis, May 6, 1913. He was for many years a resident of St. Louis, and ranked high in the community. He served as village president in 1885, and as mayor of the city in 1897 and '98. At the October session of the board of supervisors in 1903, he was appointed county drain commissioner, and served two years. He was by profession a civil engineer; an all-around good citizen.

**James Paddock** became a resident of St. Louis in the fall of 1868, went into real estate and insurance business, studied law with Jas. K. Wright and was admitted to the bar. He remained a resident of Gratiot County about 20 years and was one of its most popular citizens; in some ways he was one of her best citizens. He was elected township clerk of Pine River the first spring of his residence in the county, was elected justice in 1870, and was re-elected three times thereafter. He srved in the village government as clerk and councilman. He was elected judge of probate in 1880 and re-elected in 1884, leaving the county at the end of his last term; now and for many years a resident of Detroit.

**Jonathan C. Giddings** died January 15, 1883, aged 60. He came to St. Louis in 1866; ranked among the leading citizens, holding various offices in the village and in the township of Bethany. Was justice of the peace many years, and supervisor eight years, several years chairman of the board of supervisors; village councilman and assessor.

George Luce came to St. Louis in 1855; was a soldier in the Civil War; a man of intelligence and with positive convictions. He lived to the great age of 99 years and 16 days, passing away October 7, 1911. Moses Sanborn was one of the voters in Pine River Township in 1856. He and his son, Herbert, both served in the Civil War, and both returned to St. Louis, where they were well-known citizens. Moses Sanborn died December 21, 1872, at the age of 47. Nathan Vliet came in 1855, settling in Pine River Township, near St. Louis, with his large family of sons and daughters. The sons were James, Joseph, John, Jackson and Samuel, all of whom are now deceased excepting James, who still resides in St. Louis (See sketch of S. A. Vliet.) Hiram U. Woodin, son of Abraham Woodin one of the first to settle in Pine River Township, was justice of the peace several years, and village clerk. In 1888 he was the Fusion candidate for judge of probate; now a resident of Seattle. Silas C. and James D. Crossman were leading merchants during the 70s; the former was superintendent

of the poor. Jerome P. and William Kroll were among the best-known citizens in the 70s, the former as landlord of the Eastman House for a time and village president in 1875, and both as lumbermen. John W. Tackabury came in 1865 and was in the hardware trade several years; member of the village council in 1870. James W. Wessels was an early merchant, member of the first village council. Rev. Randall Faurot, Disciple minister, of great dignity, force and piety; was a member of the first village council. Died October 10, 1882, aged 55 years. John Fields and son Marshall, leading grocers for more than 30 years, and still in the business, were early settlers in Pine River Township. Henry M. and Andrew N. Martin, residents since 1866, have been and still are active and useful citizens, both connected with village official affairs at various times, the latter serving several years as a county superintendent of the poor. Frank C. Seymour was in mercantile trade several years, was village treasurer in '75, and was Democratic candidate for county treasurer in '78; now a resident of Chicago. William Henry Rennels was a popular druggist in St. Louis for amout 30 years; was connected with the village government at different times; died November 26, 1907, aged 66 years. Andrew J. Harrington, one of the earliest and most popular settlers, engaged variously in manufacturing and other useful avocations; an old soldier and an enthusiastic musician, a trait transmitted to his sons, George and Frank. John H. Suydam and sons, J. Frank, M. Burdette and Ira D., came in 1865, the latter the Democratic candidate for register of deeds in 1906. (See sketch of Dr. J. F. Suydam.) Jacob Burnham, a man of giant strength and endurance, was an early resident and a familiar figure, village marshal in 1871. Stephen Ostrander, still a popular resident, came in 1866; has been prominent officially, especially as supervisor from the first ward six terms John P. Madden, justice of the peace many years, Fusion candidate for judge of probate in 1892; died August 17, 1901, aged 61. Hiram B. Giddings came in 1866; a leading grocer; city treasurer several terms. Truman W. Whitney, leading attorney; prosecuting attorney, elected in 1876 and '78. Elias Sutphin came in 1870; still actively engaged as contractor and builder. George G. Nichols, about 40 years the leading jeweler and still in active business. Wolcott L. Stebbins came to Bethany in 1859 and to St. Louis in '64; in boot and shoe trade, and a justice of the peace; died January 20, 1895, aged 73. John Shelt, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars, came to St. Louis in '72; was county superintendent of the poor in the early 80s; died March 12, 1911, aged 85. Charles E. Going, an early settler; a Civil War victim. Zachary V. Payne came in 1869; taught in the schools and afterward was a leading merchant many years; removed to Ashley and was village president in 1900; was killed by a train in Texas about 1907. Albert D. Rust founded a monthly paper called the Michigan State Advance, in April 1869. Dr. Hilem E. Branch settled in St. Louis in 1869; still practicing. Marquis H. and William H. Tuttle were early druggists, both now deceased. Eli S. Brooke, was landlord of the "Loder House" in 1866; came from Arcada Township where he was an early settler; died August 23, 1905, aged 70. Charles H. Crandall, came in the early '70s; mayor in 1896 and 1902; Fusion candidate for register of deeds in 1886; still a resident. James O. Hilton, a leading business man many years; village president in 1891; died January 19, 1913, aged nearly 78. Myron E. Hull, teacher, county school examiner, St. Louis City councilman. Jere. Marks came in 1870, a leading builder; village councilman and marshal; supervisor of third ward several years; first superintendent of construction of new court house in 1900. Elias C. Phillips, mayor in 1910.

Frank G. Kneeland, banker and real estate dealer; was village treasurer in 1881 and '82. Albert H. Lowry, came in 1873; held various positions in township, village and city government, and was register of deeds in 1900 and '02. George W. Long was city treasurer in 1900 and '01, and register of deeds in 1908 and '10. Carlton Abbott came about 1870; was township clerk of Pine River; marshal of St. Louis. Carlton Smith, a leading grocer; was city marshal four years, and is present marshal. Charles Morrow was city marshal five years. William H. Caswell served five years as city marshal. Clarence Giddings, Republcan candidate for sheriff in 1896. Geo. H. Scriver, came in 1872 and for more than 30 years was a leading hardware merchant. An energetic and loyal Presbyterian, with some individual characteristics. His death occurred May 18, 1905, at the age of 75. Charles A. Throop, city clerk five years, and Democrat candidate for county clerk in 1900. Frank Deline, serving his seventh term as city clerk. Chas. R. Holliday, prominent citizen over 20 years, died June 17, 1895, aged 63; member of the village council, supervisor of Pine River, village marshal, postmaster for a time in Cleveland's first administration. James Henry died August 30, 1907, aged 82. He came to St. Louis in 1882, purchasing the mill property of H. L. Holcomb, which he operated till his death. A first-class and popular man. John M. Church was postmaster several years; son Bayard A., being connected with A. B. Darragh's bank many years; Frank Thedgar, bank cashier; Newel Smith, Wheeler supervisor and justice many years, and connected with St. Louis city government, present representative in the state legislature; A. A. Andrus, leading grocer; Forest B. Hastings, first white child born in St. Louis; J. C. Haines, city official and merchant; A. H. Olmstead, the noted Pacal Balm man; Henry Randolph, leading druggist; A. S. McIntyre, leading druggist; Carl and Fred Schultheiss.

Here the list of good men stops for the want of space.

## DEATHS OF WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS.

**Andrews, Dr. Willis P.,** Oct. 13, 1913, aged 75 years. Proprietor of the Park Hotel and of the Magnetic Springs from the year 1880. He was a very popular citizen. Had been in feeble health for six years. His body was cremated at Detroit.

**Bennett, James,** at his home in St. Louis, Nov. 3, 1881, at the age of 60 years.

**Burgess, Mrs. Virginia,** the estimable wife of Jas. W. Burgess, and daughter of John Christman, May 7, 1877, at the comparatively early age of 31 years.

**Burgess, Lafayette,** May 4, 1888, at the age of 66 years.

**Bell, John,** Oct. 18, 1889, aged 57. An active and enthusiastic fireman.

**Bamborough, Thomas,** July 11, 1895, aged 59. A resident of Gratiot since 1865—several years in Alma, nine years in Maryland, and the last eight years of his life, in St. Louis. A good citizen; served as justice of the peace and clerk in Arcada.

**Bearss, Thomas,** Aug. 24, 1892, at the age of 73 years.

**Burgess, Mrs. David,** Nov. 24, 1895, aged 79. Came to St. Louis in 1868.

**Bartlett, Rev. Otis R.,** June 12, 1897. Came to the county in 1856, and was a well-known expounder of the gospel; somewhat crude and eccentric, but esteemed.

**Burgess, David,** July 12, 1902, aged 85; a resident for 34 years, proprietor of a city meat market in connection with his son James A. Burgess.

**Burns, Hugh,** Nov. 11, 1907, aged 84 years; father of Mayor John Burns.

**Branch, Mrs. Minnie M.,** wife of Dr. Hilem E. Branch, March 25, 1910, aged 62 years. They were among the esteemed arrivals of 1869.

**Burgess, Mrs. Adaline,** wife of Jas. A. Burgess at her home in St. Louis, June 19, 1911, aged 57. She was a respected resident from 1873.

**Broadhead, Wickham,** at Saginaw, Dec. 6, 1911, aged 76. An old soldier, resident of St. Louis several years where he served five years as justice of the peace.

**Burton, Marshall,** at his home in St. Louis, May 3, 1913, at the age of about 75 years. He settled in St. Louis in 1866. A first-class citizen.

**Bush, James E.,** at his home in Vernon, Mich., August, 1913, aged 83. A furniture dealer in St. Louis many years.

**Crossman, Mrs.,** mother of Crossman Bros., St. Louis merchants, and of Mrs. Chas. J. Willett; March 8, 1876.



WASHINGTON AVENUE—JAMES K. WRIGHT'S RESIDENCE AT LEFT.

**Christman, Eber B.,** Jan. 20, 1879, aged 30; an upright young man, son of John Christman, coming to St. Louis in 1867.

**Case, Mrs. Louisa,** good old mother of Mrs. J. R. Cheesman and of Mrs. Sam. Gordon; Feb. 2, 1885, aged about 75 years.

**Clymer, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of Isaac Clymer, Feb. 7, 1886, aged 72; pioneers of 1855.

**Christman, Mrs. Jane,** wife of John Christman, January 27, 1886, aged 73 years.

**Currier, Moses,** July 31, 1887, aged 58.

**Charles, Geo. L.,** Feb. 16, 1895, aged about 35 years; a popular druggist.

**Cook, Mrs. Sally,** July 13, 1892, at the age of 76 years. Mother of Newell M. Cook and of Mrs. Ezekiel Arnold.

**Clark, Ethan Allen,** Oct. 28, 1894, aged 65. A pioneer in northern Emerson.

**Canfield, Increase B.,** at his home in Oakley, Mich., June 12, 1908, aged 73; an old soldier who came to St. Louis in 1869.

**Cook, Newell M.,** January, 1906, aged 66. A resident here 35 years. (See sketch.)

**Cameron, Donald,** in Windsor, Canada, July 2, 1909, aged about 75 years; well-known resident of St. Louis many years.

**Cowles, Geo. W.,** Jan. 31, 1913, aged 80 years. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and came to St. Louis in 1899.

**Cook, Artemas,** Feb. 18, 1913, aged 65 years. He came here in 1867, and has ever since been a resident, standing well as a citizen and neighbor. He is survived by his wife, who was Frances A., daughter of the late John Christman, and three children—Seth Cook, Mrs. H. R. Tyroler and Mrs. Chas. A. Throop.

**Chase, John G.,** Aug. 29, 1913, aged 77 years. An early settler here and an old soldier.

**Dix, Miss Hattie E.,** Nov. 14, 1867, aged 26; sister of Mrs. S. S. Hastings.

**Dillon Ira G.,** March 12, 1884, aged 48; at his home in Juniatta, Nebraska. A respected and popular resident of St. Louis from 1867 to '71; a carpenter by trade.

**Drury, Dewitt C.,** about Nov. 5, 1886, aged about 55. A leading grocer of St. Louis eight years.

**Doxey, Mrs. Hannah M.,** wife of W. R. Doxey, Aug. 29, 1888, aged 58. Though surrounded by many depressing conditions, she won and held the respect of all, by reason of her intelligence, her energy and her upright character.

**De Cou, Henry,** Feb. 1, 1890, aged 54.

**Deline, Albert,** February, 1892, aged about 55; a well-known mason by trade, a genial and popular citizen.

**Doxey, W. Riley,** Oct., 1902, aged 75; a pioneer blacksmith.

**Darcey, Mrs.,** wife of Henry Darcey, March, 1908, aged 76. They settled in St. Louis in the early '70s and were in the front rank of the town's best citizens. Mrs. Darcey was for many years the leading milliner of the place.

**Drury, Mrs. Sarah B.,** widow of D. C. Drury, February 27, 1910, aged 81; at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. H. Lowry. A leader in church and temperance work.

**Duff, Dr. Thos. G.,** veterinary surgeon, April 27, 1910, at the age of 51 years. He settled in St. Louis in 1889 and was a popular and useful citizen; supervisor of the third ward six years, beginning with the year 1899.

**Doan, David,** at the home of his daughter in Kalamazoo, February, 1912, aged 81. Resided many years in St. Louis, coming from Pompeii.

**Doty, Cornelius,** April 26, 1912, aged 65 years; one of St. Louis' best citizens, settling there in 1873.

**Ewell, Sylvanus,** June 2, 1884, at the age of 73; father of Ervin H. Ewell and of Mrs. Henry M. Martin.

**Eager, Jas. S.,** Jan. 24, 1892, aged about 65; an active resident for over 30 years.

**Elwell, Mrs. Catharine N.,** devoted wife of Col. J. A. Elwell, April 27, 1898, aged 63 years.

**Earl, Albert,** Aug. 29, 1902, aged 68. One of St. Louis' enthusiastic firemen, and a useful citizen generally.

**Eager, Mrs. Sarah M. (Going),** June 2, 1906, aged 72; esteemed widow of J. S. Eager.

**Every, Isaac L.,** at his home in Belding, Mich., Sept. 20, 1912, aged 73 years. About 40 years a resident of St. Louis, removing to Belding a year before his death.

**Farmer, Russell A.,** March 5, 1900, aged 87; one of the sturdy pioneers.

**Fishbeck, Levi,** Feb. 25, 1903, aged 75; a soldier and an early settler.

**Foster, Fred,** at his home in Gladwin, September 24, 1908, aged about 43, son of Jas. H. Foster, prominent merchant of St. Louis in the '70s and '80s.

**Fralick, Isaac,** April 9, 1910, aged 95 years. A kindly man who could claim all as his friends.

**Ferris, Albert G.,** Aug. 17, 1872, aged 62. A member of St. Louis Village Council in 1870.

**Fox, Frederick,** June 14, 1886, aged 57. An energetic pioneer.

**Fry, James,** Feb. 20, 1894, at the age of 87 years. One of the quiet but reliable pioneers.



WASHINGTON AVENUE EAST—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN DISTANCE.

**Fields, Mrs. Julia (Depue),** wife of John Fields, Jan. 9, 1890, aged 54. A sturdy and faithful pioneer wife.

**Farmer, Edward,** son of Russell Farmer, April 27, 1891, aged 45.

**Foster, John N.,** at his home in Ypsilanti, February 28, 1910, aged 66. A former St. Louis editor and a confirmed politician.

**Fleming, Rev. Daniel C.,** at Charlotte, Mich., March 18, 1912, aged 64 years. Son of Chas. M. Fleming; pioneers of Pine River and St. Louis.

**Fleming, Charles L.,** at his home in Madison, Wis., June 14, 1912, aged 70 years. Son of Chas. M. Fleming, and several years a St. Louis merchant.

**Faunce, Calvin P.,** Dec. 31, 1912, aged 76 years. Came to St. Louis in 1877, and was a reliable and popular citizen. He left a wife and seven children.

**Graham, Mrs.,** wife of Jared B. Graham, editor of the St. Louis Herald; August 26, 1876.

**Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel,** lost three children as follows: Charles, September 22, 1873, aged 4 years; Perley, September 23, 1873, aged 3 years; Frank, September 24, 1873, aged 7 years.

**Graham, Chas. B.,** Dec. 17, 1877, aged 29. An exceptionally upright and popular young man.

**Giddings, Mrs.,** wife of Hiram B. Giddings, July 18, 1883. Her death caused sorrow among many friends.

**Gruett, Mrs. Mary,** April 19, 1888, aged 87 years. Prominently identified with the Moravian Indian Mission of Bethany, at "Indian Town", one and one-half miles down the river from St. Louis. It was the home of the Gruetts. The place, as a mission, is now merely a tradition. It was for many years the center of civilzation—or half-civilization—for a great scope of country surrounding. Mrs. Gruett was a resident there for more than 40 years.

**Greely, James,** February 10, 1897, aged 82 years.

**Garbutt, Wm. C.,** May 14, 1897, aged 47. He was a merchant, and was connected with the village government as village clerk in 1880, and with Bethany Township as treasurer in 1881 and '82.

**Giddings, Mrs. Mary E.,** widow of J. C. Giddings, January 19, 1902, at the age of 79 years. A woman of exceptionally fine and agreeable mind and very popular in the community.

**Gordon, Samuel,** April 19, 1901, aged 63. He came to St. Louis in 1855; a genial, popular man with a host of friends.

**Griffith, Daniel,** May 18, 1907, aged 87. Came to Gratiot in 1856, first settling in Pine River, removing to Emerson in 1861 where he carved out a home in the wilderness. His last few years were spent as a resident of St. Louis.

**Goffe, Wm.,** March 20, 1910, aged 90 years; located in Pine River in 1876, after a few years removing to Bethany, then to St. Louis.

**Goffe, Mrs. Zilpha (Burt),** in St. Augustine, Florida, April 11, 1911, aged 82. A woman of much energy, and with some poetical talent; widow of Wm. Goffe, and sister of Hon. Wellington R. Burt, of Saginaw.

**Gates, Mrs. Jennie,** widow of Aaron Gates and daughter of Philo Hall; settled in St. Louis in 1868. Mrs. Gates died Dec. 29, 1910, at the age of 76 years.

**Gould, J. Eugene,** Nov. 18, 1912, aged 58.

**Grice, Mrs. Annie C.,** wife of Edward C. Grice, May 18, 1913, aged 26 years. She left a husband and three young sons. Mr. Grice was several years supervisor of the first ward, St. Louis.

**Hall, Julia A. and Sarah E.,** estimable daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Philo Hall, were called by the Grim Reaper as follows—the former January 30, 1873, aged 29; the latter February 21, 1873, aged 24.

**Hall, Philo,** April 21, 1879, aged about 80 years.

**Hart, Augustus H.,** July 14, 1887, aged 36. A prominent and confirmed saloon man, with many friends.

**Hopkins, John H.,** a popular carpenter; Feb. 3, 1882, aged 39 years.

**Harris, Dr. Albert C.,** Oct. 11, 1882, at the age of 49. A first-class citizen whose death was greatly regretted.

**Holcomb, Mrs. Aura P.,** wife of Henry L. Holcomb, May 5, 1883, aged 73. They came to St. Louis in 1860.

**Howe, Hiram A.,** Oct. 16, 1887, aged 53. A popular clothing salesman, resident about 10 years.

**Hofstetter, Geo.,** April 10, 1892, at the age of about 50. A high-class baker and confectioner about 22 years; reliable business man.

**Hofstetter, Mrs. Anna,** widow of Geo. Hofstetter, Oct. 7, 1895, aged 54.

**Hayes, Mrs. Maria G.,** wife of Henry Hayes and daughter of Ephraim Pettey; Dec. 12, 1894, aged 44.

**Hunter, A. H.,** May 2, 1901, aged 87. An upright and conscientious man, who, with his aged wife were familiar figures in the county, traveling about and selling medicines, mainly concocted by the wife.

**Hunter, Mrs. Eliza,** wife of A. H. Hunter, Jan. 19, 1906, aged 84. Mrs. Hunter made and sold domestic remedies for many years, and manifested considerable skill along that line; a kind-hearted, motherly old lady.



DELAWARE AVE—DR. WHEELER'S RESIDENCE AT RIGHT

**Howland, Fred D.,** May 15, 1909, aged about 33. Second of the nine consecutive sons of Willard G. Howland. He left a wife and one son.

**Howland, Frank C.,** June 5, 1909, aged 31. Third of the nine consecutive sons of Willard G. Howland. He left a wife and one son.

**Hall, Lucy A.,** Oct. 17, 1908; esteemed wife of Gilbert E. Hall.

**Hall, Gilbert E.,** at his home in St. Louis, Dec. 15, 1910, at the age of 75 years. A resident of Gratiot 55 years, first in Fulton, later in Bethany and in late life in St. Louis; a soldier in the Civil War and an active Grand Army man; supervisor of the second ward in '97 and '98.

**Howland, Mrs. F. H.,** better known to St. Louis people as Mrs. David D. Faurot, died at her home in Iola, Kansas, May 13, 1912, aged 76. Mother of R V Faurot, and of Mrs. M. E. Hull, Mrs. A. S. McIntyre and Mrs. Marsh. Fields, all of St. Louis.

**Hillyer, Dr. E. H.,** of Merrill, Mich., Dec. 26, 1912, aged 64. Was for several years a resident of St. Louis, where he was popular.

**Hilton, James O.,** at his home, Jan. 19, 1913, aged 78 years. A prominent and popular business man of St. Louis since 1879. He left a wife and one daughter, the latter the wife of W. L. Yost.

**Harrington, Mrs. Kate B.,** wife of Andrew J. Harrington, and mother of Frank M. Harrington, of Ithaca, died at the home of her son George L., at Preston, Minn., Feb. 25, 1913. Buried at St. Louis, Mich. (See sketch of Frank M. Harrington.)

**Hale, George W.,** at the Soldiers' Home, Grand Rapids, June 3, 1913, aged 80 years. He was an old soldier, and one of St. Louis' early settlers; a man with many good qualities.

**Kemp, Mrs. Harriet,** wife of Jacob M. Kemp, Aug. 31, 1891, aged 80 years. She and her family were pioneers and prominent socially and in a business way.

**Kneeland, Thos. T.,** May 12, 1903, aged 97 years; at the home of his son, Frank G. Kneeland.

**Kleinhans, Frank,** Nov. 18, 1911, at his home in St. Louis, aged 31 years. A highly esteemed young married man whose death was cause for great regret in the community.

**Lane, Mrs. Frank D.,** Nov. 10, 1887, aged 53; popular landlady of the Exchange Hotel, many years.

**Livingston, Mrs. Charlotte,** May 27, 1904, at the age of 69 years; a lady of excellent standing, wife of Jas. R. Livingston.

**Ludlum, Harvey,** April 3, 1912, aged 66. A resident 29 years.

**Lake, Mrs. Harriet,** widow of Edward Lake, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Allen Reed, May 22, 1912, aged 82. They settled in Gratiot in 1854 first in Arcada, but later removing to Bethany.

**Long, Mrs. Cordelia,** wife of Samuel Long, August 6, 1913, aged 75 years. An esteemed resident about 35 years.

**McHenry, Mrs.,** wife of James McHenry, February, 1877; well-known hotel people.

**Merrill, Mrs.,** wife of James E. Merrill.

**Marks, Bertie,** Aug. 26, 1881, aged 8 years; only son of Jere. and Sarah Marks. The pride and joy of his parents, and a neighborhood favorite.

**Martin, Mrs. Adaline,** Jan. 14, 1883, aged 65. Sister-in-law to J. C. Giddings who died one day later.

**McVane, Philip,** Jan. 12, 1882, aged 45; bled to death, suddenly, with hemorrhage of the lungs while calling on Dr. C. H. Lutes.

**McCarthy, Mrs. Clara,** Dec. 22, 1883; wife of John J. McCarthy, a young Gratiot County attorney, afterward representative in the state legislature from Oscoda County.

**McCurdy, Mrs. Sadua,** Jan. 12, 1886, aged 70 years.

**Miller, David M.,** Oct. 14, 1887, aged 51. A veteran of the Civil War.

**Marlette, Mrs. Sarah,** at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. O. Cuff, May 1, 1899, aged 89 years.

**McCurdy, John L.,** April 3, 1896, aged 50 years; carpenter and manufacturer of sash, doors, etc.

**McCurdy, Mrs. Hattie L.,** wife of John L. McCurdy, June 20, 1891, aged 30.

**Marks, Mrs. Sarah E.,** wife of Jere. Marks, Sept. 15, 1908, at her home in Orange, Cal. They settled in St. Louis in 1870, and were rated among the first-class residents. Mrs. Marks was a gentlewoman in every sense; not much more can be said of the best.

**McCarthy, John J.,** at his home in Standish, Mich., Dec. 24, 1912, aged 54. Born and reared in St. Louis, studied law and was admitted to the bar in Gratiot County; was four years township clerk of Pine River; moved to Mio, Oscoda County, in the late '80s, and to Standish, Arenac County, in 1896; was mayor of Standish, prosecuting attorney of the county, member of the legislature three terms, and held many other positions of responsibility. An upright, first-class unassuming citizen who won and kept the confidence of his fellows. He left a wife and two sons.



PINE STREET—RESIDENCE AT RIGHT ERECTED BY W. D. TUCKER, 1866

**Morrow, Charles,** Sept. 30, 1910, aged 64. An old soldier, resident of St. Louis about 30 years. Served as city marshal five years and in other capacities.

**Mey, Hugh Elmo,** only son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto F. Mey, Sept. 17, 1911, aged nearly 18. A promising young man whose death brought sorrow to many hearts.

**Nelson, Mrs. Ann,** second wife of Judge Francis Nelson, Dec. 19, 1889; formerly Mrs. Russell Burgess.

**Newman, Louis F.,** at his home April 15, 1912, aged 54. A Detroit business man who resided in St. Louis a number of years.

**Nelson, Mrs. Mattie (Waldron),** estimable wife of Byron S. Nelson, April 6, 1896.

**Ostrom, Mrs. Harriet D.,** Oct. 6, 1887, aged 43; at the home of her father, Hon. Martin Haven, Albion, Mich. They became residents of St. Louis in 1870.

**Ostrander, Mrs.,** wife of Stephen Ostrander, Sr., Dec. 8, 1909; pioneers of high standing, settling in St. Louis in 1866.

**Osworth, Joseph,** June 9, 1913, at the home of his son James E., in Belding, Mich., where he had lived eight years. He was a resident of Bethany Township many years. Settling in the county in 1856. He was a soldier in the Civil War, member of Company D, 26th Mich. Infantry.

**Perry, Geo. W.,** Feb. 25, 1894, at the age of 55. A pioneer and an old soldier; village assessor in 1885.

**Pettey, Mrs. Alvina,** wife of Ephraim Pettey, Dec. 15, 1899, aged 81.

**Pettey, Ephraim,** May 1, 1901, aged 81. Early settlers in Bethany. (See sketch of Dr. G. W. Pettey.)

**Porter, Chauncey C.,** February 24, 1901, aged 65; son of Elijah Porter who was prominent in the first days of Pine River Township.

**Paige, Nathaniel H.,** April 18, 1873, aged 44. An energetic hotel man.

**Parks, Mrs. Sarah,** widow of the late Stephen Parks, Feb. 14, 1913, aged 74. An esteemed resident for about 40 years, leaving five children.

**Roberts, M. H.,** April 12, 1881; a short-time resident of St. Louis, father of Mrs. Frank Thedgar.

**Roberts, Mrs. Jeannette,** wife of M. H. Roberts, June 29, 1909, aged 61.

**Reed, Harrison,** Aug. 7, 1889, aged 45; proprietor of the St. Louis & St. Johns stage line several years.

**Raynor, John,** April 19, 1883, aged about 45. Enterprising dealer in real estate, tax titles, etc.

**Robinson, Addison,** Oct. 26, 1913, suddenly at Ithaca, aged 47. He was born in Pine River Township, son of Charles Robinson.

**Root, Mrs. Lucretia,** wife of Randolph Root, July 20, 1910, at the age of 61 years. They settled in Lafayette in 1879.

**Rowland, Levi O.,** at his home in Ohio, Oct. 1, 1910, aged about 73. An old soldier who settled in St. Louis in 1867 and was clerk of Bethany in '75, '76, '77, and '84.

**Robinson, Josiah N.,** April 22, 1911; a Civil War veteran.

**Ray, Mrs. Sarah (Geiger),** Oct. 30, 1912, aged 73.

**Serrels, Mrs..,** wife of J. Clark Serrels and daughter of Samuel Wilson; July 30, 1872, aged 30. A lady of unusual refinement.

**Shaw, Henry W.,** Oct. 4, 1877, aged 50. Superintendent of the poor at the time of his death.

**Smalley, Henry,** April 30, 1882, aged 40 years. Publisher of the St. Louis Herald from 1877 to '80. Expired suddenly with rupture of the heart while in a bath at the Park House Sanitarium.

**Shults, Mrs. Kate (Dow),** April 9, 1880, aged 20; estimable young wife of Jas. H. Shults, who was for a few months editor and publisher of the St. Louis Herald.

**Sykes, Lyman L.,** January 15, 1889, at Los Angles, Cal., where he had resided a few years. He was many years a popular resident of St. Louis, an efficient mason by trade. His age was about 60 years at his death.

**Shaver, John L.** Sept. 4, 1886, at the age of 73. Settled in Emerson in 1867, removing to St. Louis three years later.

**Spencer, Noah W.,** Aug. 21, 1884, aged 69. A carpenter who bossed the job of building the old Presbyterian Church in 1868, on the angling road about where the elegant High School building now stands.

**Smith, Calvin A.,** Aug. 12, 1891, aged 43; of the firm of Smith & Claggett, stave manufacturers.

**Sunbury, H. B.,** well-known builder, Nov. 23, 1893, aged about 70. Was one of the contractors for the erection of the Ithaca Union School building.

**Sias, Sylvanus,** May 14, 1890, aged 84. A pioneer.

**Strouse, Aaron,** May 26, 1891, aged about 70; one of several Strouse brothers, most of whom settled in Newark.

**Sias, John C.,** April 3, 1900, aged 65.

**Smith, Chas. H.,** January 18, 1902, aged 73. Settled in St. Louis about 1870; father of Mrs. Forest B. Hastings.

**Sperry, Zealous,** February 25, 1906, aged 69 years; a man with distinctive characteristics, not harmful in their nature; variously connected with village affairs, and township clerk of Pine River in '86 and '87.

**Smith, Mrs. Allie M.,** esteemed wife of Geo. E. Smith, May 4, 1909.

**Skinner, Geo. W.,** Aug. 7, 1907, aged 75. An esteemed veteran of the Civil War, formerly residing in Emerson.

**Shippey, De Grasse,** April 14, 1912, aged 72. Came to St. Louis in 1865 and was for many years head sawyer for Henry L. Holcomb. A man who stood well in the community.

**Stebbins, Edgar,** at the home of his daughter in Coe, Isabella County, Oct. 7, 1912, aged about 60 years. He was a pioneer of Gratiot, son of W. L. Stebbins, of St. Louis, and had many friends here.

**Smith, Mrs. Maria B.,** wife of Philip B. Smith, at their home in Hemet, Cal., January, 1913, aged 60 years. Mr. Smith was at one time a well-known photographer at Ithaca, later at St. Louis. They removed to California in 1905.

**Truesdell, John C.,** Sept. 15, 1873. He was landlord of the Eastman House.

**Taylor, Wm. H.,** July 12, 1877, aged 63. Was landlord of the Eastman House four years, and previous to that was prominent in Saginaw, being member of the legislature, elected in '64 and '66. He came to St. Louis in 1871.

**Tyler, Heman,** Aug. 14, 1879. He was an honest pioneer, first locating in Fulton.

**Taylor, Addison,** March 15, 1887, aged about 30; son of Wm. M. Taylor, early residents of Bethany.

**Tibbitts, Joseph,** Aug. 20, 1898, aged about 70. A grocer, genial and popular, a resident 25 years.

**Templar, Jas. A.,** February 5, 1909, aged about 65. A popular grocer; three years treasurer of Bethany.

**Taylor, Wm. Oscar,** March 6, 1912, aged 73; son of Wm. H. Taylor who was landlord of the Eastman House in the '70s. He was station agent at St. Louis 25 years.

**Tuttle, Mrs. Mary (Porter),** widow of Wm. H. Tuttle, a former druggist of St. Louis, with his brother, Marquis H. Mrs. Tuttle died at the home of her son, H. F. Tuttle, at White Cloud, Mich., Sept., 1912, aged 73 years. A daughter of Samuel Porter, a pioneer of Springport, Mich., along in the '40s.

**Totten, Mrs. H. O.,** July 22, 1913, aged 67 years.

**Vliet, Joseph B.,** March 6, 1910, aged 72. An early settler and much respected.

**Vandercook, I. H.,** April 17, 1909, aged 91 years. Father of Editor F. M. Vandercook, with whom he had lived since 1892. An early settler in Jackson, afterward removing to Mason.

**Vincent, Mrs. Sarah E.,** May 18, 1912, aged 81; widow of Norman D. Vincent; early settlers of Bethany.

**Weller, John,** Oct. 9, 1868, aged 77; father of former sheriff F. D. Weller.

**Willett, Miss Nettie,** estimable daughter of Rev. J. T. Willett, of the Presbyterian Church, July 22, 1872, aged 20 years.

**Willett, Mrs. C. A.,** respected wife of Rev. J. T. Willett, April 24, 1889.

**Willett, Rev. Joseph T.,** July 17, 1884, aged 60; came to St. Louis in 1866. (See sketch.)

**Wilcox, Miss Ida R.,** Jan. 27, 1882. A popular Gratiot County teacher, daughter of John A. Wilcox.

**Whitney, Bert,** Sept. 20, 1891, aged about 23. A popular young attorney and newspaper man at Frankfort, Mich.; brother of Attorney T. W. Whitney, of St. Louis.

**Wait, Howland P.,** Oct. 12, 1891, aged about 55. A quiet, kindly and industrious carpenter.

**Wait, Mrs. Mary,** Dec. 25, 1892, aged 56; esteemed widow of Howland P. Wait.

**Warren, Allen,** March 3, 1901, aged 79. City marshal in 1891.

**Woodin, Mrs. Anna M.,** Jan. 6, 1902, aged 91, widow of Abraham Woodin. They were among the first to settle in the wilderness of Pine River, and with their large family took a leading part in the early affairs of the community. Abraham Woodin died in 1860.

**Wait, Wm.,** Oct. 12, 1902, aged 87. The pioneer meat market man of St. Louis.

**Welch, Mrs. Ruth J.,** June 17, 1907, aged 87; widow of Edmund Welch; at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marshall Burton. They settled in St. Louis in 1866.

**Weeks, Martin R.,** Aug. 7, 1907, aged 70. An expert carpenter and good citizen.

**Weeks, Mrs. Mary G.,** respected widow of Martin R. Weeks, February 23, 1910, aged 70.

**Wood, David,** April 6, 1911, aged 75. A veteran of the Civil War and an early resident of Gratiot. His wife, Lydia M. (Frary) Wood, died February 9, 1913, aged 74.

**Waldron, Philetus A.,** at his home in St. Louis, Dec. 12, 1910, aged 79 years. An esteemed resident for about 40 years.

**Woolston, Wm. D.,** at the home of his son Frank J., May 12, 1912, aged 63.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

1874, Feb. 1—T. H. Foland's shingle mill was burned; loss, $6,000 on lumber, machinery, etc. The building was owned by Dr. J. R. Cheesman. Loss on building, about $600.

1874, May 8—Dr. C. J. Goodenough, residing on Pine Street, lost his house by fire. Loss, $2,300; insurance, $2,000.

1876, April 11—The barn of Rev. J. T. Willett, in the east part of town, was struck by lightning and destroyed with its contents, including the old family horse, "Topsey." There was a small insurance.

1876, Oct. 8—Fire destroyed the residence of James Vliet, north side of the river. Insured.

1879, Jan. 7—St. Louis was visited by a fire that burned several business places on the east side of Mill Street on block 39—Kallmyer's clothing store, building owned by James W. Wessels; Geo. G. Nichols, jewelry store; Thos. J. Nichols, dry and fancy goods; H. H. Tripp, photo gallery; West & Son's meat market, located in a large double-store building just completed, owned by John H. Suydam. A Sunday evening fire that started from a red-hot stove in the meat market, around which several frozen porkers had been corded up to thaw out, and then left, not only to thaw out, but to fry and burn. The loss totalled about $15,000; very well insured.

1883, Jan. 19—The sawmill and planing mill of James Henry, St. Louis, burned this afternoon. As the mills had been shut down for several months, the presumption was that the fire was set purposely by someone. The loss was placed at $6,000, with no insurance.

1884, Jan. 4—St. Louis was visited by a fire that took out two buildings on the west side of Mill Street on block 35, at 10 o'clock in the evening. A lot of personal property also was destroyed. One building was the Democrat office, J. V. Johnson, publisher. The building was formerly owned and occupied by Jas. H. Foster, flour and feed. The other was the Gould building, occupied by Jo. Tibbitts, grocer. Adjoining buildings were somewhat damaged. The principal losers by the fire were J. V. Johnson; Jo. Tibbitts; J. Gould; S. C. Smith on furniture stock; S. M. Kent; J. E. Bush; Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Brooks, occupying second stories.

1884, April 8—The west side of Mill Street, block 34, got a moderate scorching Tuesday morning, April 8th. The fire started in Fink's saloon which was destroyed, W. E. Fiero's drug store next, and an empty store lately occupied by M. R. Havens with his clothing stock. The buildings were owned by H. Harrington and A. Wessels.

1885, March 23—Fire visited J. F. Newton's addition, at 10 p. m., taking out the so-called New York store, southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street, and the building adjoining. In the '70s this section was an important business end of town, but was now rapidly losing its importance in that respect.

1887, Jan. 31—The residence of Ford E. Hughes, on Smith's addition, was burned, with a loss of $2,000, and no insurance.

1887, Nov. 13—A remarkably hot fire Sunday afternoon in the rear of the stores of W. H. Rennels, Giddings, Charles and Hart, block 35; made the liveliest time in years, for the firemen and the firms interested. A lot of storehouses were cleaned out, and the occasion was rendered especially exciting by the explosion of several cans of powder, and the expectation of more explosions.

1888, March 24—The most disastrous fire in the history of the town, occurred Saturday morning, March 24th. The trouble occurred on block 38, on Mill and Saginaw Streets. No less than 13 business places were closed up by the fire. There was an unfortunate delay in getting water pressure, so the fire got a good start, apparently originating in the Republican newspaper office. The principal losers were Darragh & Co., on the Republican building and on the Sheffield building; Mrs. C. H. Kingsbury, building and millinery stock; Burgess & Son, meat market; Drury estate, three-story block on the corner, formerly known as the "Kress block".

erected in 1869; Parker Merrill, blacksmith shop; Steve Scott, blacksmith; St. Louis Republican; E. M. Johnson, second-hand stock; John Burns, harness stock, tools and fixtures; Mrs. Harmon, restaurant; Lestrange & Connelly, saloon; L. A. Drury, grocer; W. W. Littlefield, saloon; Lue Hing, laundry; Brown & Barden, agricultural implements; Masons and Odd Fellows, two halls; Village of St. Louis, village hall, engine house, etc. The losses footed up about $20,000, with insurance amounting to half as much.

1890, Aug. 5—At 2 o'clock, a. m., fire destroyed the big flouring mill, James Henry, proprietor. The mill was the original, built in 1856, with additions and improvements that brought it up to date and made it probably the most modern and complete mill in the county. The present extensive flouring plant is its worthy successor.

1891, Sept. 28—This was the date when the flatiron section of block 33, between Mill and Church Streets was burned over, and thus made possible the present fine grounds and building of the high school department of the St. Louis schools. The plat was occupied by Martin's livery barn, a big skating rink, a blacksmith shop and some smaller affairs. All were wiped out, together with three small buildings on the east side of Mill Street. The old skating rink was being used as a bed-spring factory, operated by Harrison & Knight.



ERECTED BY W. D. TUCKER, 1879—WASH. AVE., EAST.

1896, May 27—St. Louis lost its old foundry and machine shop by fire. It was located on the north side of Center Street near Main Street bridge.

1906, Nov. 10—Fire destroyed the double-store structure of Mrs. N. H. Paige, block 35, west side of Mill Street, thus making room for the present fine brick block.

1897, Jan. 26—At 4 o'clock a. m., C. H. Kingsbury's residence on Center Street was burned with most of the contents.

1899, Aug. 21—Fire did considerable damage to Yerington's College; mainly to the inside, in both stories.

1908, July 29—Fire did a lot of damage in Hofstetter's bakery, on block 38, destroying the rear portion and also burning buildings in the rear, including a barn for D. O. Cuff.

1911, Feb. 16—A fire on the east side of Mill Street, evening of February 16th, destroyed a wooden building owned by Jas. Crawford and occupied as a restaurant by Rogers & Goode. The firemen did great work saving the wooden buildings on either side. An explosion of a gasoline

stove was the cause. The occupants had so little time in which to escape the fire that the safe door was left open, and the cash register left to its fate, cash and all. There was some insurance.

1911, March 20—The old Hotel building on the corner of Mill and Center Streets, remodeled into a department store and conducted as such several years by E. J. Alexander, burned in the afternoon with a large portion of the goods, the firemen making an excellent record in preventing the destruction of adjoining property. The main part of the building was erected in the early '60s by Jas. A. Cummings who named it the "Loder House." Earliest recollections that are now available reveal the information that in 1866 the hotel was conducted by Mrs. Ann Burgess, widow of Russell Burgess, who employed her brother, Eli S. Brooke and his wife ,as managers. Later the house was conducted under different names—Exchange Hotel, Commercial House, etc., and had for landlords Jim. McHenry, P. Cornell, Steve Potter, Marv. Richardson, Jo. Barden, etc. Associations, varied and miscellaneous, cluster around that old hostelry. The loss by fire was considerably above the insurance.

1912, Jan. 5—The residence of Chas. E. Smith was destroyed by fire at 9 a. m., together with a large portion of the contents. Insurance covered about one-half of the loss.

1913, Feb. 4—The frame building next east of the Exchange Hotel on Washington Avenue, owned by I. Fink & Son and used as a junk shop, was burned with its contents. Loss estimated at $5,000, and no insurance. The building was the Fiero drug store of former days, and later the office of the St. Louis Independent.

1913, August 20—Fire nearly ruined three small buildings, west side of Mill Street, north, driving out of business, temporarily, Wm. Schmidt, tailor, G. Rauschenberger, shoe repairer and A. T. Ross, bazaar man.

1913, Sept. 24—Allen Reed lost a barn and its contents, early this morning, by fire. Two automobiles and other valuables were consumed.

## ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS.

For some reason the early history of the public schools are difficult to get at and write up in a satisfactory manner. The early records were very incompletely kept as a rule, and apparently only for present purposes with no thought of their possible future value. The early history of the St. Louis schools are found to be fragmentary and unsatisfactory. About nine years ago the late Dr. Stiles Kennedy, of St. Louis, seeing and appreciating the desirability of having as complete and authentic a history of the schools of St. Louis as possible, for reference and preservation, essayed to compile and write such a history. He was more than two years at the job, and found it a discouraging undertaking. His findings were issued in connection with the year book of 1904-5. Rather than to go over the ground already well gleaned by the Doctor, and with the chances of not being able to make out as well as he did, the writer of this history deems it a wiser and easier plan, and certainly a shorter job, to make use of some of his findings in presenting this history of the St. Louis Schools, due credit being given by way of the usual quotation marks and otherwise. The Doctor says:

"To the casual observer it is a simple and quiet pleasure to write the history of the St. Louis Public Schools, but as one approaches the work the delusion of simplicity vanishes like a dream. For ten years after a school was established in St. Louis, there is not a vestige of a record book. Now and then a scrap of paper has been found in the hands of some old pioneer that has thrown some light upon the subject. Those brave and rugged men who blazed the trail for civilization through the wilderness along in the '50s, and their devoted wives who endured with them all their privations and tribulations, have nearly all been gathered to their fathers. The few who remain have to look back through the vista of half a century to recall names, dates, places and acts. It would be phenomenal if the story told by any one of them was identical with that of all others. By a careful comparison and re-adjustment of these long-ago children of the memory, I hope I have arrived at correctness in regard to the main facts of the early days of our schools. I am indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Griffith, Mrs. S. S. Hastings, Mrs. Elias W. Smith, Elias Shaw, Mrs. J. W. Doane, E. H. Ewell and others for much valuable in formation."



GRAMMAR DEPARTMENT—ERECTED 1879.

The earliest documentary reference to school matters in or adjacent to St. Louis is dated June 18, 1855. It is a written request to the board of school inspectors of Pine River Township for the formation of a school district, and is worded and signed as follows: "A written request to Abram Woodin, one of the school inspectors of the Township of Pine River—We request you, in pursuance of section 12 of the Primary School law, to call a special meeting in the vicinity of section 35 range 3 Gratiot County, and in said township for the purpose of forming a school district as follows: Including sections 35, 36, the south half of sections 25 and 26, the east half of sections 27 and 34, and sections 1, 2 and 3 in eleven—3." Signed by Geo. E. Gifford, D. Rowland, Peter W. Pruden, Elijah Porter, Francis Way, Andrew Fletcher, Simeon Adams, Joseph Rowland.

The district seems to have been organized and a school house was built on section 35, west of the present Colburn school house. The first teacher in that school house was Miss Martha Ann Woodin, afterward Mrs. Elias W. Smith. Her certificate to teach is dated July 29, 1855, and is signed by Henry Smith, township clerk, and Abram Woodin, school inspector.

"In warm weather," says Dr. Kennedy's compilation, "smudges were necessary outside and inside the building to keep down the mosquitos. At that time the wild beasts had not been exterminated and it was not always safe for children to be out alone. Some of the larger pupils walked five miles through the wilderness to get to the school. Every child seemed to have a different book. All were old books, some of them Canadian. The difficulties of the teacher may be imagined. The principal patrons of the school were Abram Woodin, the McClures of Emerson, Geo. E. Gifford, Simeon Adams. Miss Ellen Porter, who was afterward Mrs. Henry Smith, taught the second and third terms, and Miss Elizabeth Fox, daughter of Bernard Fox, taught the fourth term. Miss Fox is the present Mrs. B. F. Myers, of Ithaca.

"In 1857 the first school house within the present limits of St. Louis was built. It was erected by Lewis M. Clark and Richard G. Hillyer, of St. Louis, for $300, on the south bank of Pine River at the spot where the Grammar School now stands. It was a frame structure. At that time Bethany Township was a part of Pine River Township. Bethany Township was formed in 1858, and the school house being located on the Bethany side of the line, it was necessary to form a union district. Some years afterward the inhabitants on the Pine River side of the line built a school house; then they would have separate school districts for a while, and then union districts a while until 1873. Since that time the Union District No. 1, Pine River and Bethany, has been permanent.

"There has been some discussion as to who taught the first school in the Bethany school house built in 1857, but it seems to have been Miss Betsey Clark, daughter of Lewis M. Clark, who, with Richard G. Hillyer, formed a strong business firm. Seventy-three children were reported to the superintendent of public instruction as being of school age. Only 20, however, went to school and the term was only three months."

A perusal of the names of the school patrons will be found interesting if not profitable. The names were gathered before the annual meeting of 1857, together with the number of children of school age belonging to each. To get so many Indian names the census taker must have canvassed the Bethany Mission, one and one-half miles down the river:

Mrs. Groom, Alfred Clark, Joel Rowley, L. M. Clark, Crossley, Wheaton Goodwin, McHenry, Jas. Gruett, G. R. Meissler, Judit, Aubatauroaeguet, Esther, Jacob, Baumogogir, Naugansega, Waubegeshgoqua, Nauwegeshik, Ketchebena, Nage, Waube, Negaumaganex, Bemgugawen, Misquauwaunanquet, Wane, Stephen, Me Shaw Boosh, Chase, Hoptains.

Dr. Kennedy's history goes on to say that "the original paper is unsigned, but G. W. McHenry probably took this census as he was director at about that time, and Moses Sanborn was moderator. This fact we know by the discovery of an old contract dated December 8, 1857, which they made with Mathew McHenry to teach for three months, from January 4, 1858, at $20 per month 'which shall be in full of his services and board.' If board had not been specifically included, Mathew might have claimed the customary privilege of 'boarding around.'"

The records are very meager up to 1867, and are nothing to boast of for several years longer. Schools were conducted in the Bethany school house, and other schools were conducted in halls in the upper stories of some of the business places. Silas Moody, Nathan Church, Emery Crosby, Chas. E. Bessey and Miss Laura Cheesman were some of the teachers during that period, as will be seen by the list farther along in this sketch.

Dr. Kennedy's compilation goes on to say: "The voters of Pine River District No. 7 got together September 25, 1867 and elected Fred. Fox moderator, John R. Cheesman assessor and Geo. W. McHenry director. Nothing of special interest occurred until March 28, 1868, when Jas. K. Wright, C. B. Kress, J. H. Foster, John Tuger, A. D. Rust and Geo. Cassada petitioned the school board to call a special meeting of the voters of the district for the purpose of purchasing a site and building a school house, and making proper provisions for paying for the same.

"A special meeting was accordingly held April 7, 1868 ,when on motion a site was selected, being the east half of block 73, where Wm. H. Rennels and others now reside. At an adjourned meeting, April 14th, Chas. B. Kress reported that six lots, being the east half of block 73, could be purchased for $300, which was accepted and the school board was instructed to issue bonds to pay for the same. The vote of the former meeting authorizing a two-story school house 26 by 40 feet, to cost not more than $800, was confirmed; ceilings to be 12 feet high, the building to be set on good oak blocks.

"At an adjourned meeting held the next evening—April 15, 1868—an effort was made to get a larger building, but without avail. April 30th the job was let to A. W. Spencer for $783.50, and on July 1st, the same was accepted by the school board."

The last preceding paragraph or two are subject to revision. The writer of this volume was on the spot from and after September 30, 1866, and though his personal recollections do not go into all the details, he remembers some of the important main facts. The school building was erected on the northeast corner of block 81, being at the intersection of Tyrrell Street and Delaware Avenue. It was built by Chas. B. Kress, who was the leading contractor and builder in St. Louis at that time, and it was built in the spring and early summer, 1868. The writer, who was something of a "wood-butcher" himself at that time, worked on the school house from start to finish, helping to lay the foundation on the "good oak blocks" and so on till the last finishing touches were given to the completed building.

The school house was completed in time for a summer term of school, which was taught by Mrs. Minerva M. Wilcox. It is possible, however, that she may have commenced her school in some other room, and moved to the new school house as soon as it was completed. The winter term, commencing in November, 1868, was taught by this writer. And he well remembers some of the exhilarating delights of teaching a houseful of over 70 scholars of all ages, running from four to 20 years.

The two school houses served the people of St. Louis and vicinity very satisfactorily for several years, and then steps were taken to provide for the erection of a union school building. There was much pulling and hauling over the question and many meetings were held before an agreement was reached as to what was wanted and as to what the people would stand. The contest continued spasmodically from 1874 until the spring of 1879. Sites all over town were considered—the old Academy building across the

river; a lot adjoining the Pine River school house; the Bethany school house site; the Pine River school house site, and others. Ideas as to what should be expended on a building varied widely; from $5,000 to $20,000. Finally at a meeting held in April, 1879 the matter was settled by the selection of the Bethany site, and the building was erected that same season.

When more room was needed to accommodate the increase in the number of pupils, the present high school building, located between Mill and Church Streets, near the center of town, was provided for, and it was erected in the year 1892.

The St. Louis schools have for many years been on the University list, the term meaning that graduates are admitted to the State University on their diplomas, without examination. The character and standing of the schools of St. Louis are such as to justify the satisfaction and pride of her citizens, in that behalf. They are doubtless among the best in the state.

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### St. Louis School Officers.

The following is a complete list of school officers of the St. Louis schools from the earliest organization—1856—to the present time: Lewis M. Clark, Sidney S. Hastings, Moses Sanborn, Geo. W. McHenry, O. Hopkins, Levi Smith, F. D. Weller, Matthew McHenry, Elias W. Smith, Gilbert



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING ERECTED 1902.

E. Pratt, J. R. Cheesman, E. H. Ewell, Justin Hill, Chas. B. Kress, Fred. Fox, Albert D. Rust, A. L. Shears, Carlton Abbott, D. O. Cuff, J. A. Wilcox, A. B. Darragh, Stiles Kennedy, W. W. Cook, C. J. Willett, Reuben Terrill, Tim. Hutchings, Silas Randolph, S. C. Smith, C. K. Sampson, W. C. Garbutt, J. W. Bernard, Newell Leonard, J. W. Salsbury, Henry L. Wood,

Myron E. Hull, Calvin A. Case, A. S. McIntyre, Stephen Ostrander, Mrs. E. Arnold, John N. Foster, Ezekiel Arnold, Mrs. Lillian Hastings, J. A. McGreaham, Geo. S. Aldrich, A. R. Wheeler, F. M. Vandercook, Jas. K. Wright, Henry J. Tuger.

From the year 1900 to 1908 the board of education, probably without any variation, was composed of the following named gentlemen: Dr. A. R. Wheeler, Dr. S. Kennedy, Jas. K. Wright, F. M. Vandercook, E. Arnold. Dr. Kennedy was either president or secretary the most of this time.

### Teachers in Early Days.

From 1857 to 1880: Betsey Clark, Matthew McHenry Elizabeth Fox, Marian Beggs, Wm. S. Nelson, Mrs. Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Viele, Aurelia Brown, Silas Moody, Nathan Church, May Burgess, Miss Carothers, Mrs. Dr. Stokes, Emery Crosby, Nellie Kibbe, Thirza Mead, Charles E. Bessey, Laura Cheesman, Mary E. Jones, J. Milt. Putman, Mary E. Rowland, Mrs. Minerva M. Wilcox, Willard D. Tucker, Frank I. Hoag, Schuyler W. Ambler, Mrs. Viola Hunt, Augusta Chaffee, E. D. Lewis, Emillie Butters, Martha J. Pettey, Ella Throop, Jane M. Perrine, Carrie A. Bamborough, Alma Gibson, Giles T. Brown, Minnie Hurlbut, F. Blanche Newton, F. Belle Newton, Cora McDougal, Henry R. Pattengill (sup't) Miss S. A. Root, Ella Martin, Ida R. Wilcox, Lillian Serington, Nettie Comstock, W. H. Inman (sup't), W. E. Ransom (sup't), Emily M. Jones, Effie Beach, Mrs. Libby Anderson, Myra Handy, Newton A. Richards (sup't), Miss Chapel, Mrs. N. A. Richards, Bessie Barbour.

From 1880 to 1890: Carrie Lyons, Emma Hatfield, Mae Smith, Miss Snow, Jennie Tibbitts, Hattie Caldwell, Ada Sanford, Helen Morse, Lottie Evans, Emma Holmes, Lottie Earle, Kata Hoadley, Mae Babcock, Mae Barnes, Lena Noyes, J. D. Snyder, Misses Brogan, Satterlee, Hall, Cornell, Chase, Freeman, Hattie Germain, Emma Wilkinson, Jessie Howell, Mattie Owen, Eva La Bonte, Lydia Terwilliger, Fannie Sanford, Fannie Hastings, Nettie Salsbury, Mary Montgomery, Eva Daglish, Effie Shepard, Jennie Nelson, Maggie Donaldson, Mrs. Jennie Weller, David G. Keyes, Dell Tichenor, Sarah Converse, Lulu M. Taylor, Mary Van Auken, Minnie Templar, Grace Dow, Alice Marks, Mrs. E. Fritz, Martha Hill, Mrs. R. Bendit, Jennie M. Johnson, Miss Tichenor, A. D. Kennedy, Miss R. J. Lockwood, Kittie M. Simmons, Estella Whitmore, Miss Mattison, W. A. Weeks, Lina Fleming, Myra E. Staples, Alberta Stevenson, Miss Kuies, Rachel Cook, Viola M. Buell, Jolie B. Smith, Mary A. Walch.

Superintendents: C. H. Covell, 1895-1899; H. W. Daniels, 1900-1905; A. D. Dewitt, 1905-1907; L. L. Forsythe, 1908-1911; C. D. Dawson, 1912.

### Teachers for 1913-14.

High School: Chas. D. Dawson, Supt.—Math.; C. E. Merritt, Prin.—Eng. and Hist.; Hazel Harrison, Latin and Ger.; Jean Avery, Eng. and Hist.; Caroline Wilcox, Math. and Music; N. A. Wood, Ag. and Sci.; Elizabeth Schaus, Com.; Rena Reeves, Drawing.

Grades: 8th, Edna Duff; 7th, Mrs. Kirk Hildreth; 6th, Mary Horgan; 5th, Viola Rosselit; 4th, Helen E. Barber; 3rd, Belle Fenton; 2nd and 3rd, Marguerite Evans; 2nd and 1st, Minnie Butler; 1st, Carrie Knouse; Kin., Eva McBain; Music, Caroline Wilcox; Drawing, Rena Reeves.

### St. Louis High School Graduates.

1884: Bayard A. Church, Otto Mey, Jessie Howell, John Scott, Harry Penfield, Bessie Barbour, Minnie Stebbins.

1885: Nettie Salsbury, Frank Huffman, Fannie Hastings.

1886: Jennie Nelson, J. Herbert Scott, Addie Shaw, Fannie Todd.

1887: Amelia E. Elwell, Alice E. Marks, Hattie M. Smith, Prudie Scriver, Carrie M. Thedgar, Lina E. Fleming, Minnie E. Templar, Marguerite J. Donaldson, Mariam Case, Jennie Ostrander.

1889: John E. Smith, Lottie Kroll, H. Morton DeCou.

1890: Geo. A. Hofstetter.

1891: Annie L. Richards, Bessie I. McCrimmon, Harriet B. Hastings, Elizabeth Schaus, Russell A. Moore, Etta L. Hoskins, Fred Hoskins, Wm. R. Kennedy.

1892: Sumner G. Bush, Hattie G. Bradley, Orville Burgess, Louise Leonard, Alice M. Smith, Margaret E. Sperry, Thos. L. Gray, Henry T. Harrison, Bertha L. Longwell, Geo. W. Moore, Effie Keefer.

1893: Renna E. Bamborough, Bert K. Huffman, Olney J. McWethey, Carl E. Faunce, E. Grace Gay, Lizzie Baldwin, Chas. A. Throop, Gertrude E. Woodward.

1894: L. Helene Bell, Estella Burns, Miriam E. Church, Duane I. Fleming, Blaine B. Pettit, Helen Martin, Nettie E. Raymond, Margaret A. Gillie.

1895: Stella Cornell, Ella Miller, Fred Stone, Fred Nelson, Mazie Harrison, Edith Wessels, Edith Soper.

1896: Ethel McWethey, Edith Doane, Daniel E. Stone, Geo. O. Taylor, Delta Manahan, Margaret Roberts, Lee H. Smith, Freda G. Cook, Rena G. Cook, Fred Franks, Ora Straus.

1897: Byron J. Rivett, Leonard Knowles, Geo. A. Arnold, Alice De Cou, Maude Clark, Roy Ludlum, Louis Ludlum, Wilbur Burns, Daisy B. Miller, Bessie Williams, Kate Sias, Edith Merrill, Percy Acker.

1898: Reasi Stillman, Dora Wood, Jay Smith, Lucile Marble, Edna McWethey, Nora Creswell.

1899: Marie Weick, Leah A. Bailey, Chas. Killeen, Fidelia N. Lathrop, Mildred E. Baney, Carl Schmidt, Chas. Harrison, Adra N. Snyder, Jesse M. Richards, Lizzie J. Longwell.

1900: Gladys E. Creswell, Gertrude Ostrander, Arlie McIntyre, Sidney Lewis, Blanche Snook, Geo. A. Vliet, Mabel Sherwood, Lizzie Schmidt, Alfred A. Vibber, Marie McClure, Elizabeth Hull, O. J. Strouse, Bernard C. Weick, Pearl Behler.

1901: L. Belle Fenton, Inez E. McGreaham, Valeria E. Houseman, Clifford C. Coates, Carolyn L. Hastings, Rosalie M. Tuttle, Otto H. Doane,

A. Louise Killeen, Ivah D. Aldrich, Grace Bartrem, Ross F. Miller, Blanche A. Johnson, Floyd T. Hart, Mae Marion Burgess, May Smith, Elmer C. Smith, Harriet M. Vandercook.

**1902:** Genevieve B. French, E. Mae Greene, Fawn A. Hastings, Stiles C. Kennedy, J. Mae Pettit, Bert J. Manahan, Myrtle M. Bartrem, Clayton B. Nelson, Hazel F. Snook, Arthur D. Moore.

**1903:** Chas. M. Bates, Matie Baney, Jennie Bartley, Alva Bonesteel, Florence Briggs, Winifred L. Ervey, Katharine E. Faunce, Guy M. Ferris, Raymond A. Griffith, Frank W. Harrison, Agnes Henry, Warren Jewett, Laura C. Mallory, Edwin R. Maurer, Helen A. McClure, Grace A. Noyes, Earl C. Robinson, Fay Salisbury, Ella Stillman.

**1904:** Lois L. Fraker, Lillian Hart, Gracia Smith, S. Fern Faunce, Glenn Raycraft, Pearl H. Smith, Lottie Raymond, Vernie Z. Fritz, Leo Garvey, Wm. E. Wilson, Edna L. Smart, Chester S. Laughery, Denton Fritz.

**1905:** Vern Aldrich, Ivey Bartrem, Frances Case, Glenn Ferris, Mary Henry, Dorothea Kneeland, Daniel Kennedy, Myrtle Martin, Roy Sias, Florence Wright, Ethel Wagner.

**1906:** Clara Wendt, Margaret Case, Reva Conklin, Claire Kuhlman, Lulu Olmstead, Irving Maurer, Chas. Weed, Lulu Newberry, Ray Boneman, Ernest Baldwin, Arthur Lane, Frank Marks, Alger Barnes, Geo. E. Boss, James Klein, Fra Deline, Dorothy Wilson, Bertha Joslin, Lena Bartholomew.

**1907:** Eleanor Fleming, Edna Duff, Elizabeth Burns, Nona Hull, Maude Russell, Hazel Burnham, Howard Lake, Edna Henry, Lewis Lowry, Jessie Faurot, Belle Henry, Norma Hoover, Elmer Behler, Chas. Wood, Bradford Merrill.

**1908:** Floyd Bigsby, Lela Duff, Hazel Harrison, Vida Shoecraft, Vesta Cramer.

**1909:** Clarence Howland, Bessie Ingersoll, Erma Fritz, John Tuger, Claude Satterlee, Hazel Way, Nellie Wilson, Bertha Scott, Jessie Sexton.

**1910:** Lena Baney, Phebe Bartrem, Helen Brundage, Robert Burns, Felix Church, Blanche Doty, Vera Griswold, Rexford Hampton, Lena Jameson, Alice Kennedy, Ethel Klein, Flosse Kleinhans, Ida Pernert, Edith Reeves, Emily Schultheiss, Hazel Shoecraft, Lola Snook, Hazel Way, Harold Wilcox.

**1911:** Elva Kinney, Archie Leonard, Lulu Mey, Rebecca Nesen, Gayla Rumsey, Lillian Wood, Edward Baker, Frances Frear, Geo. Greene.

**1912:** Flossie Foster, Lewis Wolfe, George Buck, Hattie Campbell, Hazel Chase, Mary Faunce, Ray Fulcher, George Greene, Marie Ingersoll, Helen Lowry, Sarah Merrill, Gertrude Pernert, Lila Ray, Fred Thorold, Sarah von Thurn, Carl Leonard, Laura Elmer.

**1913:** Verne C. Seger, Charles E. Falkner, Howard E. Youngs, Elmer J. Hanna, Wright Harrison, Bertha I. Buchanan, Freda E. Behler, Clarence J. Halterman, Don E. Harrison, Dorothy Klein, Ethel P. Bailor, Elmer J. Creswell, Stanley W. Greene, Bradford C. Carter, Carl R. Greening, Lulu Beebe, Myra McCarty, Floyd H. Goodyear, Hazel E. Faunce, Valzoria Parkhouse, Ezzie Mae Stewart, Eula R. Harris, Vaile Vliet, Glenn Vliet, Thomas Brewer, Raymond L. Johnson, Loring B. Chittenden, Ruth L. McIntyre.

## ST. LOUIS CHURCHES.

### The Presbyterians.

The 40th anniversary of the organization of the Presbyterian Church at St. Louis was celebrated February, 1906, on which occasion Rev. Jesse H. Fleming, a charter member, now residing in Alma, gave a history of the Church, the principal part of which is here presented. It is of considerable length, but it gives so many interesting facts concerning the Church and its early members that it is difficult to decide just where to abbreviate. Incidentally there are interesting reminiscences outside of church matters.

Quoting from the address: "While we sit tonight in the golden dawn of the 20th century, let us talk a little while of other days. It has been said that 'biography is the cream of history'. I want to give you a little of that cream tonight. The biography I bring to you is that of the Presbyterian Church of St. Louis. My connection with the interests of Gratiot County began just after the close of the Civil War. Gratiot was just beginning to feel the thrill of a new impulse. The morning of a better day began to dawn upon her forest-covered lands and shaded rivers. Discharged soldiers by the thousands poured into north-central Michigan, pre-empting wild lands and buying partly improved lands until it seemed as if this part of the lower peninsula would be occupied exclusively by the soldier and his family.

"I well remember a whole section of land just north of Alma being pre-empted in a day. Soon afterward the sound of the ax was heard upon its thickly standing trees, and log houses sprung up rapidly. The state probably does not contain a more fertile section of land today than that same section, nor one under a better state of cultivation.

"Very distinctly I recall the appearance of the little hamlet of Alma in 1865, as on an October day in that year I saw it for the first time. A younger brother and myself had walked from the old home in Jackson County, a distance of 80 miles, driving the cows before us to the new forest home. We entered Alma from the south, crossing the river near the old Moyer Hotel. The business center of Alma was located just north of the river, where the Brainerd Hospital and M. Pollasky's residence now stand. Across the stump-covered tract to the right as we came in, and on the St. Louis road was a large two-story frame building nearly completed and standing by itself. This proved to be the new store building of Hulbert & Gargett, the first commodious business block ever built in the county; and it was the pride of Alma. The village presented an air of newness and primitive simplicity quite refreshing to one always accustomed to older settlements. I had not yet seen St. Louis, but my father described that sister hamlet as a burg surrounding a lumber and log yard.

"Late in the fall of that year I walked over to St. Louis with the double purpose of seeing the town and the town clerk. That worthy gentleman was George W. McHenry, mine host of the St. Louis Hotel. He was postmaster as well, and kept the postoffice in one corner of the hotel. I was ambitious to teach school that winter, and to that end it was necessary to secure the proper credentials from the township clerk. He asked few questions, as I remember it today; but one question, however, I shall not forget. I thought the more of him for asking it: 'Do you use profane language? Because if you do I shall not grant you a certificate.'

"I was surprised to find St. Louis with so many good buildings. Holcomb's mills and fine gothic residence stood there 40 years ago. The log-yard, once the business center of the town, so to speak, has long since ceased

to be. Where it was located is now the beautiful park fronting the Magnetic Springs, long the pride and boast of the fair city. * * *

"In 1865 Gratiot had no good roads worthy of the name. It was said by the oldest inhabitants that the county boasted of two roads on the one thoroughfare to St. Johns. Travelers in spring and fall always took the lower road; that is, they found the road anywhere from two to four feet below the surface. During the remainder of the year they took the 'upper road', that is, they remained on or near the surface.

"In those days there was not a brick house in the county. The great majority of the houses were built of logs. One solitary church building had been erected, and that was at Ithaca, standing just south and east of the court house. It was severely plain in its simplicity and looked like a country school house. It was owned and occupied by the Adventists.

"The second church erected in the county was built by the Presbyterians in the Township of North Star, five miles south of Ithaca. It is now owned by the United Brethren.

"In the latter part of 1865, Rev. Jonas Denton, whom Rev. Calvin Clark had introduced to the Gratiot work the year before, began the preliminaries of organizing a Presbyterian Church in northern Gratiot. My father, who was a Presbyterian 'from away back', was often consulted relative to the enterprise. Mr. Denton was a nervous, wiry man of slender physique. Not a gifted preacher, but, withal, a scholar and a worker. The whole county was his parish. While residing at St. Louis he laid the foundation of the North Star Church organization, and was instrumental in the erection of its building. Like all pioneer ministers he preached the Gospel in great simplicity in the log dwellings and log school houses.

"In those early days there existed considerable rivalry between the two sister villages on the Pine. At every town meeting the battle of the ballots was fought out, and the place for the next town meeting was one of the issues fought over. It is not strange, therefore, that the location of the Presbyterian Church and its prospective edifice should in some degree become entangled with the prevailing spirit of rivalry, when it is remembered that the new enterprise concerned both of the villages on the Pine. Alma, of itself could not boast of a solitary Presbyterian, but there were as many Presbyterians in the vicinity of Alma as lived in St. Louis. * * *

"The date for the organization of the Church was set for January 17, 1866, and Rev. Calvin Clark, synodical missionary, and organizer of so many Presbyterian Churches in Michigan, came on to Alma to 'moderate' the meeting. * * * Attendance on the meeting was fair, both localities being about evenly represented.

"The charter membership of the Church as organized was constituted as follows: John R. Cheesman, Samuel and Mrs. Gordon, Geo. W. and Mrs. McHenry, Ira Smith and wife Zada, all of St. Louis excepting Mr. and Mrs. Smith who resided two miles west of St. Louis. Then there were John Cole who lived a short distance west of Alma, Chas. M. Fleming and Eliza his wife, R. Franklin Fleming, L. I., D. C. and J. H. Fleming, all of whom lived four and a half miles northwest of Alma, and five and a half west of St. Louis.

"Of that original number constituting the Church, but five remain today —Mrs. Samuel Gordon, Mrs. Eliza Fleming, L. I., D. C. and J. H. Fleming. Only one of these continues in membership with the Church of St. Louis—Mrs. Samuel Gordon.

"Selecting a name for the new organization was a somewhat difficult task, as both villages wanted it. An ingenious compromise was effected which received unanimuos endorsement, by calling it the First Presbyterian

Church of Pine River. As both villages were located on the Pine, no objection was raised to the name.

"Late in the afternoon it was proposed to adjourn to meet again at the same place in the near future to complete the organization. Dr. Cheesman then arose and addressed the Chair. I remember distinctly his manner and words. Very courteous he was, yet his voice betrayed the deep interest he felt in the matter as he said, 'Mr. Moderator, we do not ask for the whole roof but we would like half of the roof. I move, Sir, that this meeting do now adjourn to meet in St. Louis two weeks from today to complete the organization.' The motion prevailed unanimously.

"Few men are permitted to make important history. Dr. Cheesman may not have realized that he was the determining human factor in establishing the Church at St. Louis, and the erection of the building itself which followed soon afterward.

"At the time appointed the Presbyterians met in the old Bethany school house at St. Louis to complete the organization. * * * The 'session' of that early Church was composed of the following individuals: John R. Cheesman, Samuel Gordon, Ira Smith and Chas. M. Fleming. The erection of the church building at St. Louis was now a foregone conclusion. Henry L. Holcomb, one of the strong men of the village and a man of considerable wealth, gave the society two lots on the Alma road, where the High School building now stands. I remember there was some determined opposition to its being located there, one lady complaining to me that it was decided 'to build the church in that swamp, away out of town'. Plans for the new edifice were soon completed, but the building itself was not ready for dedication until the fall of 1868.

"The following named business men of the village contributed liberally toward the erection of the church, and to whom the society owes an abiding debt of gratitude: John R. Cheesman, G. W. McHenry, Henry L. Holcomb, Samuel Gordon, Aaron Wessels and John Tuger. This does not exhaust the list, however, nearly everyone interested in the prosperity of the village contributing something toward the success of the enterprise. G. W. McHenry and Samuel Gordon probably are deserving of especial mention in this regard. Mr. Gordon hewed the first stick of timber that went into the structure. He subscribed $50 toward the church without knowing, as he said, where a dollar of it was coming from, and before the building was finished he had put $500 into it.

"It was a great day for St. Louis when, after much sacrifice on the part of the people, Mr. Spencer, the contractor, put the church keys into the hands of the trustees. A large audience assembled at the dedication of the church. Dr. J. Ambrose Wight, of Bay City, preached the sermon.

"That old church on the Alma road, with its rough, uncut boulders for corner stones, its white walls, green blinds and diminutive spire, presented a striking contrast to this elegant and commodious edifice in which we meet tonight. But, for all it was plain, it looked fair and beautiful to us in those days.

"To return to the spring of 1866: At that time a new minister came upon the charge, as the first acting pastor, succeeding Rev. Denton's ministrations. He was a man who was to exert a wholesome and formative influence over the community, which was to last for all time to come. Rev. Joseph T. Willett was strong in every way. He constituted one of those New England types of manhood whose very presence inspired respect and confidence. Tall, dignified, scholarly and often eloquent, he won his way to the hearts of the people from the first. In those days I heard him much oftener in the log school house in my father's neighborhood than at St.

Louis, for he preached there regularly each alternate Sunday. I shall never forget the pleasure I experienced in listening to him for the first time. His style and manner were so different from the ordinary backwoods preachers I had been accustomed to hearing. Those were primitive days, but ability counted for what it was worth. During the eight or nine years of Mr. Willett's pastorate the foundations of an intelligent and church-going community were laid which bear fruit today.

"The beginning of that pastorate came three years before the first newspaper was published in this village. It was three and a half years before the village was incorporated. The lot upon which this church stands was then outside of the village plat, as I remember it, becoming a part of Newton's Addition some years later.

"It was during the year 1869 that the famous Magnetic Springs were discovered, bringing hope to the despondent and a new business life to this part of the county. The streets leading to the village were full of carriages, so to speak, going to the 'troubled waters' of this modern Bethesda. To illustrate and give an idea of the fame of St. Louis at that time I will relate two incidents. During the summer of 1871, when the fame of the wonderful water was at high tide, on a Sunday morning Mr. Willett was in the pulpit and I was in the choir. A tall and rather feeble man, somewhat past middle life, came down the aisle and entered a pew a little to the right of the pulpit. Those luminous eyes, surmounted by shaggy brows and a Jove-like forehead impressed me with the fact that he was no ordinary man who listened so attentively to the sermon that morning. At the close of the service Mrs. Belknap remarked to me and others, 'The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Salmon P. Chase, has been with us this morning—and we still survive.' The other incident, though not so striking, afforded, if possible, a more pleasing surprise. My father was the superintendent of the Sunday School. A stranger came in during the session of the school one Sunday and quietly took his seat apart from the classes. Father invited him to address the school. 'Thank you, Sir,' he said, 'but I am more accustomed to singing than speaking, and if you will allow me I will lead the school in a little song service.' And that is how Wm. Howard Doane, so well known in circles of song all the world over, came before a St. Louis audience for the first time. That evening the little Presbyterian Church was crowded, and the way that famous leader of song got the people to sing, was a revelation.

"Early in the centennial year, Rev. Willett resigned his pastorate and a young man came on from Princeton to supply the church. As a preacher he was not a Mr. Willett, but there was a peculiar power in his earnestness. This was Rev. Chas. A. Taylor, the second active pastor of the church.

"Mr. Taylor remained one year and was succeeded by Rev. D. R. Shoup, a man small in stature but of remarkable energy and with an unlimited vocabulary. After about two years of active service, in which the church grew in numbers, Mr. Shoup was succeeded by Rev. L. D. Wells. In some respects Mr. Wells was the opposite of his predecessor. He was a large man and quite prepossessing in appearance. Lacking somewhat in energy he made up the deficiency in social qualities. After serving about two and a half years Mr. Wells accepted a call to Fenton, and then the church remained for a time without a pastor. During the interval, Rev. Hurlbutt, a Baptist evangelist, was engaged to lead a series of meetings in the church, from which both the Baptist and Presbyterian societies reaped a plentiful harvest.

"In the summer of 1881, Rev. W. E. Dodge, a student from Auburn Seminary, came on to supply the church for the summer vacation. He

proved to be of rare pulpit ability, and possessed a consecrated spirit and love for his chosen work. While he remained with us but three months, he endeared himself greatly to the people and left an abiding influence. In the fall of that year, Rev. L. W. Chapman, of West Bay City, supplied the pulpit acceptably for several months.

"Another vacancy occurring, the Session began to look about again for a pastor. The Church of Montague, Mich., furnished the man wanted, and Rev. R. J. L. Mathews was called, serving the church from 1882 to 1885. He was an extemporaneous speaker of unusual ability, and a lecturer of more than ordinary talent. Mrs. Mathews was a most efficient pastor's wife. Her rare qualities of mind and heart won for her a warm place among the people of St. Louis.

"Sometime after Mr. Mathews resigned, Rev. Jonathan E. Richards, a Congregational minister of St. Johns, and a warm personal friend of Rev. Theo. Nelson, was called to the field, serving the church acceptably during one of the most trying periods of its history. His services were divided between this church and that in Emerson. During his pastorate some new and important enterprises were set in motion, aided, to a large extent by the efficient helpmate, Mrs. Richards. One of these was the sale of the old site and the purchase of a new one, to which the building was moved. The new site is the same as that formerly occupied by the Eastman House, which was for several years the leading hotel in the village. Mr. Richards was an excelent preacher and a good pastor. After some seven years of service he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Brown, a Congregational minister and a brother-in-law of Dr. Gunsaulus, of Chicago. He was an eloquent preacher and the congregation grew under his brief pastorate.

"Early in 1890, Rev. J. Adair McGreaham, who had been signally successful in city pastorates in the East, was called to this church, and came on with his family later in the season. And thus began one of the most successful pastorates in the history of the church. From a membership of 68 in 1893, it grew to 170 in 1901. Mr. McGreaham possessed a hopeful temperament much needed at the time, and this quality, united with his recognized ability as a preacher and pastor and with a helpmate of rare tact and womanly grace, produced such a happy combination of qualifications and circumstances, that the church, under his administration of nine years' duration, enjoyed the largest degree of prosperity and popularity in its history.

"During Mr. McGreaham's administration the old edifice was found to be too small for the new conditions; and out of the old came forth the new; and so enlarged and beautified by the skill of the architect and by the munificence of the society and friends, that no one unfamiliar with the facts would suspect the origin of the new structure.

"In midsummer, 1903, Rev. S. P. Bates was called and assumed charge as pastor. He possessed a genial personality, and was a pleasing speaker; the church grew under his brief pastoral care. About this time the city began to recover from the long financial depression. The new chemical plant had been located here, and this, with the beet sugar factory, gave promise of metropolitan prosperity. Beautiful homes sprung up along the thoroughfares, and the city began to forge ahead somewhat after the form of its old ambition, when it was known as 'The New Saratoga of the West.' And this church, having caught the spirit of new enterprise and a new hopefulness, has entered upon a new pastorate which I hope may prove even more prosperous than any that have preceded it.

"But to draw this retrospect to a close. In this history of 40 years I have been compelled to omit many things of interest. You who have been upon the field in the more recent years would be far better qualified to speak

of events of those recent years. I do not forget, and will not overlook, the many noble women of this church and congregation whose labors and loyal devotion to the cause have helped to make the church what it is today. All honor to the Christian women in all our churches. They are worthy successors to the Hannahs, the Lydias, the Marys, the Marthas and the Dorcases of sacred story.

"I am sure you will not think of me as making invidious comparisons if I speak of some who were closely associated with me in the earlier days of the church. How the memory of other days comes rushing in like a tide tonight as we recall the names of comrades of other days! Our parents and companions, and many others whose voices are silent now, yet whose influence abides with us as a constant benediction! Brother Gordon and Brother Scriver! How loyally and how liberally they gave of their means and their services in the formative years of the church! Father Hill and Father Snyder; always at the prayer meeting! Brother Acker and Brother Chas. Willett; Brothers Geo. Ferris, Allen Warren, C. L. Fleming and Chas. Barton! Mrs. Saviers, Mrs. Scriver and Mrs. Scott! Then there were Prudie McCoy, whom some of us remember as an angel of mercy; and Nellie Canfield, Clara Stebbins and Mary Fleming. * * * It is significant concerning the faith of the early Christians that they never spoke of their departed ones as dead; it was always, 'They fell asleep.' So may we, too, regard our absent beloved.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

"'There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore;
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine forevermore.

And ever near us, though unseen,
The dear immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless Universe
Is life — there are no dead.'"

Rev. Hurd Allyn Drake is the present pastor. He has served very acceptably for the past six or eight years.

### Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1856 the M. E. Conference formed what was called the Gratiot Circuit of the M. E. Church. It embraced the middle and eastern parts of the county, and included Salt River (now Shepherd), Isabella County. In March of the previous year—1855—Rev. Elias Sower, of North Star Township, had organized the first M. E. Church society or class in the county. It was located in the southern part of North Star. The Gratiot circuit, when formed in 1856, had St. Louis for its principal station, and the pastors resided there or had that place for their headquarters. This arrangement continued in force until 1867, when the circuit was divided, the northern part being designated as the St. Louis Circuit, the southern section being the Ithaca Circuit.

The first M. E. Church class to be formed in the northern part of Gratiot, was organized in the Abraham Woodin neighborhood, between Alma and St. Louis in the year 1856. In 1857 the society split up, part going to Alma and part to St. Louis, in each of which places new classes were formed. The St. Louis class was formed with twelve members as follows: Mrs. F. D. Weller, Mr. and Mrs. Cline, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Woodin, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harris and Wheaton Goodwin. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. McHenry, though Presbyterians, were also taken in as pro tem members until such time as they could connect with a society of their own.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Rev. T. J. Hill was the first pastor assigned to Gratiot Circuit, and he was supposed to cover the whole territory with preaching at St. Louis, Alma, Ithaca, Pompeii, North Star, Wheeler Ridge and Salt River. Rev. Hill was followed by Rev. Calvin B. Holbrook, who was succeeded by Uriah Mason who officiated through 1859 and '60. Rev. Mason was succeeded by Rev. Finch, and he by Rev. Stephen Dodge. Then came Rev. J. H. Webb who served a short time and was followed by Rev. Lyman Ferguson who remained one year. Rev. E. M. Plumb followed, and the work by this time had outgrown the capacity of one man to do justice to the society, so Rev. A. W. House was sent as an assistant. At the same time the circuit was enlarged to take in Elm Hall and Forest Hill.

In 1868 Rev. T. J. Hill made his second appearance as pastor. He remained three years and was followed by Rev. John K. Stark, who also served three years. Mr. Stark has been for several years chaplain at the Soldiers' Home at Grand Rapids, and at this writing is still serving the Home in that capacity. Up to the time of Mr. Stark's pastorate services had been held in the Bethany school house, located where the Grammar School building now stands. In the meantime C. B. Kress had erected his big, three-story wooden block on the corner where the Drury block now stands, most of the second story of which was finished up as a public hall. Early in Rev. Stark's administration the society changed its location for services to this hall and continued to occupy it until able to occupy its new brick edifice which was erected on block 34, Pine Street, in 1873 and '74, and which continued in service until January, 1907, when it gave way to the present church building. The corner stone of the brick church on Pine Street was laid May 31, 1873, Rev. W. H. Perrine, of Albion, Mich., officiating. Almost exactly one year from that date—that is, on May 30, 1874—the church was dedicated, Rev. W. H. Perrine again conducting the services and ceremonies.

From 1874 to '77 the church was served by Rev. H. D. Jordan, who was followed by Rev. S. L. Hamilton, pastor for two years. Then came Rev. G. C. Draper—two years. Rev. C. A. Jacokes then came for a two-year term, and was succeeded by Rev. M. W. F. Smith—two years, and he by Rev. Geo. Donaldson who retired to a new field after one year at St. Louis. Then followed Rev. Rheal; Rev. A. F. Hart—three years, giving place—in 1891—to Rev. C. W. East who served a three-year term and was followed by Rev. H. H. Ford—three years; Rev. A. T. Luther—two years; Rev. George Killeen—two years; Rev. S. C. Robinson—three years. Rev. J. M. Wolfe took hold in 1904 and held the place five years. During his pastorate the new church edifice was erected. Rev. Swett followed Rev. Wolfe, and Rev. Hollenbeck succeeded Rev. Swett, and was succeeded, in 1911, by the present pastor, Rev. W. I. Elmer.

The present tasty cement-block building had its corner stone laid July 26, 1906. On that interesting occasion former Mayor Geo. S. Aldrich gave a history of the church from its organization. I have made use of some of the details rehearsed by him, and now close this brief historical sketch with the eloquent and appropriate words—even though a trifle self-satisfied in tone—with which Mr. Aldrich brought his remarks to a close:

"Now, in the twilight, let us pause for a moment and take a backward glance along the pathway which we have traveled in the past. We rejoice that our pathway has been continually rising and our course has been onward and upward; and that while our predecessors have done nobly and grandly, we trust that when our work shall have been viewed in the light of the future, that the verdict of posterity in regard to our endeavors will be that we were faithful to the trust that was reposed in us, and that we, too, shall feel that we have done what we could to make the world brighter and better for our having lived therein.

"Let me say in conclusion that no more timely or opportune occasion than that of the present could possibly occur to celebrate the laying of this corner stone, it being the 50th anniversary of the first service held by this denomination in this place, making this time the golden jubilee, and this occasion one that means much for the future of this society; and if those into whose hands the future care and labor of the society shall fall, shall acquit themselves with as much honor as those into whose hands its past destiny has been committed, then indeed will they merit the praise of 'Well done good and faithful servants, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.'"

The dedication of the new church building took place January 27, 1907, the interesting services and ceremonies being conducted by Rev. W. D. Parr, D. D., of Kokomo, Indiana.

The church has a present membership of 250.

### St. Louis Baptist Church.

The Baptist Church at St. Louis was one of the first churches organized in the county. It was organized at the residence of Francis Way, about half-way between St. Louis and Alma, in the year 1856. The charter members were Francis Way, Peter Pruden, Lafayette Church and wife, Sidney S. Hastings and wife, Mrs. Abraham Woodin and Mrs. Elijah Porter. Rev. Lafayette Church ministered to the society many years, and had Rev. Fay as a co-worker. Rev. W. S. Everest followed, then came Rev. Theodore Nelson, followed by Rev. P. P. Farnham, Lewis G. Clark, Rev. Williams and Rev. Vine. A frame church building was erected in 1872 on Church Street, and it still does duty for the society. For a few years past, pastors and services have been irregular. The church building was remodeled in 1882, Rev. E. H. E. Jameson of Saginaw conducting the services at the re-dedication, June 25, 1882.



BAPTIST CHURCH.

Other church societies in St. Louis are the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Christian Church, the German-Lutheran, the Adventist, the Catholic and perhaps others. There is no good reason known why they are not enjoying a satisfactory degree of prosperity. Complete data relative to their present condition are unavailable, however, and this brief reference to them will have to suffice, excepting that we are able to give fine cuts of both the Episcopal and Christian Church edifices, the former located on Pine Street, the latter on corner of Saginaw and Franklin Streets. The Christian Church building was erected by the Congregationalists in the year 1883 and was dedicated December 21st of that year, Rev. Leroy Warren, of Lansing, officiating. The pastor of the church was Rev. W. C. Calland, a very popular minister. The building was sold to the Christian denomination, and the Congregational society disbanded. Too many church organizations for the size of the town was given as the reason for discontinuing business. The Christian Church is in a healthy condition under the ministrations of Rev. J. C. Meese.

## ST. LOUIS SOCIETIES.

### St. Louis F. & A. M., No. 188.

St. Louis Lodge No. 188 was chartered January 11, 1866. Some of its Masters in the early days were Oscar A. Everden, Jas. P. Dodge, Jas. H. Foster, John W. Tackabury, Herbert G. Graves, Carlton Abbott, Andrew J. Harrington, C. W. Martin, G. S. Case, Chas. J. Willett, Ezekiel Arnold, B. A. Church and A. R. Wheeler.

Officers for 1913: W. M.—G. O. Brooks; S. W.—F. D. Bacon; J. W.—Ross Miller; S. D.—Glenn Kane; J. D.—Dr. Kemp; Sec.—I. D. Suydam; Treas.—Fred Bieber; Stewards—Lewis Rumsey, Adelbert Humm.

Membership, 190.

### St. Louis Chapter R. A. M.

St. Louis Chapter No. 87, R. A. M. was chartered January 21, 1874. Some of the early High Priests were A. J. Utley, F. E. Martin, J. H. Foster, M. Pollasky, E. Arnold, N. Leonard, C. R. Holliday, Wm. Lee Yost, A. R. Wheeler.

Officers for 1913: H. P.—F. A. Shaffer; K.—J. H. Whitney; C. of H.—Carlton Smith; P. S. J.—Gale Brooks; R. A. C.—Glenn Kane; 1st M. of V.—Otto F. Mey; 2nd M. of V.—D. Woodmansee; 3rd M. of V.—John Tuger; Sec.—A. H. Lowry; Treasurer—F. H. Bernard.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

### St. Louis I. O. O. F.

Magnetic Lodge No. 141 was instituted May 10, 1870. First officers: N. G.—E. F. Stiles; V. G.—Chas. Beil; Sec.—M. H. Tuttle; Treas.—J. M. Aldrich.

Early N. G.'s were—L. B. Longwell, A. R. Wheeler, C. D. Stevens, Henry Davison, L. W. Harris, Wm. O. Wilkinson, Calvin Davison, M. A. Stevens, Geo. E. Smith, C. L. Perrigo, Wm. Corbus, B. R. Lane.

Officers for 1913: N. G.—Floyd E. Smith; V. G.—John Christman; R. S.—W. A. Whitney; P. S.—M. A. Stevens; Treas.—W. N. Boice; R. S. N. G.—Chas. Perrigo; L. S. N. G.—Vern Coleman; R. S. V. G.—Chas.

Hastings; L. S. V. G.—Fred Biddlecom; W.—Chas. Rowley; Con.—B. R. Lane; I. G.—A. O. Totten; O. G.—Chas. Harris; R. S. S.—H. E. Histed; L. S. S.—Chas. Ehrman; Chap. L. B. Longwell.

Number of members, 171.

### Rebeccas.

Assistance Lodge No. 223 was instituted July 27, 1894, with charter members as follows: Martha R. Angell, Ella Pulver, Lorinda M. Longwell, Lottie Campbell, Agnes A. Perry, M. D. Grover, Sam. I. Harrison, R. E. Hughes, L. B. Longwell.

Officers for 1913: N. G.—Mary Rogers; V. G.—Anna Perrigo; R. S.—Edith Stevens; F. S.—Lizzie Lane; Treas.—Jennie Saunders; W.—Emily Alward; Con.—Addie McCall; R. S. N. G.—Minnie McCall; L. S. N. G.—Lorinda M. Longwell; R. S. V. G.—Maggie Kent; L. S. V. G.—Mary Scott; Chap.—Maggie Stronach.

Number of members, 174.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Anchor Tent No. 124, Knights of the Modern Maccabees was chartered February 22, 1884 with charter members as follows:

Geo. M. Ferris, F. C. Seymour, J. T. Noble, Frank E. Salsbury, H. U. Woodin, John M. Combs, A. M. Fairchild, Jas. A. Burgess, Chas. W. Alexander, A. A. Andrus, J. A. Weller, Fred C. Norris, Sylvester C. Smith, Thos. J. Nichols, Edgar W. Traver.

Officers for 1913: Com.—Fred Schultheiss; Lt. Com.—A. A. Andrus; R. K. and F. K.—D. E. Devore; Phy.—Dr. W. E. Barstow; Chap.—Newton Burns; Sec.—W. J. Henry; M. at A.—Frank McLean; 1st M. of G.—F. S. Clegg; 2nd M. of G. Frank Fox; Sent.—Lewis Thompson; Pick. Geo. Wilson.

Membership, 123.

### L. O. T. M. M.

St. Louis Hive No. 216, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees, was instituted May 20, 1890, with the following charter members:

Mary Hage, Ella E. Parks, Mary Miller, Alma E. Finehout, Marian A. Burgess, Emma M. Badger, Rosa M. Barnes, Matilda Leland, Elizabeth N. Jones, Bertha H. Gardner, Emma J. Alexander, Addie Walsh, Sarah Kane, Alice Lowry, Anna Devore, Jessie Tucker, Julia Bordine, Minnie Seidman, Alice L. Scriver, Mary A. Wilson, Emma McCarty, Elsie Vandercook, Ella R. Heidenrich.

First officers: Past Com.—Roxana Kemp; Com.—Frances E. Burns; Lt. Com.—Lizzie Claggett; R. K.—Etta Fritz; F. K.—Hattie Phillips; Chap.—Lettie Graves; Sergeant—Cora Wilson; Mat.—Emma Noble; Sentinel—Laura Smith; Picket—Maria Shaver.

### Grand Army of the Republic.

Wm. D. Wilkins Post No. 91, was organized October 25, 1882, with charter members as follows: Archibald B. Darragh, Daniel O. Cuff, Earl A. Sheffield, Gideon S. Case, Eugene King, Hiram B. Straight, Albert Earl, J. Clark Serrels, John Shelt, Chas. O. Holiday, Peter Robinson, Jonathan C. Giddings, Lyman Sykes, Truman W. Whitney, Henry M. Martin, Geo. M. Clark, Henry G. Stearns, Geo. W. Perry, Stephen M. Kent, L. Bentley Longwell, Zealous Sperry, Isaac G. Laclear, Frank M. Frear, Carlton C. Hart, Neil McDougal.

Past Commanders are A. B. Darragh, C. H. Crandall, L. B. Longwell, Willard Gay, Henry Davison, L. W. Beach, H. O. Totten, H. E. Histed.

Officers for 1913: Com.—I. G. Laclear; S. V. C.—Oscar Hart; J. V. C.—Geo. Wood; O. of D.—Geo. W. Saunders; O. of G.—John Brown; Q. M.—J. N. Bonney; Adj.—L. W. Beach.

Membership, 40.

### Woman's Relief Corps.

St. Louis W. R. C. No. 94, was organized October 20, 1886.

Present officers: Pres.—Della Cornell; S. V. P.—A. O. Buckley; J. V. P.—Mrs. Barker; Sec.—Mrs. Northrop; Treas.—Sarah V. Rounds; Col. B.—Jennie Saunders, Lorinda M. Longwell, Mrs. Myers, Sarah Wilcox; Chap.—Mrs. Griffith.

Number of members, 45.

### Knights of Pythias.

St. Louis Lodge No. 49, K. of P., was instituted February 4, 1884, by D. F. Glidden, Grand Chancellor of Michigan. The following names appear as those of the charter members:

Jas. Paddock, Jas. K. Wright, H. T. La Bar, J. V. Johnson, Alfred K. Smith, A. H. Lowry, A. F. Wright, John Burns, Andy Herron, Wm. Smith, W. C. Lanshaw, Fred Allen, E. A. Dolph, C. C. Grim, C. W. Althouse, E. R. Allen, F. W. Hughes, S. D. Waxman, Wm. Kroll, Geo. W. Mead, W. H. Rennels.

Present membership, 64.

### Pythian Sisters.

Sincerity Temple No. 58 was instituted May 14, 1902, and officered as follows:

M. E. C.—Emma Alexander; M. T.—Cora Wilson; P. T.—Emma Andrus; E. S.—Anna Devore; M. R. C.—Sabra Hart; G. O. T.—Minnie Sharp; E. J.—Sarah Snook; M. F.—Myrtle Branch; P. C. T.—Estelle Howland.

Temple was instituted by Lydia M. Peet, Grand Chief, and Ethel A. Hendricks, Grand M. of R. and C.

Present officers: P. C.—Anna Devore; M. E. C.—Etta Vandercook; M. R. C.—Lydia Clark; M. F.—Jennie Boice; M. of T.—Cora Wilson; E. J.—Edna Graham; E. S.—Mrs. Clifton; P. of T.—Mrs. Andrus; O. G.—Mrs. R. Kemp.

### M. W. of America.

St. Louis Camp, No. 4643, Modern Woodmen of America, was chartered April 22, 1898, with the following charter members:

Geo. S. Aldrich, A. R. Beadle, Frank W. Blair, Geo. A. Curtis, Wm. H. Curtis, Royal S. Eaton, H. J. Tuger, R. E. Gladstone, F. C. Henry, C. V. Hensel, C. H. Kingsbury, R. E. Kline, F. G. Kneeland, Fred E. Lewis, Frank Nestell, Wm. A. Patchen, C. L. Perrigo, Harvey Rose, S. I. Rowe, Lewis A. Smith, M. H. Swick, Harley J. Swick, A. R. Wheeler, John R. Wilson, F. M. Vandercook.

### Foresters.

St. Louis has had a lodge of the Independent Order of Foresters since May 2, 1892, on which date Court Wah-Wah-Sum No. 1060 was instituted. A list of the charter members includes the names of several citizens still well known in St. Louis and vicinity, and is as follows: A. R. Wheeler, W. G. West, F. E. Gleason, Ernest L. Vliet, E. L. Pequegnat, B. A. Church, D. A. Whitbeck, C. W. Giddings, John R. Knight, Francis J. Laclear, Ernest R. Nichols, Henry R. Tyroler, Clarence Vliet, Arthur W. Baldwin, Cepha Wood, Cassius D. Perrine, F. L. Taylor, Leslie Pickens, Geo. B. Culver, Jonathan W. Gay, Corlis Atwater, Joseph Dewers.

Present membership, 34.

### National Union.

Gratiot Council No. 359, was instituted September 14, 1889, with the following charter members:

S. Ostrander Sr., F. M. Vandercook, A. H. Lowry, Geo. E. Miller, Calvin A. Smith, Fred C. Henry, Lewis Smart, J. B. Duff, W. S. Ward, John Burns, A. S. McIntyre, M. J. Claggett, C. E. Marsh, Newton Burns, A. W. Driedoppel, S. Kennedy, H. J. Tuger, J. A. Roberts.

### Knights of the Loyal Guard.

St. Louis Division No. 14, K. of L. G., was instituted April 3, 1895, with charter members as follows:

Samuel I. Rowe, Joel A. Gager, A. R. Wheeler, Henry Harnick, Frank T. West, B. D. Weaver, F. C. Henry, L. H. Cleveland, W. G. West, Julius

T. Noyes, Seaman M. Smith, W. L. Yost, R. G. George, Geo. M. Newton, Jas. W. Bernard, Edward L. Pequegnat, A. W. Pequegnat, H. Randolph, B. A. Church.

First officers: Capt. Gen.—A. F. Wright; Sen. Capt.—Geo. W. Long; Jr. Capt.—Geo. S. Aldrich; Recorder—Henry J. Tuger.

## ST. LOUIS NEWSPAPERS.

### Gazette—Herald.

The first newspaper published in St. Louis was established in January, 1869, the first issue of "The St. Louis Gazette" being dated Friday, January 8, 1869. Quite a complete account of the founding of the paper is given in another subdivision; so, for the purposes of this subdivision, I will content myself and readers by giving an extract from an item in the old Gratiot County Album, published in 1884, which refers to the Gazette and its successor, the Herald; an account that I have every reason to know is correct, and which I feel perfectly justified in "smouging." "The St. Louis Gazette was founded in the winter of 1868-9, by Messrs. Holcomb, Evans and Smith. The organization and management were entrusted to W. H. H. Bartrem, of Bay City. The first men engaged on the paper as typesetters and printers were Jas. Paddock and J. R. Baldwin. At the end of about four months Mr. Bartrem withdrew, and the proprietors engaged A. L. Blood, of California, to conduct the paper. Five months later Blood retired from the noble work in disgust, and a passage in his valedictory will long be remembered by old settlers for the evident feeling of discouragement which it evinces in its wording: 'Dear, d——d, delightful town, farewell.' Blood was evidently too high-bred for pioneer life, and was not appreciated at what he considered his true value.

"A Mr. Brown, from Owosso, then tried his hand at operating the paper, but gave it up at the end of three months. Afterward J. W. Bailey from the Lansing Republican office was imported to take charge. His stewardship covered the space of an entire year, when the paper was sold to Mrs. Hattie Church, whose husband, E. Church, conducted it as editor and manager till the autumn of 1870 when it was sold to Aaron Wessels, who engaged Leonard & Scott, a firm of lawyers, of St. Louis, as editors and managers. This practically ended the Gazette, for before Wessels got squared around in working order, Holcomb & Evans took possession of the material on a writ of replevin. In the suit that resulted, Holcomb & Evans were sustained in their claim and soon after they sold out to Wm. W. Cook, a practical printer from Leslie, Mich. On the 17th of March, 1871, the first number of the St. Louis Herald was issued by Mr. Cook, editor and proprietor, with the material, and upon the ruins of the old Gazette.

"In September, 1874, Mr. Cook sold the paper to Jared B. Graham. He published it three years and then—September, 1877—sold to Henry Smalley. Mr. Smalley continued the publication of the paper till November, 1880, when he sold out to Jas. H. Shults, who, at the end of about three months, sold to Willard D. Tucker."

Mr. Tucker continued the publication of the paper at St. Louis until December, 1887, when he removed it to Ithaca, buying the Advance, published there, and, consolidating the two, continued the publication under the name of the Gratiot County Herald, which journal he sold to J. N. McCall in July, 1892. Mr. McCall has remained editor and proprietor up to the present time.

### Spy—Leader.

In March, 1879, Gustavus Meyers, son of Dr. Jacob Meyers ("Dutch Jake"), got possession of a small printing outfit and started a crude little paper which he called the St. Louis Spy. In June of the same year Frank M. Vandercook, who had served time as a printer in Mason, Mich., bought a half interest in the Spy, and in the following August Alvin D. Pettit bought the other half and the name was changed to the St. Louis Leader. In January, 1881, Pettit sold his interest to Vandercook, and in July of that year Edwin S. Hoskins bought a half interest, buying the other half in November, 1882. Afterward F. M. Vandercook bought back a half interest in the paper. In 1883 Mr. Hoskins became the sole owner and so continued until November, 1889, when he sold the paper to John N. Foster, who also—in December, 1889—bought the St. Louis Republican, naming the combined product the St. Louis Republican Leader. Early in 1893 J. Archie Weller had editorial charge of the paper for a time.

In the summer of 1893 the fortunes of the three papers—Republican-Leader, the Alma Record and the Ithaca Journal—were merged in a corporation called the Gratiot County Printing Co. Charles H. Chase was given the management of the Republican-Leader, O. M. Everden was assigned to the Gratiot Journal, and Charles F. Brown retained his position as conductor of the Record. This arrangement continued until 1896 when the combination was dissolved and O. M. Everden took the Republican-Leader as his portion of the assets, continuing the publication of the paper until his death in 1906. Mrs. O. M. Everden continued its publication until 1908 when she sold to Geo. Adams. In 1910 Mrs. Adams sold the paper to F. M. Vandercook. In 1912 Mr. Vandercook sold the paper to the present owner and publisher, Fred A. Hamlin. The paper has had its name changed to the St. Louis Leader, the "Republican" prefix having been dropped.

Mr. Hamlin is publishing a live paper, and one that deserves, and seems to be receiving, the liberal support of the community.

### Gratiot County Democrat.

In the fall of 1882 Jerome V. Johnson, an experienced newspaper man of Charlotte, Mich., came up to St. Louis and started a paper called the Gratiot County Democrat. In August, 1884, H. F. Beery became editor and proprietor of the Democrat. The paper never got very firmly established, and in January, 1885, it was discontinued, the outfit being sold to Frank Bracelin of the Montague Lumberman.

### St. Louis Republican.

After a year's residence in Ithaca as publisher of the Ithaca Times, F. M. Vandercook returned to St. Louis, and in 1885 started a paper which he

called the St. Louis Republican. In August, 1886, he sold the paper to Ed. E. Smith, of Howard City. The office was destroyed in the big fire of March 24, 1888, but in April, 1888, it was resurrected by F. M. Vandercook who conducted it until it was consolidated with the Leader in December, 1889, the result being called the St. Louis Republican Leader.

### St. Louis Press.

In May, 1888, on the theory that Gratiot County should have a Democratic paper, a possession which it had been destitute of since Beery's paper suspended in 1885, J. Wesley Griffith came down from Mt. Pleasant and established the St. Louis Press. The theory seemed plausible enough, but the problem worked out about as all Democratic theories in Gratiot have generally worked out; it "worked out", literally; down and out, and the Press suspended in August, 1889.

### St. Louis Independent.

In January, 1890, F. M. Vandercook again came to the front, buying the material of the defunct St. Louis Press and started a new paper which he called the St. Louis Independent and which he conducted until 1909, selling it in that year to Dr. C. B. Wilcox. That gentleman published the paper until 1912 when he sold to Edson H. Mudge, who came from the Ashley World, which paper he had conducted for several years. Mr. Wilcox had brought the paper up to a high state of efficiency and popularity, and Mr. Mudge—a first-class newspaper man—is keeping it well up in the front rank of the best county papers in Central Michigan.

### Some Daily Newspapers.

St. Louis editors were for a time famous for their attempts to publish daily editions of their papers and make a success of the proposition. The attempts proved failures in every instance. The first was the "Evening Leader", by F. M. Vandercook, the first number bearing date March 5, 1881. This was put out in a hurry, to head off A. D. Pettit's "Morning Telegraph" which was to appear, and did appear, March 7, 1881. In November, 1883, J. V. Johnson put forth the Daily Democrat. None of these lasted. In 1893 F. M. Vandercook commenced the publication of a daily called the St. Louis Press which he managed to keep alive about three years. He claimed a circulation of 700 copies, but it retired from the field in December, 1896.

### Michigan State Advance.

This was an eight-page monthly paper published by Albert D. & E. G. Rust, the first copy of which was issued in April, 1869. It had for its object the diffusion of practical and reliable information regarding the present natural advantages and future prospects of Northern Michigan, and of Gratiot County and St. Louis in particular. The paper was well-printed and well-edited, and contained interesting write-ups of local villages. But it only lasted a year or two.

## ST. LOUIS BANKS AND BANKERS.

### The Gratiot County State Bank of St. Louis.

In 1870, Gratiot County, with a population of 11,810, and Isabella and Midland Counties with a combined population of 7,398, were without banking facilities within their respective borders. The nearest banks available to this population were located at St. Johns and at Saginaw. The latter place was quite inaccessible owing to lack of roads, until the completion of the Glasby plank road in the fall of 1870.

In November, 1869, Chas. Kipp, Samuel S. Walker, John Hicks, R. M. Steel and Josiah Upton, all of St. Johns, Mich., entered into a co-partnership with A. B. Darragh, of Jackson, Mich., for the purpose of engaging in the business of banking, at St. Louis, Mich., and on the 24th day of February, 1870, a banking office was opened by them, for business, under the name of The Gratiot County Bank of St. Louis, with A. B. Darragh as manager and cashier. Of the original proprietors of this bank, all are now dead excepting Josiah Upton and A. B. Darragh.

Pioneer banking in 1870 was no sinecure; for until 1872 there was neither railroad, express or telegraph company doing business in the county; and the telephone had not yet been invented. The only means of communication with the outside world was a daily stage carrying mail and passengers, which sometimes arrived the day it was due, and sometimes on the following day. The chief business of this section at that time—the logging and lumber interest—required large amounts of currency in the winter season, which became redundant after the "drive" went down the river in the spring. To meet these conditions the bank manager was compelled to act as his own expressman. He frequently found it necessary to drive over the worst of roads a distance of 64 miles—to St. Johns and return—between 4 o'clock p. m. and 9 o'clock the next morning.

The Gratiot County Bank, in the early days, had on its books, as customers, the names of the principal business men and farmers of Gratiot and Isabella Counties. Many of these pioneers, their sons and grandsons, are still its patrons.

In 1875, in compliance with the Michigan statute of that year relative to unincorporated banks, the name of the co-partnership was changed to Darragh & Co. In 1884 the bank was incorporated under the National Bank act as The First National Bank of St. Louis, with Col. John A. Elwell as president; Henry L. Holcomb, vice-president, and A. B. Darragh, cashier. In 1897 the bank was re-incorporated under a state charter as The Gratiot County State Bank of St. Louis, with John Tuger as president; A. B. Darragh, cashier, and B. A. Church, assistant cashier. The present board of directors is composed of A. B. Darragh, H. J. Tuger, John Burns, D. E. Harrison, D. E. Acker. The present officers are A. B. Darragh, president; Henry J. Tuger, vice-president; Frank M. Thedgar, cashier; Fred A. Bieber, assistant cashier.

The great panics of 1873 and 1893 tested the strength and endurance of all the banks of the country—as did the minor disturbance of 1907 in a less degree and for a briefer period of time. Fortunately this institution, fortified by the confidence of the depositors and by a strong reserve, withstood with courage the severe shocks of those years, and came safely through the depressing years that followed.

The Gratiot County State Bank of St. Louis, during the past forty-three years, has lived to see the steady progress of this portion of the state from an almost unbroken wilderness to the enviable position which it now occupies as one of the richest and best agricultural sections of Michigan. When it opened its doors for business in February, 1870, there were in Michigan a total of 146 banks—National, State and private. Of these and their legitimate successors only 39 are in existence today. The Gratiot County State Bank has the distinction of being one of less than a dozen banks in this state which for 43 years have been continuously under one management. During its long banking career it has successfully passed through every panic since 1869, and has never failed to pay, on demand, every obligation due to its depositors and patrons.

Since the erection of the Holcomb Opera House block, in 1881, the bank has had its quarters in office rooms especially provided for its use in that block, corner of Center and Mill Streets. During the summer of 1912, the bank's entrance, including the entire corner of the block, was remodeled, greatly improving its appearance and adding to its convenience; a striking change, gratifying alike to bankers and patrons.

Four cardinal principles adopted and observed by this bank: "Consistent Liberality, Uniform Courtesy, Accuracy in Detail, Promptness in Execution."

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### The Commercial Savings Bank.

This is one of the popular, substantial and useful institutions of St. Louis. It is centrally located, occupying the corner rooms of the Commercial Savings Bank block, southwest corner of Mill and Saginaw Streets. This bank is directly descended from the private bank of Harrington, Saviers & Company, which was opened in 1874 in the building now occupied by E. C. Phillips & Co., dealers in real estate, insurance, etc.

The Commercial Savings Bank block—known until recently as the Harrington House block—was erected in the year 1881, and on its completion the bank took possession of the rooms designed for the purpose, the present rooms of the Commercial Savings Bank.

The bank was organized as a State Bank, and took its present name November 30, 1889; the first State Bank to be established in the county. The stockholders of the new or re-organized bank were L. Saviers, C. W. Althouse, Hiram Harrington, Nathaniel White, J. O. Hilton, Chas. J. Willett, A. A. Andrus, Samuel Gordon, John Fields, Jas. W. Bernard, Jas. A. Burgess, Sidney S. Hastings, M. J. Moore, N. S. Baldwin, Carrie M. Saviers, Geo. M. Ferris, Parker Merrill, A. S. McIntyre.

The officers at the present time are as follows: President—A. S. McIntyre; Vice-President—N. White; Cashier—F. H. Bernard; Ass't Cashier—W. G. West. In addition to the officers as here given, the board of directors is composed of C. J. Bernard, Felix O'Melia, F. C. Henry, Carl S. Harrington, W. L. Yost.

The capital stock is placed at $25,000. Its latest statement shows resources of about $400,000.

During the summer of 1912, the Harrington House block was extensively remodeled. By the transformation, the bank's quarters were considerably enlarged and greatly improved, giving it much better facilities for the transaction of business, and adding much to appearances both inside

and outside. The bank now has as fine an office as any in the county, and the location is ideal.

The bank has always enjoyed the confidence of the business community, and its business has shown a steady growth from the date of its organization.

## POSTOFFICE AND POSTMASTERS.

Aaron R. Wheeler is serving his sixteenth consecutive year as postmaster at St. Louis. His term expires March 28, 1914. His predecessors in the office, together with the dates of their appointment, are given in detail as follows: Joseph F. Clapp, November 16, 1855; Abram M. Crawford, May 17, 1856; Richard G. Hillyer, February 17, 1857; Elias W. Smith, October 20, 1857; Edward L. Drake, January 2, 1863; George W. McHenry, May 26, 1864; Theodore H. Foland, October 9, 1866; Chester L. Harrington, March 1, 1867; George W. McHenry, December 9, 1867; James Paddock, June 18, 1875; George W. McHenry, July 29, 1875; Owen I. Taylor, July 3, 1877; Frank W. Hastings, December 15, 1879; Theodore Nelson, December 20, 1882; John M. Church, November 1, 1883; Charles R. Holliday, November 12, 1885; Stiles Kennedy, August 3, 1886; Ervin H. Ewell, December 20, 1889; Stiles Kennedy, January 31, 1894; Aaron R. Wheeler, January 10, 1898.

Postmaster Wheeler's assistant is Ray Shippey; mailing clerk, L. B. Chittenden; general delivery clerk, Gertrude Smith.

St. Louis has seven rural routes to aid in the distribution of mail to the agricultural districts surrounding. The several routes are served as follows: No. 1 by Hallet S. Curtis; No. 2 by Jean G. Smith; No. 3 by Cassius D. Perrine; No. 4 by A. N. Martin; No. 5 by Verne D. Perrine; No. 6 by Kirk R. Hildreth; No. 7 by Ross F. Miller.

## BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY—ST. LOUIS PLANT.

Right here, and now, I am constrained to give a few general facts relative to the initial steps taken in early days to determine the feasibility of the beet sugar industry for Michigan; closing with the more appropriate mention of the industry locally.

The sugar beet industry and the beet sugar industry, though separate and distinct, and carried on by two different sets of industrial workers, are nevertheless so closely connected that neither could exist alone as a local industry. But as the sugar is the ultimate object—that is, ultimate till the cash materializes from its sale—the term "beet sugar industry" would seem to cover the entire matter.

But not to be too particular as to the wording, the facts fully warrant the statement, that the raising of sugar beets and converting their saccharine principle into sugar has within the past ten or twelve years grown into a business of immense importance in Gratiot County.

Without promising to give a complete history of the beet sugar industry, a few facts bearing upon the subject in a general way, and a few facts applying locally, will be of interest. In searching the legislative records at Lansing for data to be used in this history, I ran across the record of an act of the legislature, passed in March, 1838, and approved by Gov. Stevens

T. Mason March 12th of that year—an act of the legislature calculated to encourage the cultivation of the sugar beet and the manufacture of sugar therefrom. The law was to continue in force four years, and provided for the payment of a bounty of two cents a pound for dry sugar so produced in lots of not less than ten pounds. The money was to be paid by the county treasurer of the county in which the sugar was produced, the state to refund to the county all sums so expended. I am totally in the dark as to whether any sugar was made or any bounty money paid under that law, but there is some evidence tending to show that there was some experimenting along that line, and there was certainly some investigation of the subject. I find in "Biographical Annals of Civil Government of the United States" published in 1887; and in substance the same thing in "Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography", published in 1888, brief reference to the subject. The first-mentioned work, in giving a sketch of John S. Barry, governor of Michigan from 1843 to 1845, and again in 1851, says: "In 1840 he took a special interest in the cultivation of the sugar beet, and with a view of obtaining information in regard to the manufacture of beet sugar, visited Europe." The other work mentioned made its statement a little more explicit, thus: "In 1840 he became interested in the cultivation of the sugar beet, and went to Europe to study the best method of preparing the sugar."

The next mention of the subject that came under my notice appeared fifty years later. However, anyone interested in looking the matter up may quite likely find that much was said in the meantime. February, 1892, Prof. R. C. Kedzie, in a talk at Ionia, spoke favorably of the beet sugar problem, and told that the Michigan Agricultural College authorities were sending out some seed to the farmers of the state for experimental purposes.

The Saginaw Courier-Herald, in a December, 1896, issue, said: "It is said that 64,000 tons of sugar beets were grown in two counties of Southern California this year. In connection with this item it is interesting to note that arrangements are nearly completed for the establishment of a beet sugar factory in New York State. It is also a matter of moment that Saginaw County is located in what is known as the sugar beet belt. Experiments made have demonstrated that in this, (Saginaw), county the sugar beet attains its highest degree of perfection, the soil of Saginaw County being peculiarly adapted to its growth. There is no industry that would confer greater advantages upon the agricultural community."

Commenting on the above a local newspaper said: "The same may be said of Gratiot County. With proper facilities for working, sugar beets would be a profitable crop here." The industry, so far as Gratiot County is concerned, first took root in Alma, as is well known to many, the preliminary steps toward establishing a sugar factory in the county being taken at a meeting of citizens held in December, 1898, when plans were made for the organization of a company to push the enterprise, resulting in the organization of the Alma Sugar Company in the following March. The work was pushed along so expeditiously that the factory was ready for the crop maturing in the fall of that year. Interesting details of the sugar industry in general, are given in the section devoted to the county's first beet sugar factory, located at Alma.

The St. Louis Sugar Company was organized in February, 1902. James K. Wright is given the credit of being the first citizen of the city to take the matter seriously to heart, of establishing a sugar factory at St. Louis. Dr. Stiles Kennedy and Editor O. M. Everden enlisted enthusiastically in the cause, and others took a more or less active interest in the matter. A con-

tract was let for the construction of a factory, on the site procured in the east part of town. Beet contracts were made with the farmers, and the beets were raised. But the factory was not built; and when the time came to harvest the beets the company had troubles enough on their shoulders to crush men of less stamina and resourcefulness. A market was finally made for the beets at Holland, Mich., where a small factory had been established.

The Holland company came to the rescue during the following winter, taking stock in the St. Louis factory and furnishing capital for the erection of the factory during the season of 1903, in good time for the beet crop of that fall.



ST. LOUIS SUGAR FACTORY.

The St. Louis Sugar Factory has done an immense, and very satisfactory business each year since its establishment in 1903, and is especially popular with the farmers who furnish the raw material for its business, and who fully appreciate the elegant checks received in return for their arduous labors. By a consolidation of the St. Louis factory with the Holland factory in 1911, the St. Louis factory has since been known as the St. Louis plant of the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company.

## ADMIRAL MOTOR CAR CO.

The Admiral Motor Car Co. is an incorporated company organized early in the year 1913, for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of a motor truck and a motor tractor, both to be of medium power and of medium capacity. The company is capitalized at $50,000. The stockholders are all local citizens, and this fact goes a long way toward insuring the permanency of the venture; for every shareholder is interested not only in the success of the enterprise but is interested in its success right here in St. Louis and no where else. Too many enterprises, financed by outside capital and with a good big local bonus thrown in, are liable to flourish but for a season, and then when the bonus and local capital have been duly appropriated and

assimilated, the promoters conveniently fail or receive a louder call with a larger bonus from some competing municipality. Though this undertaking may fail, it will not fail for lack of local enterprise or local interest, financial or sentimental.

The company has the old table factory for its quarters. The first finished truck made its apeparance about June 1st and was pronounced fully up to expectations. Others followed in due order.

Officers of the company are as follows: President—Dr. A. R. Wheeler; Vice-President—J. H. Whitney; Treasurer—W. Lee Yost; Secretary and General Manager—D. C. Evans.

## ST. LOUIS CITY WATER POWER.

On the 28th of August, 1911, the Common Council of the City of St. Louis entered into an agreement with the St. Louis Milling Co. (Fred C. Henry, Annie V. Henry, Myra J. Henry Smith, Mary Henry) for the purchase of the water power of said company for the use of the city in operating its electric lighting plant, water works, etc., a right heretofore held by the city by lease from said Milling Co. The substance of the agreement is as follows: The city to pay to the said company the sum of $200 monthly for a period of 30 years, without interest; at the end of that time the city to become the absolute owner of the water power with all its appurtenances, and with all the rights held and enjoyed by the said Milling Co. It is made a part of the agreement that in case of the death of all four of the said members of the milling company before the expiration of the 30 years, then the payments shall cease and the city comes into full ownership. The Milling Co. reserves the use of power not to exceed 75 horse-power for running their mill. After the city comes into full possession at the expiration of the 30 years, or at the death of the last member of the company, the successors or legal representatives of said company shall pay a rental of $600 per annum to the city for the 75 horse-power privilege mentioned, and with the privilege of renewing for another 30 years.

It seems to be the general opinion that this settlement of the power question, which had previously been an unsettled and uncertain problem, was a good one for the city, giving the city, as it does, absolute control, under certain conditions clearly defined, and not difficult or complicated. There are quite a number, however, who look upon the transaction with disfavor, and regard the bargain as very one-sided in favor of the selling company, giving the members, as they say it does, a very liberal pension for life in return for a property in a run-down condition, and requiring large expenditures to keep in proper condition for service.

## FIRE PROTECTION.

The bucket brigade system of fire protection was in vogue in St. Louis up to the year 1873. In June of that year the village council voted $90 for the construction of reservoirs at the intersections of Mill and Center, Mill and Washington, and Main and Washington. A 40-man power hand engine was purchased from the Bay City authorities, and with some hose purchased the outfit was ready for the human contingent. The Citizens' Engine Co.



**ST. LOUIS FIRE-FIGHTERS:** Left to right upper row—John Stewart, Ed. Hendershott, Archie Porter, now deceased, George Cummings, Fred Bennett, Nelson Harris, Roy McCall, (Chief), Lewis Rumsey, (Driver). Lower row—S. V. White, Archie Hamp, Verne Coleman.

was formed in July, composed of—Albert Earl, Lew. Foster, C. M. Wilson, Eugene King, H. H. Gale, C. H. Ringgenberg, H. B. Giddings, John Wooley, W. W. Cook, E. H. Ewell, Carlton Abbott, W. H. Rennels. Albert Earl was made foreman.

In August, 1874, other members were added—Wm. Lichtenstein, Simon Vogt, J. T. Noble, Albert Deline, Tom. Dygert, A. F. Wright, O. F. Jackson, Hunter Harrison, Nat. White, N. E. Barber, S. W. Wilson, Guy A. Johnston, A. Williams, E. J. Holiday, Thos. Harrison, Sard. Nevins, Steward Harrison, Mose Teachworth, Alanson Cowles.

The first installment of the Holly system was inaugurated in 1879, and since that time it has been extended from time to time, till at the present time all parts of the town are provided for. But the hand engine, "Jumbo", was kept in use till 1884, and it did great things at the tournaments held throughout the state in those days, winning first prizes in throwing water, at Charlotte and Marshall, in the years 1882-83, respectively, with a score of over 213 feet, first prize, and the state banner to its credit.

A. F. Wright has the distinction of having been the first official chief of the fire department of St. Louis, and his successors have been—J. V. Johnson, J. T. Noble, Carlton Smith, A. H. Lowry, A. W. Pequegnat, E. H. Branch, Fred S. Kemp, F. C. Newton, Roy McCall. The latter is the present incumbent.

For several years along in the '80s there were two hose companies—The Citizens' and the Wah-Wah-Sums. The latter was composed of boys ranging from 16 to 20 years of age. It was an especially active and efficient company, earning great popularity by its rapid display work on exhibition occasions.

The fire-fighting appliances at the present time are all that could be desired for a town of its dimensions—fire hydrants well distributed; no less than 60 of them; a fire team, hose wagon, hook and ladder truck, hose sufficient, chemical apparatus, etc. The fine view of the boys ready for business and for this display half-tone engraving, was taken expressly for this work.

## PAVED STREETS.

St. Louis got along with mud streets until the season of 1913, when the necessary bonds were voted, the job let and seven blocks were paved, covering the greater portion of the principal business section: Commencing at Mill Street bridge, thence south four blocks on Mill, east one block on Washington, south two blocks to the Pere Marquette depot. What is called the sheet asphalt pavement was put down, and a fine appearing job it is.

People are so well pleased with the work that immediately on completion of the job steps were taken to provide for a lot more paving in 1914; probably twelve or fifteen blocks of pavement will be put down during the coming season.

## ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The original electric lighting system in St. Louis was a private enterprise. In October, 1887, a company was formed for the purpose of establishing such an enterprise, with John A. Elwell, president; Hiram Harrington, vice-president; L. Saviers, secretary and treasurer. They established a plant, and the lights were first turned on January 7, 1888. The company

operated until the fall of 1899, at which time the people voted bonds of $10,000 for the purpose of establishing a municipal lighting plant, but instead of a new plant the city purchased the plant already in operation, and has since conducted it.

In the season of 1913, at the time when the paving operations were in progress, the city made the necessary preparations and installed the boulevard system of lighting Mill Street; a very attractive mode and strictly up to date.



WATER AND LIGHTING PLANT.

The lights are in clusters of four for each post, placed at stated intervals on each side of the street. At the intersections of streets there are five lights in each bunch.

The illustration shows the water works and lighting plant.

## THOSE DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

In the season of 1913, while the streets were torn up on account of the paving enterprise, the city council laid its plans and did the preliminary work looking to the installation or establishment of public drinking fountains on the streets. They re-drilled one of the artesian wells near the Mill Street bridge—the well which is portrayed in this connection, showing the splendid eight-inch gushing fountain—and piped its waters along the street to supply the water for the drinking fountains mentioned. This enterprise will prove popular, and is well worthy of hearty commendation.

## YERINGTON'S COLLEGE.

Yerington's College is one of the important institutions of St. Louis. It has been in operation many years, and is said to be turning out good results in its particular line of endeavor. Charles W. Yerington is the founder, proprietor and manager. The old academy building on the north side, is

his place of business. He has a variety of courses in his curriculum—commercial, short-hand, music, etc., and is understood to do thorough work and at prices within the reach of all.

## ST. LOUIS' HANDSOME PARK.

St. Louis has a handsome park; not large, but strictly choice as far as it goes. It consists of one block—about three acres—lying east of the business section. When Joseph F. Clapp platted the Village of Pine River in 1855 he donated that block—block 48—to the public, to be used as a public park for all time to come. The block was denuded of its timber in an early day, but not much was done toward grading or beautifying it till the spring of 1876, when by concerted action following previous notice the villagers had a tree-setting day—April 29, 1876—and more than 100 trees were set out, mostly around the borders along the streets. The ground was graded



IN THAT BEAUTIFUL PARK.

where it needed it and, as was the custom in those days, a fence was built around it; heavy oak posts and with heavy oak rails mortised into the posts. Rather ornamental, and very substantial.

In comparatively recent years some special work has been done. An ornamental fountain is one of its attractions; also a ten-pounder field piece to break up the monotony of the landscape. It is really a very pretty park, as may easily be seen by a glance at the fine illustration secured specially for this work. The public square is surrounded on all sides by some of the finest residences in the city, and is in close proximity to the fine school building erected in 1879.

## A LAKE FOR ST. LOUIS.

What St. Louis people don't happen to have they are liable to go after and get. Though they had a river, they had no lake; and they wanted one. So they straightway went at it and cleared the mill pond of its stumps, logs and trash, built a new dam at a new location further down-stream, and there









IN BEAUTIFUL OAK GROVE.

was your lake. And its a fine lake, too, as lakes run. It is sometimes called an "artificial lake." But there's nothing artificial about it excepting in the way it was corralled. A regular lake filled with lake water.

## A SOLDIER'S MONUMENT.

This is one of the interesting and important matters for the near future. The subject has been agitated and discussed for some time, and as these lines are written (fall of 1913) the matter is so far advanced that it seems certain that fine monument will be erected in time for dedicatory services next Memorial Day—May 30, 1914. The site chosen is an excellent one—at the point of the flatiron park adjacent to the High School building, near the junction of Church and Mill Streets with Washington Avenue.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

St. Louis has for many years had its Chamber of Commerce which has been active in its endeavors to secure industrial institutions for the city. Originally, I believe, the organization was called the Board of Trade. But under whatever name it operates, its efforts are just as zealous in behalf of the material interests of the city. Officers at the present time are—President—Dr. A. R. Wheeler; Secretary—Fred A. Hamlin; Treasurer—F. H. Bernard. Other directors are F. C. Henry, John Tuger and Dr. J. W. Campbell.

## OAK GROVE CEMETERY.

The city owns its cemetery and in recent years has spent large sums in beautifying it and enlarging its borders. It is beautifully situated on rolling grounds on the north side of the river about a mile from the business center. The four half-tones, occupying an entire page, give an idea of some of the finer views of this very attractive city of the dead.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

People not well acquainted in St. Louis will be aided in locating firms by remembering that the principal business street is named Mill Street. The street named Main runs parallel to Mill Street, one block to the eastward. When named, Main Street gave promise of being the main business street, but as the years passed, it failed to come up to its promises.

### Hotels.

**The Park House** is the principal hotel of the town, conducted by W. P. Andrews who has been connected with it ever since its erection in 1881. It is a noted sanitarium, owning, controlling and utilizing the waters of the celebrated St. Louis Mineral Springs, and is a popular resort for scores and

hundreds of invalids and rest-seekers from all over the United States. The early history of the Springs is given more in detail elsewhere in this volume. James Stafford is the popular and genial clerk of the Hotel or Sanitarium. This important institution is located on Mill Street, north, in close proximity to the Mineral Springs, the waters of which are used for all domestic purposes as well as for the healing of the afflicted.

The Exchange Hotel, southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Mill Street, is owned and conducted by Mrs. Lillian Garver. It dates its existence back to 1872 when it was built by Aaron Wessels.

### Bakeries and Restaurants.

Hoffstetter Bros. — Edward J. and Lewis R. Bakery, confectionery, restaurant, fancy groceries. Successors to Geo. Hoffstetter who established the business in 1870. East side Mill Street.

J. D. Rumberger, Bakery and Cafe; one year in business here, successor to George M. Clark, in Clark building, west side Mill Street.

Mrs. Mary Smith, restaurant, west side Mill Street, corner Saginaw Street. Several years in the business.

### Drugs and Sundries.

Henry Randolph, east side Mill Street, north; corner of Center. About 25 years in the business, successor to N. White, who succeeded C. K. Samson, who succeeded John Tuger. H. J. Tuger's building.

A. S. McIntyre, in postoffice block, east side Mill. In business here 35 years.

Charles F. Vanderbergh, in the W. H. Rennels block, west side Mill Street. Thirteen years in the business here.

### Hardware, Implements, Etc.

St. Louis Hardware Co., W. L. Yost manager. Twenty years in business, successors to Geo. H. Scriver. In Wessels block, east side Mill Street.

Humphrey & Ostrander—Fred N. Humphrey and Stephen R. Ostrander. Thirty years in the business; Holcomb block, west side Mill, north.

W. E. Alward; also keeps furniture, new and second-hand. In the Schuyler building, west side Mill. Five years in the business here.

J. H. Palmer, in the Hart brick block, west side Mill. Five years in business here.

### General Merchandise, Clothing, Etc.

Henry J. Tuger, east side Mill Street, north. With sons in quadruple department store. Successors to John Tuger; in business about two scores of years.

D. E. Harrison, clothing, hats, gents' furnishings, shoes, etc. Twenty-seven years in the same store, Holcomb block, west side Mill Street, north.

J. D. Keller, in Holcomb block, west side Mill. Two years in business, successor to Childs' clothing and shoe store.

Joseph Taylor, since June, 1913; successor to E. J. Alexander; groceries and provisions, bazaar goods, etc. In Colonial block.

M. Messinger, in Mrs. Geo. L. Charles' double store building west side Mill. Nine years in business here.

Tyrolers Emporium, Karl K. Kornstein, manager. Twenty-one years in business here. Holcomb's Opera House block, west side Mill Street, north.

Boice & Hartenburg—W. N. Boice, Adell Hartenburg, dry goods, groceries and bazaar goods. Successors to C. Hartenburg & Co. Hoffstetter building, west side Mill Street.

Joseph Klein, dry goods, gents' and ladies' furnishing goods. West side Mill Street on block 35.

### Groceries, Provisions, Feed, Etc.

John Fields, east side Mill, in the Schlichtig building. In the business, either by himself or in partnership with others 44 years. Owns his building.



MILL STREET, LOOKING NORTH—1913.

Carlton Smith, in his own building northeast corner Washington Avenue and Mill Street. Thirty-four years a business man here, and 28 years on his own account.

C. D. Hoffman; since October 13, 1913; successor to Wilson & Andrus, in Drury block.

V. Sias, in his own building, west side Mill Street, north. Seventeen years in business here.

John Buck, successor to W. F. Nesen. West side Mill Street, north. In business ten years.

B. F. Judson, in his own building, west side Mill, corner North Street. Seven years in business here.

### Furniture, Etc.

A. E. Branch, in the double store, Mey & Smith block, east side Mill Street. Successor to W. D. Iseman; three years in business here.

W. D. Iseman, in Holcomb block, west side Mill Street, north. Successor to Acker & Acker.

### Millinery, Ladies' Furnishings.

Stylerite Parlors, in Colonial Opera House block, corner of Washington Avenue. Conducted by L. Isabel Holliday (Millinery), and George A. Vliet (Ladies' Ready-to-wear Garments).

Mrs. R. C. Thorold, in Mrs. Gagers block, west side Mill; formerly the Gould block. In the business seven years.

Mrs. O. E. Bigelow, in the D. L. Knash building, east side Mill Street.

### Real Estate, Insurance, Etc.

La Clear & Taylor—I. G. La Clear, Joseph Taylor. In Whitney building, west side Mill Street.

E. C. Phillps; 30 years in the business; in old bank building, west side Mill Street.

F. G. Kneeland, in the Dr. G. S. Case building, west side Mill Street, near Center Street. In business here since 1876.

Allen & Boyles—Geo. Allen, E. M. Boyles; six years in business, Holcomb block, Mill Street, north.

G. W. Whittaker, west side Mill Street, near Center Street.

### Tailor Shops.

Wm. Schmidt, in Holcomb section, west side Mill Street, north. In business here 36 years.

L. Smart, in the B. Weick building, east side Mill Street. Thirty years in business here.

### Harness Works.

John Burns, east side Mill Street, near Washington Avenue; in his own building. Also deals in vehicles; in business 30 years.

C. H. Alward, east side Mill Street in B. Weick's building. Two years in business here.

### Jewelers, Etc.

George G. Nichols, in Commercial Savings Bank block. Has been in the business here since 1870.

W. T. Green, in Samson building, west side Mill, near Saginaw Street. In business 12 years.

O. E. Bigelow, in Knash building, east side Mill Street. Thirteen years in business here.

### Meat Markets.

W. R. Brewer, successor to Archie Porter, who succeeded James A. Burgess, so many years in business on block 38, east side of Mill Street. Charles Giles, manager.

Also, a market on west side Mill Street, in his own building; James G. Weeks, manager. Mr. Brewer has been 28 years in the business here.

### Marble and Granite Works.

Grant L. Brewer, west side of Mill Street on block 35, in his own cement and brick building. Seven years in the business.

Will P. Richards, successor to Hatfield & Miller; west side Mill Street, north. Twenty-eight years in the business; 16 on his own account.

### Barbers.

William Cuff, successor to John T. Noble, west side Mill, near Center. Twenty years at the trade.

Devore & Boyles—Dan E. Devore, Claude Boyles; east side Mill Street, in Drury block. At the trade 33 years in St. Louis.

William Wilkinson, in Harrington block, west side Mill Street. Twenty years in the business.

### Billiards, Etc.

L. D. Knash, in the Kemp building, west side Mill Street. Seven years in the business.

John Miner, in Harrington block. In the business three years.

Geo. T. Clark, in the Fauth building, east side Mill. Five years at the business.

C. D. Gallant, successor to Ben Sweatland; in Wessels' block, east side. A year at the helm.

### Blacksmiths.

F. S. Clegg, in his own building, south side of Saginaw Street, east. Has been pounding iron 20 years.

Jackson & White—Will Jackson, Sylvanus White. In their own building, north side Washington Avenue, near Mill Street.

C. E. Hutchinson, successor to Geo. Mull; in his own building, west side Mill Street, north.

### Miscellaneous Business.

Mrs. S. J. Kinney conducts a bazaar store in the Holcomb section on Mill Street, north.

Gottleib Rauschenberger operates a shoe repairing shop in the Holcomb tract, Mill Street, north.

Hamp & Hamp—Archie and Leon, manage a station for the Central Produce Co., of Alma, in the brick building owned by Bernard Weick, in the Holcomb section.

E. E. Forquer repairs bicycles and sells phonographs and other things; southwest corner Mill and Center Streets; successor to Pequegnat Bros.

Edgar E. Deline conducts a news stand and sells confectionery, cigars, etc., in the Kemp building, west side Mill.

A. P. Gates has a Racket store in the Commercial Savings Bank block. Also, "Clothes to fit, and fit to wear."

F. Carnicom has a produce station, handling poultry, eggs, cream, feed etc., in the Harrington block, occupying the section now owned by Chas. Spencer.

G. A. Hawkins repairs shoes in his shop, west side of Mill Street—the Whitney building.

Cole & McFee have a garage and auto repair shop in the Freeland building, west side of Mill Street, south.

Rogers & Priest — Richard Rogers, H. O. Priest, sell soft drinks in the Freeland building, west side, south.

The Bernard Elevator Co.—F. H. and Mrs. J. W. Bernard; successors to J. W. Bernard & Son.

C. J. Bernard deals in coal, lumber, cement, tile, etc.

Joe Fabiano sells fruit in the Wessels block, east side.

Wm. D. Gibbs, southwest and northwest corners of Washington Avenue and Main Street, sells farming implements, fencing, gas engines, etc. He owns his buildings.

Mrs. Blanche Kemp conducts a livery business on Saginaw Street, west, near Mill. Successor to Fred L. Kemp.

Duryee & Cummings—O. J. Duryee, George Cummings, proprietors of a feed barn, south side Saginaw Street, near Mill. Building is 100 by 191 feet in size.

David Kleinhans, proprietor of the St. Louis greenhouse. Seven years here, coming from Cadillac; earlier from Ithaca.

The American Transfer Co. is composed of Jay L. Smith and C. E. Atwater. They do all of the passenger and baggage business about the city, and also serve the public in transferring to and from Alma and the Ann Arbor Railroad, employing both horse and auto power. Headquarters and equipment on northeast corner of Main and Saginaw Streets.

B. R. Lane is proprietor of the St. Louis Foundry and Machine shop, north side of North Street, west, near Mill Street. Mr. Lane has been 13 years in the business.

J. L. Burlingame & Sons—Clifford and Walter—are manufacturers of the Clipper Tile Machine and the Clipper Concrete Mixer. Their factory is on the south side of Saginaw Street, west.

Charles Spencer is successor to Chris. Vogel as proprietor of a livery business located on the north side of Saginaw Street, east, near Main Street.

H. B. Husted manufactures the Winner Tile Machine—the D. E. Leonard patent—at his factory west side Mill Street, north.



# VILLAGE OF ASHLEY.

## Location—Elections—Biographies, etc.

The Village of Ashley, as incorporated, consists of a square mile of territory in the northwestern part of Elba Township. It is mainly on section 7, but though the west line is identical with the township line the incorporation takes in a portion of section 8 on the east, for the reason that section 7 is fractional and not a mile in extent east and west. A portion of section 6, on the north is also taken in as part of the incorporated tract.

Ashley is an important station on the Ann Arbor Railroad, and is the junction point of that road with the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon division of the Grand Trunk Railroad. The Grand Trunk trains run over the tracks



STERLING STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

of the Ann Arbor from Ashley to Owosso, where connection is again made with the Grand Trunk system. The original business portion of Ashley was platted in the fall of 1883, certified January 18, 1884, and recorded March 3, 1884, by Register of Deeds John L. Sinclair. Miles W. Bullock was the surveyor. The plat was made by Ansel H. Phinney, George P. Dudley and Miles W. Bullock, former citizens of Howell, Mich., who rightly presumed that the Ann Arbor Railroad, at that time under construction, would adopt the location as a site for a station, with the necessary sidetracks for the shipment of the forest products of the surrounding country. The products of the forests were at that time the principal incentives to industrial action in that part of Elba Township. People in this year of grace—1913—looking over the fertile fields of that locality can but faintly realize what discouraging conditions existed there to confront the home-seeker. A period of 30 years has sufficed to transform the unpromising country into a section far more desirable for agricultural purposes and for homes, than the most sanguine could have anticipated at the time of the founding of the Village of Ashley. The removal of the forest growth, together with the comparatively thorough drainage accomplished, have been the influences that have brought about the great improvement.

The tract first platted embraced the most of the east half of the northwest quarter of section 7, the territory now constituting the business portion of the village. Several additions have been platted and recorded from time to time as follows: A small addition to the east of the northern portion of the original plat, by Abraham Shellenbarger, March 18, 1884; Thos. H. Harrod, surveyor. Another by George P. Dudley on the west of the southern portion of the original plat, June 8, 1886; Miles W. Bullock, surveyor. At the same time Miles W. Bullock made an addition to the south of the original plat, extending from Ash Street to Wallace Street—one block. November 20, 1887, George P. Dudley made a second addition, the territory lying directly west of his first addition. Ansel H. Phinney platted an addition in the northwest part November 29, 1887. Recorded by C. W. Martin, register of deeds. June 6, 1888, Seymour Goodale platted six blocks adjoining Dudley's additions on the south.

Salliotte & Chittenden came in 1884 and put up a saw mill with a hoop and stave mill in connection. Two fires set operations back somewhat, but the buildings and industries re-built, continued in active service until 1910, when, owing to scarcity of timber, business was suspended.

Chas. Lyon, also Starkweather & Clifford, established other mills which did good service in furnishing employment and using up the surplus timber. Another industry that was of much importance was that of making charcoal. Cole & Rheubottom were the proprietors of a long string of coal kilns, which old settlers will remember seeing along the railroad tracks. Rows of brick structures, shaped and appearing like Esquimaux huts, probably about 16 feet in diameter and 10 feet high. These works used up timber not suitable for lumber or staves.

Brick and tile works were put up by Fred Tompkins and A. E. Fuller, which are still in operation, W. S. Dove present proprietor. Some of the early business men of Ashley were Frank Nichols, who started and operated a harness shop; John Schermerhorn, who did business as a blacksmith; Jas. Helt established a tin shop. Frank Kneeland was a pioneer grocer and was the first station agent. His daughter, Cora, was telegraph operator.

E. Z. Fuller and wife settled in the place in 1884, their house being the seventh house erected. They are both now deceased. Mr. Fuller was prominent, officially, in township and village. The Elba and Ashley election records in this connection give some of the details.

In a series of articles written by Rev. George W. Harris, of Ashley, in January and February, 1913, for the Gratiot County Journal, bearing on Ashley's history, I find some facts that will be of interest and value in this connection, and which may well supplement what has been written. I quote:

"In the fall of 1881, L. M. Hutchinson arrived in the neighborhood of where Ashley now is. There were at that time but four families in the entire community—Daniel Robinault, Abram Shellenbarger, Charles Markham and William Proctor. There was a small clearing on the Shellenbarger corners and that was about all. The railroad project of an earlier day was revived and the road was built through in 1884. James M. Ashley, of Ohio, was the promotor and builder of the road, and so the place got its name—Ashley. The first building erected in Ashley was a small, crude shed-roofed concern built by Ansel H. Phinney on the spot where Chas. E. Beck's brick store now stands, and was first used as a grocery store, and afterward by Helt as a tinshop.

"Henry Couch and his brother came one night at about midnight, got A. H. Phinney out of bed and bought two lots. By 9 o'clock next day they

had commenced the erection of the first dwelling house ever built in Ashley. It was on the west side of New Street nearly opposite the M. E. Church, between C. E. Chittenden's and W. S. Dove's. Mr. Frost then erected a dwelling where M. D. Gunn's ice house now stands. Then came the hotel where the I. O. O. F. hall now stands. A. H. Phinney was Ashley's first postmaster, and he erected the next business building, which is now owned and occupied by D. W. C. Tiffany as a general store. Here was located Ashley's first postoffice. The depot was a small building on the corner of Oak and Sterling Streets. Frank Kneeland was the first station agent and his daughter Cora was the first telegraph operator. Somewhere about this time Ashley's first physician—Dr. B. C. Sickles—arrived and built the dwelling (or part of it) now owned by David Duncan. Then Ashley began to loom up."

Mr. Harris stops here long enough to remark that he "finds so much discrepancy in the statements of the early settlers, as they remember buildings, dates and locations, that it is next to impossible to give anything like correct details until we reach a much more recent date." So? Others have had their troubles, it seems!



ASHLEY DEPOT—G. T. CURVING WESTWARD.

"About this time Chapman & Lyon came in with a saw mill and located on the site where Chas. A. Green's lumber yard now is, and which, with a few changes, became the old Starkweather mill. This mill cut many ties for the Ann Arbor Railroad besides making lumber. Then came Salliotte & Chittenden with a hoop and stave mill, which proved to be a most substantial enterprise and had more to do in developing Ashley and the adjacent territory than all the other manufactories combined. Mr. Chittenden proved to be a hustling and shrewd business manager, as his farms and present holdings amply attest. A Mrs. Huson erected a hotel directly south of where C. E. Beck's store now stands. This soon burned down and was Ashley's first serious fire. Chas. H. Gunn, from Ionia County, and a man named Bishop, opened a meat market very near where his daughter, Mrs. Bessie Chapman, now has a millinery store. Mr. Gunn continued to conduct a most substantial business for several years and it is still continued by his son, M. D. Gunn. Mr. Gunn was village marshal and deputy sheriff many years, and a most efficient officer he was.

"Next came the table factory with a capital stock of $50,000, L. A. Green, president; Geo. W. Mead, secretary; Chas. E. Beck, treasurer; M. W. Bullock and Chas. E. Chittenden, directors. This gave the town an enormous boom, the population increased rapidly, business of all kinds was attracted this way. In 1886 the present school house was erected, and in 1887 the T. S. & M. Railroad entered Ashley and again Ashley boomed. A man named Briggs started a newspaper, and was succeeded by Louis Fuller, who published it several years. Of the business men of 1889 there remain but five at this time—L. M. Hutchinson, James Woolston, C. E. Beck, Thos. E. Brown and B. F. Pease. In 1896, I think, occurred the great fire on the west side of Sterling Street, after which the great boom subsided, and Ashley was at a stand-still for several years."

The big fire mentioned by Mr. Harris occurred July 27, 1897. It is appropriate to state here that the depression in business mentioned by Mr. Harris was not of a lasting nature—at least it was not everlasting—and Ashley has in later years taken her place in the ranks of the prosperous and progressive towns of Central Michigan.

### Incorporation.

The Village of Ashley was incorporated by resolution of the board of supervisors at its October session, 1886. Preliminary to this action of the supervisors a petition was presented, signed by 14 freeholders, residents of the territory which it was proposed to incorporate, setting forth the desires of the petitioners, the description of the particular territory and the number of inhabitants. The census had been taken by Ansel H. Phinney who found the number to be 405. The territory to be incorporated was described as follows: "Commencing 80 rods north of the southwest corner of section 6, Elba, thence east one mile, thence south one mile, thence west one mile, thence north one mile to place of beginning."

The signers of the petition were the following: James Clifford, David H. Helt, Eli Bailey, Thomas Brown, R. M. Brooks, E. S. Bailey, A. H. Phinney, C. E. Chittenden, W. A. Chittenden, Herbert Bishop, W. R. Perry, T. B. Hirt, R. Blanter, Joseph St. Johns.

The board of supervisors received the petition and referred the whole matter to a committee composed of Supervisors Edwin Meacham, of Elba, Henry Stitt, of Fulton, and Jesse Pepple, of Emerson. The report of the committee was favorable, and the necessary resolution was passed October 15, 1886, F. E. Kneeland, Eli Bailey and F. M. Nichols being designated as election inspectors for the first election which was to be held at the Aldrich House in Ashley, November 11, 1886. The election came off according to schedule.

## ASHLEY VILLAGE ELECTIONS.

Ashley's first village election, held November 11, 1886, resulted as follows:

**Nov. 11, 1186:** Pres.—Wm. A. Chittenden; Clk.—O. E. Gibson; Treas.—Ansel H. Phinney; Ass'r—F. E. Kneeland; Trustees—J. Woolston, T. Kirby, M. Bishop, F. Riddle, Eli Bailey, L. M. Hutchinson; Mar.—C. H. Gunn; St. C.—T. Kirby; F. W.—N. P. Helt; P. M.—David Frost.

At a council meeting Nov. 17, '86, E. L. Walbridge, of Ithaca, was appointed attorney for the village at a salary of $50 per annum.

A special election was held Nov. 29, 1886, to vote on the question of issuing bonds to the amount of $8,500 to provide for public improvements. The affirmative prevailed.

**March, 1887:** Pres.—Wm. A. Chittenden; Trustees—T. E. Brown, T. Kirby, E. Z. Fuller; Clk.—Thos. B. Hirt; Treas.—A. H. Phinney; Ass'r—Chas. E. Chittenden; Mar.—Chas. H. Gunn; St. C.—L. M. Hutchinson.

At a later date Dr. B. C. Sickles was appointed health officer, G. W. Mead, trustee, vice Riddle, resigned, and Eli Bailey, marshal, in place of Gunn, resigned.

**1888:** Pres.—B. C. Sickles; Trustees—J. F. Bush, Jas. Woolston, Edwin W. Field; Clk.—Thos. B. Hirt; Treas.—Morris Netzorg; Ass'r—Solomon J. Haring; Mar.—Fred Osborne; St. C.—Frank M. Nichols.

**1889:** Just previous to this time the village had become re-incorporated under the general law, and the first election resulted as follows:

Pres.—B. C. Sickles; Trustees, 2 yrs.—John H. Tripp, T. Kirby, Cooley C. Green; 1 yr.—Chas. E. Henry, Andrew J. French, Jacob M. Wiltse; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Wm. J. Barker; Ass'r—Jerome F. Bush; St. C.—L. M. Hutchinson; Const.—Henry Shellenbarger.

Ap.: Atty.—K. S. Searl; Mar.—Henry Shellenbarger.

May 13, '89, John S. Wolverton was appointed trustee vice A. J. French, resigned.

**1890:** Pres.—Jacob M. Wiltse; Trustees, 2 yrs.—Francis Bancroft, Geo. E. Clutterbuck, Joseph W. Beechey; 1 yr.—Daniel W. Rumbaugh, D. W. C. Tiffany, Orin B. Hoover; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Benj. D. Ackmoody; Ass'r—Jas. Woolston; St. Com.—Myron H. Mills; Const.—Eugene Kirby.

Ap.: Mar.—Thompson Kirby; H. O.—Dr. W. A. Hale.

**1891:** Pres. J. M. Wiltse; Trustees—C. E. Chittenden, Orin B. Hoover, D. W. C. Tiffany; 1 yr., S. J. Haring; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Wm. H. Cobb; Ass'r—Jas. Woolston; St. Com.—Myron H. Mills; Const.—Frank Pratt.

Ap.: Mar.—T. Kirby; H. O.—Dr. B. C. Sickles.

Nov. 10, '91, Benj. Garrett was appointed treasurer, to fill vacancy. C. E. Beck was appointed trustee vice F. Bancroft.

**1892:** Pres.—E. Z. Fuller; Trustees—Benj. Garrett, W. B. Roof, John N. Day; Clk.—Geo. C. Douglas; Treas.—Chas. E. Beck; Ass'r—Eugene Pitts; St. C.—Cyrus G. Hayner; Const.—Chas. H. Gunn.

Ap.: Mar.—T. Kirby; H. O.—Dr. J. H. Day.

June 4, '92, Louis W. Fuller was appointed clerk vice Douglas, resigned.

**1893:** Pres.—E. Z. Fuller; Trustees—J. M. Wiltse, C. E. Chittenden, Orin J. Dutton; Clk.—L. W. Fuller; Treas.—Chas. E. Beck; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany; St. C.—Myron H. Mills; Const.—Chas. H. Gunn.

Ap.—Mar.—Chas. H. Gunn; H. O.—Dr. W. A. Hale.

Nov. 4, '93, W. R. Perry was appointed trustee vice Day, resigned.

A special election to vote on the question of issuing bonds of $1,500 for securing fire protection, resulted—Yes, 87; no, 9.

**1894:** Pres.—J. F. Bush; Trustees—L. M. Hutchinson, Robert M. Bird, C. E. Beck; Clk.—L. W. Fuller; Treas.—Benj. Garrett; Ass'r—Eugene Pitts; St. C.—M. H. Mills; Const.—Wm. H. Wolverton.

Ap.: Mar.—B. C. Sickles; H. O.—B. C. Sickles.

**1895:** Pres.—Thompson Kirby; Trustees—Geo. S. Hoard, Chas. F. Pratt, Geo. L. Bennett; 1 yr., Chas. Kerr; Clk.—L. W. Fuller; Treas.—Benj. Garrett; Ass'r—Jas. Woolston.

Ap.: Mar.—J. E. Kirby; St. C.—M. H. Mills; Const.—C. H. Gunn; H. O.—Dr. W. A. Hale; Review—Geo. Hoard, L. M. Hutchinson.

**1896:** Pres.—Geo. W. Mead; Trustees—Ira Otto, Chas. Kerr, L. M. Hutchinson; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—W. B. Roof; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Chas. H. Gunn; St. C.—Warren Smith; Const.—G. B. Smith; H. O.—W. A. Hale; Atty.—John T. Mathews, of Ithaca.

**1897:** Pres.—Geo. S. Hoard; Trustees—Myron H. Mills, H. E. Murphy, Frank Pratt; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—T. Kirby; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Warren Smith; Atty.—J. T. Mathews; Ch. F. D.—J. F. Bush; H. O.—W. A. Hale.

W. B. Roof was appointed treasurer vice Kirby.

**1898:** Pres.—Benj. Garrett; Trustees—L. M. Hutchinson, Chas. Kerr, Ira Otto; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Jas. Woolston; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Chas. H. Gunn; St. C.—M. H. Mills; H. O.—W. A. Hale.

**1899:** Pres.—Chas. E. Chittenden; Trustees—Harry C. Rose, Lewis E. Pratt, Wm. R. Perry; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Jas. Woolston; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: St. C.—W. B. Roof; H. O.—M. G. Bassett. The president twice appointed Chas. H. Gunn, marshal, and the trustees twice refused to confirm him, standing three and three. Then the president asked the six trustees to take a ballot, which they did, resulting in a tie vote—three for Gunn and three for Loren Corwin. Then the president gaily gave the casting vote for Gunn; and the deed was done.

**1900:** Pres.—Zachary V. Payne; Trustees—Chas. Kerr, Thos. Brown, Samuel Gordon; 1 yr., Albert Follett; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Perry D. Pease; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Chas. H. Gunn; St. C.—H. C. Terwilliger; H. O.—M. G. Bassett.

May 9, 1900, W. R. Perry was appointed trustee vice Gordon, removed from town.

May 21, 1900, W. B. Roof was appointed street commissioner vice Terwilliger, resigned.

**1901:** Pres.—Lewis E. Pratt; Trustees—Chas. Corwin, Chas. A. Greene, Napoleon B. Bowker; 1 yr., Orin J. Sprague, D. W. C. Tiffany; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Geo. S. Hoard; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.: Mar.—C. H. Gunn; St. C.—Chas. Manchester; H. O.—W. A. Hale; Atty.—J. T. Mathews.

**1902:** Pres.—De Witt Clinton Tiffany; Trustees, Jas. E. Vanalstine, L. M. Hutchinson, Chas. E. Pechtil; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Geo. S. Hoard; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.: Mar.—C. H. Gunn; St. C.—W. A. Smith; H. O.—W. A. Hale.

April 14, '02, the board appointed A. N. Palmeter trustee vice Corwin, removed from the village.

**1903:** Pres.—D. W. C. Tiffany; Trustees—Albert E. Church, Lewis E. Pratt, Albert N. Palmeter; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Cyrus Stratton; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.: Mar.—Henry Hull; St. C.—Chas. Manchester.

**1904:** Pres.—D. W. C. Tiffany; Trustees—Albert E. Fuller, W. N. Gladstone, Geo. F. Coon; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Lester Fox; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.: Mar.—Henry Hull; St. C. M. H. Mills; H. O.—Thos. Brown.

**1905:** Pres.—Albert N. Palmeter; Trustees—A. E. Church, Wm. H. Hunt, Henry Hull; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—Lester Fox; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.—Mar. and St. Com.—Myron H. Mills; H. O.—Thos. E. Brown.

**1906:** Pres.—David Duncan; Trustees—Michael Bower, John Hatfield, Ira Otto; 1 yr., Allen T. Adams; Clk.—E. Z. Fuller; Treas.—H. C. Rose; Ass'r—W. B. Roof.

Ap.: Mar.—Monroe Gunn; St. C.—Chas. Manchester; H. O.—Thos. E. Brown.

A special election was held May 31, '06, to vote on the question of issuing $6,000 of bonds for building sidewalks. Yes, 61; no, 14.

May 4, '06, Jas. Mole was appointed trustee vice Hunt, removed from the village.

Dec. 21, '06, Chas. E. Pechtil was appointed marshal vice Roe Gunn, resigned.

**1907:** Pres.—A. N. Palmeter; Trustees—W. N. Gladstone, A. E. Fuller, L. M. Hutchinson; Clk.—P. W. Acker; Treas.—O. J. Sprague; Ass'r—Martin W. Coon.

Ap.: Mar.—C. E. Pechtil; St. C.—Chas. Manchester; H. O.—Thos. Brown.

March 15, '07, E. Z. Fuller was appointed trustee in place of Hatfield, removed from the village.

May 3, '07, Geo. Coon was appointed trustee vice E. Z. Fuller, resigned.

June 21, '07, D. W. C. Tiffany was appointed clerk vice Acker, resigned.

**1908:** Pres.—Wm. Hunt; Trustees—C. E. Pechtil 39, M. H. Mills 38, John S. Husted 38, Henry Kennett 38, Frank Garlock 37. Decided by lot, Mills and Husted winning. Clk.—D. W. C. Tiffany; Treas.—Lorenzo Chambers; Ass'r—M. W. Coon.

Ap.: Mar.—Manuel Thompson; St. C.—E. W. Corwin; H. O.—Thos. Brown.

July 17, '08, E. Z. Fuller was appointed trustee in place of Husted, resigned.

Dec. 18, '08, David Duncan was appointed trustee in place of Gladstone, removed from the village.

**1909:** Pres.—Ira Otto; Trustees—David Duncan, Anthony Landi, Edson H. Mudge; 1 yr., Frank Garlock; Clk.—Hollie J. Rose; Treas.—Louis K. Kirby; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Fred Reynolds; St. C.—Chas. Manchester; H. O.—Thos. E. Brown.

Jan. 10, '10, Chas. W. Coon was appointed marshal vice Reynolds, resigned.

**1910:** Pres.—Chas. A. Greene; Trustees—Orlo B. Gallop, Jas. B. Crook, Bert Kimmel; Clk.—H. J. Rose; Treas.—Wm. Weidner; Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Chas. W. Coon; St. C.—Manchester; H. O.—Thos. Brown.

**1911:** Pres.—Orill Reichard; Treas.—Monroe D. Gunn, David Duncan, Anthony Landi; Clk.—Hollie J. Rose; Treas.—Wm. Weidner; Ass'r—Guy B. Turner.

Ap.: Mar. Chas. W. Coon; St. Com.—Myron H. Mills; H. O.—Thos. Brown; Ch. F. D.—Loren Corwin.

**1912:** Pres.—Orill Reichard; Trustees—Whitfield DeBar, Wm. S. Dove, J. H. Barnhart; Clk.—Leon E. Gilleo; Treas.—Earl Derry, Ass'r—D. W. C. Tiffany.

Ap.: Mar.—Chas. W. Coon; St. Com.—D. W. C. Tiffany; H. O.—Loren Corwin; Fire Warden—I. P. Rose.

1913: Pres.—E. A. Chisholm; Clk.—Leon E. Gilleo; Treas.—Orlo B. Gallop; Trustees—James Anstey, Hollie J. Rose, A. M. Derry; Ass'r—G. B. Turner. Seventy-six votes were polled.

Ap.: St. Com.—D. E. Bickford; H. O.—I. P. Rose; Fire W.—M. D. Gunn; Mar.—Chas. W. Coon

## ASHLEY OFFICERS.

### Presidents.

Wm. A. Chittenden, 1886, '87.
B. C. Sickles, 1888, '89.
Jacob M. Wiltse, 1890, '91.
E. Z. Fuller, 1892, '93.
J. F. Bush, 1894.
Thompson, Kirby, 1895.
Geo. W. Mead, 1896.
Geo. S. Hoard, 1897.
Benj. Garrett, 1898.
Chas. E. Chittenden, 1899.
Zachary V. Payne, 1900.
Lewis E. Pratt, 1901.
D. W. C. Tiffany, 1902, '03, '04.
Albert N. Palmeter, 1905, '07.
David Duncan, 1906.
Wm. Hunt, 1908.
Ira Otto, 1909.
Chas. A. Greene, 1910.
Orill Reichard, 1911, '12.
E. A. Chisholm, 1913.

### Clerks.

O. E. Gibson, 1886.
Thos. B. Hirt, 1887, '88.
George C. Douglas, 1889, '90, '91, '92.
Louis W. Fuller, ap. June 4, '92; '93, '94, '95.
E. Z. Fuller, 1896, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06.
P. W. Acker, 1907.
D. W. C. Tiffany, 1908.
Hollie J. Rose, 1909, '10, '11.
Leon E. Gilleo, 1912, '13.

### Treasurers.

Ansey H. Phinney, 1886, '87.
Norris Netzorg, 1888.
Wm. J. Barker, 1889.
Benj. D. Ackmoody, 1890.
Wm. H. Cobb, 1891.
Chas. E. Beck, 1892, '93.
Benj. Garrett, 1894, '95.
W. B. Roof, 1896, ap. '97.
T. Kirby, 1897.
Jas. Woolston, 1898, '99.
Perry D. Pease, 1900.
Geo. S. Hoard, 1901, '02.
Cyrus Stratton, 1903.
Lester Fox, 1904, '05.
H. C. Rose, 1906.
O. J. Sprague, 1907.
Lorenzo Chambers, 1908.
Louis K. Kirby, 1909.
Wm. Weidner, 1910, '11.
Earl Derry, 1912.
Orlo B. Gallop, 1913.

### Assessors.

Ansel H. Phinney, 1886.
Chas. E. Chittenden, 1887.
Sol. J. Haring, 1888.
Jerome F. Bush, 1889.
Jas. Woolston, 1890, '91, '95.
Eugene Pitts, 1892, '94.
D. W. C. Tiffany, 1893, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '09, '10, '12.
W. B. Roof, 1901, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06.
Martin W. Coon, 1907, '08.
Guy B. Turner, 1911, '13.

### Marshals.

Chas. H. Gunn, 1886, '87, '93, '96, '98, '99, '00, '01, '02.
Fred Osborne, 1888.
Henry Shellenbarger, 1889.
Thompson Kirby, 1890, '91, '92.
B. C. Sickles, 1894.
J. E. Kirby, 1895.
Warren Smith, 1897.
Henry Hull, 1903, '04.
M. H. Mills, 1905.
Monroe Gunn, 1906.
C. E. Pechtil, 1907.
Manuel Thompson, 1908.
Fred Reynolds, 1909.
Chas. W. Coon, 1910, '11, '12, '13.

## ASHLEY BIOGRAPHICALLY.

### PALMETER.

Albert Nathan Palmeter was born in Vermontville, Eaton County, Mich., May 6, 1866. His father, Joseph Palmeter, was born in Harpersville, New York, July 4, 1834. He served as a volunteer in the Union army during the Civil War. May 24, 1864, he was married to Jane Buchanan, who was born at South Danesville, N. Y., December 4, 1846. To them were born two children, Albert N. and Edward H. The mother died July 10, 1871, leaving the two little boys to the care of the bereaved father.



A. N. PALMETER AND WIFE.

Albert N. left home at the age of nine years, working at farm work among the farmers of the neighborhood, until he arrived at the age of 15 years, when he came to Gratiot County, where he was employed in shingle mills and saw mills till he was 21 years old. Then he went to Newaygo County, Mich., and worked for the lumber firm of Plumb & Meggs on their tram roads, being promoted to the position of boss or overseer of the work the last three years of his service with that firm.

After the close of his service with Plum & Meggs in Newaygo County, Mr. Palmeter returned to Gratiot County, locating in Ashley, where he found employment with the Ashley Table Manufacturing Company for several years. He afterward was employed as clerk in the general store of C. E. Beck, remaining in that capacity three years. He then entered into mercantile business on his own account, continuing thus engaged eight years.

Early foreseeing the inevitable advance that must take place in the value of real estate surrounding the Village of Ashley, Mr. Palmeter invested in a piece of wild land south of the village, upon which he has worked early and late during the last few years, until he has developed it into a fine and productive farm. Recently he has added 20 acres lying between

his farm and the southern boundary line of the village, thus making him a fine farm of 120 acres adjoining the village, upon which he has erected a large farm barn, and more recently, a beautiful and commodious dwelling house, for a permanent home for himself and his family.

On the 6th day of June, 1894, Mr. Palmeter was joined in marriage to Miss Eda Ceasar, of Fulton Township, and to them have been born two children. Clare Ceasar Palmeter was born August 28, 1898; Dale Howard Palmeter was born August 11, 1903, and died November 19, 1903.

Eda (Ceasar) Palmeter was born in the Township of Fulton, Gratiot County, June 6, 1870, and lived there with her parents till her marriage. Her father, Levi Ceasar, was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, November 14, 1814. Her mother, Catharine (Broadbeck) Ceasar, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, September 20, 1832. After their marriage they settled in Fulton County, Ohio, where they lived until 1854, when they came to Gratiot County, settling on section 24, Fulton Township, where they lived till the death of Mr. Ceasar, March 10, 1897. They cleared the land on which they lived, and experienced many of the hardships of the period when this county was designated as "Starving Gratiot."

Mr. and Mrs. Ceasar had seven children—J. Franklin, Matilda A., Sarah C., Alma G., Alvin A., Ida A. and Eda A. J. Franklin was born November 27, 1850; Matilda A., September 6, 1853; Sarah C., May 27, 1856; Alma G., August 7, 1858, died October 24, 1858; Alvin A., February 3, 1861; Ida A., September 22, 1867; Eda A., June 6, 1870. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ceasar made her home, until her death—August 17, 1908—with her daughter, Mrs. Palmeter.

Although Mr. Palmeter was thrown upon his own resources at the early age of nine years, and was unable to get more than a limited education in the district schools, his natural abilities, his sterling character and his adaptability to his environments, whatever they were, have always secured for him just and proper recognition among the prominent and influential people of the community. As proof of this it seems proper to mention that he has been a member of the Ashley school board; for several years a member of the Ashley Village Council, and was for two years president of the village. He also served one year as supervisor of the Township of Elba.

Mr. Palmeter is a member of Ashley Lodge No. 399, F. & A. M., and has held nearly every office in the lodge, including that of secretary for six years, one of the most responsible positions in the order.

This sketch, greatly enhanced in interest by the portraits accompanying it, will be highly appreciated, especially by the residents of southeastern Gratiot, where Mr. and Mrs. Palmeter are so well known.

## CHITTENDEN.

It is not intended as a disparagement of the efforts and accomplishments of others to say that Charles E. Chittenden probably did more than any other one man for the upbuilding of Ashley Village and the development of the surrounding country. This was accomplished through the instrumentality of his manufacturing institutions and by his liberality and activity in promoting such movements and enterprises as were calculated to advance prosperity and build up the town morally, socially and materially. His extensive stave, heading and hoop manufacturing establishment which did business continuously for 27 years may properly be given a place at the head of the industrial institutions of the place during all that time. It is



CHARLES E. CHITTENDEN AND FAMILY.

proper to state also that in her appropriate sphere Mrs. Chittenden was instrumental in equal degree with her husband in promoting the best interests of the community with which she was so long identified as a resident citizen.

Charles E. Chittenden was born in Livingston County, N. Y., in 1851. In 1867 he became a resident of Wyandotte, Mich., and was a student in the high school of that city, and was also a student in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Detroit. November 4, 1872, Mr. Chittenden was married, in Wyandotte, to Miss Mary A. Coop, who was born in Berry, Lancashire, England, in 1853, and came with her parents to Wyandotte in 1855, and in due course of time obtained her education in the Wyandotte schools.

Six children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Chittenden as follows: John A., born at Morley, Mich., December 13, 1873, died in Ashley, September 7, 1895; Lois B., born in Windsor, Ontario, November 11, 1877; Milton J., born at Milan, Mich., March 4, 1884; May Sickles, born at Ashley, May 26, 1886, died June 27, 1886; Mary Emma, born at Ashley, June 14, 1892; Dora Elizabeth, born at Ashley, March 10, 1894. John, Lois and Milton graduated from Ashley High School, John being the first graduate of the school. Their portraits appear with those of their parents in the group picture shown in connection with this sketch.

Mr. Chittenden started in business in Ecorse, Mich., in 1880. He manufactured sash and doors. After about two years he went to Milan, Mich., and, in company with Alexis M. Salliotte, under the firm name of Salliotte & Chittenden, was engaged in the manufacture of staves and heading. In the year 1884 they moved their plant to Ashley, on a site bought from Phinney & Bullock, founders of the village. Here they erected a saw, hoop, stave and heading mill and commenced working up the vast forests of timber of the locality. They continued in the business about 12 years when Mr. Chittenden bought his partner's interest and then operated the plant under the firm name of C. E. Chittenden & Co. for 15 years, he being the sole owner. During this 27 years the plant was twice destroyed by fire. The third building now stands on the original site. In the meantime Mr. Chittenden established a branch factory at Vickeryville, Montcalm County, which continued in commission up to early in 1913.

In the year 1904 H. S. Barber & Co. of Chicago, offered to operate a cheese factory at Ashley provided a suitable site and building were furnished by the citizens. An attempt to raise funds was a failure, so Mr. Chittenden put up the building and the Chicago parties operated it for a few months, and then decided to discontinue operations and dismantle the works. Mr. Chittenden, believing that the factory was a valuable aid to the farmers and in the development of the country, bought the machinery and hired a cheese-maker; and the factory is running to this day, has grown into one of the best in the state, and is operated the year around.

There being no suitable building in the village for a blacksmith shop Mr. Chittenden built one near the cheese factory on the north, so as to make it convenient for farmers dealing with the cheese factory to get their blacksmithing done.

The southeast quarter of section one of Washington was purchased by Mr. Chittenden in 1900. After removing the timber and tiling the ground, he has developed the tract into one of the best dairy farms in the county. He breeds thoroughbred Holstein cattle and Duroc hogs. The first silo in this part of the county was built on this farm in 1907. He also built the houses on lots 150 and 154, New Street, in Ashley. He was the father of the Ashley Drain and a principal promoter of drain No. 142; drains

that have been of vast benefit to the locality. He contributed liberally to the building of the Ashley Table Factory, and also to the flouring mill which was built by Jacob Wiltse. In fact every enterprise calculated to benefit the town received his active support.

Ansel H. Phinney and C. E. Chittenden took an active part in promoting the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad, contributing a large amount of money and securing a much larger amount by subscription. In appreciation of their valuable aid they were granted the honor of **driving the first spike** in the construction of the railroad.

The M. E. Church building was erected in 1890, and Mr. Chittenden, as one of the building committee, had charge of its construction. Money being scarce, it was decided to get along without a belfry. Mr. Chittenden, however, didn't think he would like the appearance of a church without a belfry, so he had the belfry built at his own expense.

In 1892 Mr. Chittenden was converted. He joined the M. E. Church and was elected superintendent of the Sunday school, a position which he held for ten years; and during that time he furnished oil and fuel and did the janitor work. In 1894 when Rev. John Close was pastor, he and a few members, including Mr. Chittenden, purchased a bell for the church, having it made to order, with their names cast in the metal.

Mr. Chittenden held the offices of supervisor and treasurer of his township—Elba—and was president of the village and school treasurer. In 1911, on account of the scarcity of timber, the Ashley stave factory went out of business, and Mr. Chittenden removed with his family to Owosso. He still owns property in Ashley, however, and also in Vickeryville, Montcalm County.

**MRS. MARY A. CHITTENDEN,** in her appropriate sphere, was also a power for good in the community. In the early days of the village, when there were no roads to speak of, and no resident physician, Mrs. Chittenden was the "friend in need" in case of sickness or distress; philanthropic, benevolent and helpful so far as possible. Especially useful in case of births, very few children were born without her being there to welcome them and help give them a comfortable start. She joined the M. E. class as soon as one was organized in Ashley. She paid the first five dollars at Ashley for the support of the minister, Rev. J. W. McAllister. She was steward for 20 years, and while in that position every preacher received his pay as agreed at the quarterly conference, very often contributing a large part of the amount necessary. She taught a class in Sunday school 20 years. She joined the W. C. T. U. when there were only seven members, and brought the membership up to seventy, making it the banner union in Gratiot County. Mrs. Chittenden helped to organize the first and only Loyal Temperance Legion (a children's organization) in Gratiot County. It had 50 active and 20 honorary members. She was its superintendent for ten years. She also organized the School Savings Bank System at Ashley and St. Louis, and was three years president of the Gratiot County Sunday School Association.

## ROSE.

The subject of this sketch—Hollie J. Rose—was born in Washington Township, Gratiot County, Mich., August 10, 1884, son of Isaac P. and Mary (Garlock) Rose. His parents had moved from Watertown, Clinton County, the previous April. In 1889 his parents moved with their family from the Washington farm into the Village of Ashley, where Hollie J. entered school

in September, 1890. In 1893 he moved with his parents back to the old home in Clinton County where he entered school in Wacousta, and was graduated from the high school in that vilage in 1901.

In September, 1901, Mr. Rose commenced teaching school in Clinton County and taught there until 1906, when he was elected principal of the high schools of Ashley. The following year he was elected superintendent of the Ashley schools and served in that capacity four years, retiring from the teachers' profession in 1911.

In 1911 Mr. Rose bought an interest in the mercantile business of his brother, Harry C. Rose, and is now engaged in that business at Ashley. During his years of teaching he entered the State Normal School, working faithfully until he received his certificate endorsed by the State Board of Education.

Mr. Rose has held many offices of public trust in the village, township and county. When 21 years old he was elected school inspector, and later a member of the Board of County School Examiners of Gratiot County, which office he held two terms. He was elected village clerk of Ashley three successive years ,and is at present a member of the village council. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and a Past Worshipful Master of Ashley Lodge No. 399.

Mr. Rose was married August 28, 1907, to Miss Myrtie F. Tallman, of Eagle, Clinton County, Mich. They have a daughter—Helen Lucile—born August 30, 1909.

## TIFFANY.

DeWitt C. Tiffany, whose portrait appears in connection with this sketch, was born in the Township of Schroepel, Oswego County, New York, August 25, 1844. He attended the district school in his township until he was sixteen years old, and after attending Fally Seminery one year and teaching a district school, at the age of eighteen years he entered the Oswego Normal and Training School from which he graduated in the summer of 1866. He taught a district school in his home township for one year after graduating, and after the close of his school he came to Michigan, landing in Saginaw in the summer of 1867. He was connected with the public schools of Bridgeport, Saginaw County, during the succeeding ten years, and held the office of Township Superintedent of Schools for three years while the duties of that office took the place of County Superintendent of Schools and which was later superseded by the present County Commissioner of Schools. In the discharge of his official duties he visited each school in his township at least twice during each year, advising with the several district officers, conducted the examination of the teachers of the township and improving the township library, which, under his management, advice and counsel soon became a popular and effective literary and educational institution containing over one thousand volumes. So popular did the library become that the people voted at each annual election a liberal sum for its maintenance.



DE WITT C. TIFFANY.

On December 24, 1871, Mr. Tiffany was married to Miss Mary J. Weir, of Bridgeport, who, during all the succeeding years has been his constant, frugal and helpful wife and counselor.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Tiffany moved to St. Charles, having engaged as principal of the school of that thriving village, which position he held for several years.

In the summer of 1881 he engaged in the mercantile business in St. Charles, which occupation he followed with varying success till the spring of 1889, when he came to Ashley, Gratiot County, where he has resided to the present time.

During his residence here he has taken a very active part in all the public enterprises that tend toward the upbuilding and advancement of the village, the public school and the township.

Mr. Tiffany held an influential position in the village council for several years as one of the village trustees, was three times elected village president and several times as village assessor.

He was director and treasurer of the village school for nine years and being elected as a member of the school board at a time when the district was $3,500 in debt on which ten per cent. interest was being paid by the district, he, with the aid of a majority of the school board, set on foot a system of retrenchment and frugal outlay and reduction of the rate of interest that in time resulted in an entire freedom from indebtedness and a school that has graduated several pupils who afterward held high positions in the county as teachers and public officials.

Soon after Mr. Tiffany's arrival in Ashley he became convinced that the time was ripe for the organization of a lodge of F. & A. Masons, and immediately set about the work of organizing a lodge. He hunted up all the members of the order in Ashley and vicinity who would join in the project, obtained the recommendation of the lodges at Ithaca, Elsie and Eureka, and a dispensation was granted by the Grand Master which was succeeded by a regular charter at the next convocation of the Grand Lodge. Mr. Tiffany was elected Worshipful Master and has held that office nine years.

To Mr. Tiffany's public spirit and enterprise are due the beginning of the manufacture of brick in Ashley, the cheese factory, the rehabilitation of the grist mill and many other utilities that have tended to the upbuilding of the village, and the improvement of the surrounding country.

In 1898 and again in 1900 he was highway commissioner, and did much for the permanent improvement of highway conditions in the township.

## BOWKER.

Napoleon B. Bowker, now and for several years past, a resident of Ashley, was born near Pulaskyville, Morrow County, Ohio, June 1, 1848, son of Chester and Eliza A. (Reed) Bowker. He resided with his parents and aided in the miscellaneous labors of a farmer's life and attending the district school, until reaching his 15th year, when he enlisted—September 9, 1862—in Co. F, 81st Ohio Vol. Infantry, joining the regiment at Cornith, Miss. He was with the regiment in all its battles and hard, long marches in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, and was with Gen. Sherman in his continuous battle and flank maneuvers from Chattanooga to Atlanta; was wounded while in action at Lays Ferry, May 14, 1864, and again at the siege of Atlanta in August, 1864. He was with Sherman in the great march to the sea, and back through the Carolinas; at the Battle of Bentonville; at the surrender of Johnston's army north of Raleigh, and then on to Petersburg, Richmond and Washington where he took part in the "Grand Review."

After the review the regiment was sent to Louisville, Ky., where it was kept until July 13, 1865, when it was mustered out. April 24, 1866, Mr. Bowker enlisted in Co. B, 13th U. S. Infantry, and served on the frontier, most of the time in Montana territory. There he saw much hardship and dangerous service, the Indians being hostile at that time. Two men were killed in his company while in Montana. April 24, 1869, Mr. Bowker was discharged, with the rank of 1st duty sergeant of Co. B, 13th U. S. Infantry, at Fort Shaw, Montana territory, returning to his home in Ohio in June following.

June 22, 1870, Mr. Bowker was married to Margaret Frances Steen who was born near Sparta, Ohio, August 12, 1850, daughter of William and Jane Steen.

To this union was born one son—Ora Clayton—August 20, 1871. After two years of sickness with consumption, Mrs. Bowker died at Fargo, Morrow County, Ohio.

September 28, 1876, Mr. Bowker was married to Violet A. Walker, of Andrews, Ohio, born March 5, 1856, daughter of Ephraim and Margaret Walker. In October, 1879, our subject moved with his family to Washington Township, Gratiot County, Mich., settling on section 10; not the first to settle in that part of Gratiot, but it was pretty new 34 years ago; plenty of water and no large ditches to carry it off; plenty of mud, "and more mosquitoes to the square inch than at any other place this side of the Mississippi Swamps," says Mr. B. in narrating his experiences. The timber was large and the forest dense, making it slow and expensive work to clear the land, but perseverance brought success.

To the last-mentioned marital union two children were born—Peninah M., born Oct. 9, 1883, died Oct. 11, 1884; Zenas H., born Sept. 30, 1886.

Ora C., eldest son of N. B. Bowker was married in 1896 to Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Murdock, of Beaverton, Mich. To this union three sons have been born—Austin Lile, born in 1897, died in 1900; Clayton, born 1900; Keith, born 1908. Ora C. Bowker resides at Beaverton, where he has been in business over ten years. He has held public positions there, such as alderman, supervisor, city assessor, etc. He is well known in Gratiot County where he was educated and where he was engaged in teaching.

Zenas H., youngest son of N. B. Bowker, married Anna, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Youngfer, of Beaverton. He resides in Flint, Mich., where he is employed as general machinist in the Buick Auto Factory.

After many years of hardships and privations, such as go with the settlement of all new countries, but with many hopes and joys and congenial companionship, and after attaining the one thing essential to earthly satisfaction and happiness—a comfortable home—then, on July 30, 1899, came the darkest day of N. B. Bowker's life—the death of the beloved wife and mother, Violet A. Bowker.

With the exception of less than one year Mr. Bowker has been a resident of Gratiot County for 30 years. During that time he has been engaged in farming, buying and selling land, and has been in mercantile trade three different times, and has held many different offices of trust and responsibility, in all of which he has given a good and satisfactory account of himself.

September 8, 1900, Mr. Bowker was married to Jannette (Hustead) Cobb, who was born in Oakland County, Mich., daughter of Alfred and Mary A. Hustead. The parents were among the first settlers of Groveland Township, Oakland County. The marriage took place in Ashley, and there Mr. and Mrs. Bowker have resided to the present time, enjoying the respect and confidence of the good people of that enterprising town.

## ROSE.

Harry C. Rose, one of the solid and influential citizens of the Village of Ashley, and one of its most enterprising and popular merchants, was born in Watertown, Clinton County, Mich., June 30, 1872. His father, Isaac P. Rose, was born in Jackson County, Mich., July 9, 1848, and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Garlock, was born October 24, 1851. They are now residents of Ashley where they enjoy the esteem of a large circle of friends.



HARRY C. ROSE.

Isaac and Mary (Garlock) Rose had six children born to their marital union, in the following order: Alice M., born May 26, 1870; Harry C., born June 30, 1872; Arta E., born February 16, 1875; Ruth L., born May 17, 1878; Hubert C., born July 4, 1881; Hollie J., born August 10, 1884. The family settled in Washington Township, Gratiot County, in the year 1884; not among the earliest settlers of the township, but early enough to be called upon to tackle many of the problems incident to life in a new country.

In the year 1900, Harry C. Rose, the chief subject of this sketch, embarked in mercantile trade in the Village of Ashley, and has since been engaged constantly in that business. His is what is called a general store, and, as the name implies, caters to the necessities and desires of the public with a large and varied line of goods. His establishment is probably one of the very best in the county, at least outside of the three chief towns in the county. Up to February 28, 1911, Mr. Rose was located in Chas. E. Beck's block on the east side of the principal business street. On the date mentioned fire destroyed a large portion of his stock and fixtures. Soon afterward he purchased the mercantile stock of A. Landi, located on the west side of the same street, and, with a full line of general merchandise, he continues to supply the wants of a host of pleased customers coming from many miles around.



MRS. HARRY C. ROSE.

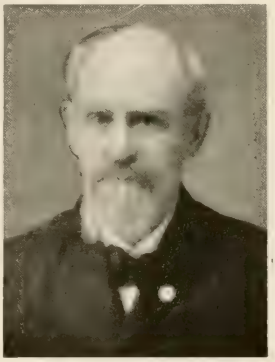
Harry C. Rose was united in marriage at St. Johns, Mich., to Miss Lucy E. Gross, daughter of Alfred A. and Rhoda (Dayton) Gross, the former born at Enfield, Mass., in 1827, the latter born at Grand Blanc, Mich., in 1842. They settled in Hamilton Township, this county, in 1865, and endured many of the hardships and inconveniences that fell to the lot of Gratiot's pioneers. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gross are Frank, Warren, Carrie and Lucy E. The last mentioned, now the wife of Harry C. Rose, was born in April, 1874, in Hamilton Township. The father, Alfred A. Gross, died June 14, 1894. The mother resides with her children, Mr. and Mrs. Rose.

Three children have come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rose: Mary R. was born December 21, 1896; Hope R., was born March 18, 1899; Harold G. was born December 19, 1900. They are all students in the Ashley schools.

Mr. Rose has served his township and village in various responsible positions—township treasurer of Elba in 1901, '02, member of the village council in 1899, and village treasurer in 1906. He is an active member of the Masonic fraternity, and Mrs. Rose is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Both are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are active and interested workers in all projects and enterprises designed for the upbuilding of their town, for the welfare of the community and for the improvement of society.

## ROOF.

Rev. Nathan Roof was born June 26, 1832, at Little York, Indiana. His parents were John and Lucinda (Shaw) Roof. His immediate ancestors were pioneers who experienced many of the hardships and vicissitudes of the early days of our country. His grandfather served five years in the Revolutionary War. He married a French woman who had been captured by the Indians when 16 years of age, and held by them till she was 21. She was finally liberated by the French who purchased her liberty of the Indians at Detroit. The grandfather lived to be 105 years old.



REV. NATHAN ROOF.

John Roof, the father of Nathan, was born July 4, 1777. He served three years in the War of 1812, and died in April, 1844. Lucinda (Shaw) Roof, the mother of Nathan, died when he was but two and one-half years old. He went to Ohio with his father at the age of four years, and from there to the State of Illinois. When Nathan was 12 years old his father died, and from that time he made his own way in life. He returned to Ohio where he spent his youthful days as a laborer and in learning the trade of a carpenter and joiner, at which trade he workeed until the breaking out of the Civil War.

Nathan Roof was among the first to answer his country's call for troops, enlisting April 1, 1861, with the 90-day men. He enlisted again in 1863 and served till August, 1865. He participated in several of the great battles of the war and in many smaller engagements and skirmishes.

In 1853 Mr. Roof was married, in Ohio, to Miss Priscilla Detrow. Four children were born to them, one only of whom—Sarah Crego—is now living. In the fall of 1876, Mr. Roof removed to Michigan with his family. His wife died December 5, 1876. Mr. Roof was again married on the 19th day of December, 1877, the lady of his choice being Elizabeth Ladd. They lived for a time in Elba Township, but removed into Saginaw County, and from there to Ashley in 1887. To this union two sons were born—William N. and John A. The latter served eight years in the navy, and recently received his honorable discharge from the service. Both sons served in the Spanish-American War.

The wife, Elizabeth, died May 27, 1893, and on March 6, 1895, Mr. Roof was married to Mary Louthan, of Ohio, who died January 26, 1906. On the 16th of September, 1907, Mr. Roof was again married, this time to Miss Vevia Wadsworth. They were married in the Baptist Church at Ithaca. Vevia Wadsworth was herself a minister of the gospel, of the Baptist faith and had recently served the church at Ashley as its pastor. She is a daughter of Dr. C. S. and Lydia (Raymond) Wadsworth. Her paternal ancestors came to America in 1632; her maternal ancestors in 1631. The many Wadsworths renowned in history as patriots, warriors and philanthropists belonged to her own ancestral stock, and she is directly descended from James Wadsworth who, with his own hand, in 1687, concealed the State Charter in the famed Charter Oak; all of which is narrated in the history of the country.

Nathan Roof was a clergyman of the Christian Church. He began his ministerial labors in September, 1868, in Ohio, and from that time to the end of his life he was continuously thus employed. In his ministerial capacity he was called upon times almost without number to officiate at marriages, baptisms and funerals among his parishioners and neighbors. He officiated at over 700 funerals and at as many or more marriage and baptismal services. As a friend and counselor in the hour of affliction, he will be affectionately remembered by hosts of friends for many years to come; and this sketch, with his accompanying portrait, will long serve as a reminder of his faithful work for the alleviation of affliction, the amelioration of physical suffering, and, in general, for his influence, by precept and example, in behalf of justice and morality.

He patiently and confidently awaited the final call, until May 14, 1912, when he passed to the immortal life. Burial in Ford Cemetery, near the southeast corner of Elba Township.

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## BROWN.

Among the best-known residents of Ashley may be mentioned the name of Thomas E. Brown, justice of the peace and prominent in other ways, a resident of Gratiot County for the last thirty years.

Mr. Brown was born September 29, 1842, in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He is the son of Thomas Brown who was born in 1785, in South Carolina. His mother's maiden name was Mary Ann Girley. She was born in South Carolina in 1775.

Thomas E. Brown was one of a family of ten brothers and sisters: Leah was born near Charleston, South Carolina; John, Elizabeth, James and Margaret were born in Marion County, Indiana; William and Hannah were born in Jackson County, Indiana; Enoch, Joseph and Mary were born in Bartholomew County, Indiana. Thomas E., our subject, is the only member of the family now living.

Thomas E. Brown served in the Civil War as a member of Company G, 20th Indiana Infantry, receiving an honorable discharge after four years of active service. He was twice wounded—first at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, and again in front of Petersburg, June 16, 1864. Four brothers, also, were soldiers in the union army, John being killed in 1862 and James dying during the same year from wounds received in battle.

Mr. Brown was united in marriage September 9, 1867, to Jemima Baker in Tipton County, Indiana, daughter of John and Sarah Baker. She was born in Hickman County, Tennessee, September 2, 1831. Mrs. Brown had two brothers and one sister: Calvin was born in Jackson County, Indiana; Mary and John were born in Brown County, Indiana.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born two sons. John was born June 22, 1869, in Cass County, Indiana, and is married to Elzina White. They live in Vickeryvile, Mich. Charlie was born in Miami County, Indiana, April 18, 1872. He was married September 2, 1902, to Clara Posey. They are now residents of Newaygo County, Missouri.

Mr. Brown removed from Indiana and settled at Elsie, Clinton County, March 20, 1877. March 10, 1882, he removed to Gratiot, and this county has since been his home. Mrs. Jemima Brown died August 22, 1896, and Mr. Brown was married again September 2, 1897 to Keziah Bingham, of Ashley. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and, recognizing his worth and ability, his townsmen have entrusted him with various positions of trust and responsibility. He served eight years as deputy sheriff while yet a resident of Indiana; served ten years as constable and marshal in Elsie; eight years and three months as justice of the peace of Elba Township, and six years as councilman in the Village of Ashley; a total of more than 26 years as a public official.

This sketch of Thomas E. Brown and family will justly be looked upon as a valuable and interesting portion of the local history of Elba Township and of the Village of Ashley.

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## COON.

Martin Wilber Coon, postmaster at Ashley, and a prominent resident of that thriving village, was born in Rockport, Ohio, March 4, 1849. He is the youngest of a family of ten, children of Joseph S. and Julia A. (Prosser) Coon. The former was born May 26, 1811, in New York State, and died in 1893. The latter was born December 11, 1809, in the same state, and died in 1884. Martin W. and one other, Mrs. Adaline Sutton, are all of the children now living.

Mr. Coon came to Gratiot in 1869, settling on a farm in Washington Township. He remained there engaged in the arduous labors incident to the farmer's occupation in a new country till 1896, when he removed to Ashley, at that time a small burg, where he has since resided.

Mr. Coon was married in Ithaca, July 4, 1870, to Jennie L. Carothers, who was born in Thurston, N. Y., January 10, 1853. She is the daughter of William V. and Sarah (Jack) Carothers, who settled in Washington Township in 1854, among the earliest of Gratiot County's pioneers. Mr. Carothers was born in Jerusalem, N. Y., February 14, 1827, and died November 6, 1901, on the farm which he located in 1854. His wife, Sarah (Jack) Carothers, to whom he was married October 17, 1850, was born July 17, 1831, and is still living. Their experiences as pioneers of Gratiot were similar to those of many others. Mr. Carothers was for many years prominent in township affairs, and was many times elected to the office of highway commissioner. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Carothers were as follows: Minerva E., born in Michigan, February 24, 1857, and Armena M., born in Michigan, February 4, 1860, both died on the same day—September 11, 1863. The parents, with their little daughter, Jennie L., then reutrned to the State of New York, where, at Thurston, Ada E. was born April 18, 1865. Returning to Gratiot after three years' residence in New York State, George W. was born November 12, 1871, and died June 28, 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin W. Coon have had a family of thirteen children. Two sons died in infancy. One daughter was a graduate of Ithaca High School and taught school for a number of years. She was married in 1896

and died in 1900. Five others are married, four of them living in Michigan and one in California. The others still live at home with their parents.

While a resident of Washington Township Mr. Coon was elected to various positions of responsibility, holding the offices of school inspector and township clerk several years, and was supervisor five years. Since his removal to Ashley in 1896, he has served five years as supervisor of Elba Township. In 1908 he was appointed postmaster, a position which he still holds.

Mr. Coon, who is a veterinarian by profession, is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Rebecca lodges. Mrs. Coon is a member of the Baptist Church and of the Rebeccas.

It is gratifying to be able to present to the readers of this volume this interesting family sketch.

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## DUNCAN.

David Duncan a well-known citizen of Gratiot County, especially in the southern part of the county, is now living a retired life in the Village of Ashley, having, on account of failing health, given up active business. He is the son of David Duncan and was born June 3, 1844, at the Mill of Clinter in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The father was the son of George Duncan and was one of a family of ten sons and two daughters. George Duncan was forester to the Mrs. Lomans who owned a large estate about two miles from Tendarne O'Neal. David Duncan, the father, left Scotland for Canada in the month of April, 1853, on a vessel named the Jane Boyd. One year later the mother, with David and three other children, left Scotland on the same ship—the Jane Boyd—for Quebec, Canada. The mother's name was Christina (Mortimore) Duncan. They arrived in Hamilton, Canada, about the 1st of June, 1854, and remained in Canada until the spring of 1858, when they removed to Detroit. At that time there were six children —David, Peter, Christina, Margaret, Elizabeth and George.

The family moved to Washington Township, Gratiot County, in 1859, settling on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 17, the place now owned by Oliver McEnderfer. The father died October 11, 1860, when David Duncan, the subject of this sketch, was 16 years old. In April, 1861, two more children were born, twins—James and Mary Duncan. James Duncan married Lillie Gray and they are now living in California. Mary Duncan married George Miller and they, also, reside in California. Peter Duncan died in 1863. Christina Duncan married George English, of the Township of Washington. Margaret Duncan married Henry English who afterward was killed by his team running away in the Township of Elba. Margaret afterward married Burton Bradley. They now reside in Pasadena, California. Elizabeth Duncan married James Welch, now living in Detroit. George Duncan died in February, 1859.

David Duncan, the subject of this sketch was married April 22, 1874, to Miss Emma J. Whitney, daughter of Joshua and Mabel Whitney. Five children have been born to David and Emma Duncan. George E. is married to Mina Church, of Alma, and they are now residents of that city. Mary is married to Benjamin Zigler and lives in Washington Township. Carrie is the wife of Bert Palmer, residing in Owosso. Blanch is married to Simon S. Lindley and is living in Elba Township. Whitney M. is living in Detroit working at the barber's trade.

While living in Washington Township David Duncan held various offices of trust—township clerk several years and township drain commissioner two terms. He removed from Washington Township to Elba Township in 1890.

He was postmaster at Ashley for a period of six years, finally resigning on account of ill-health. He has also held the office of township clerk of Elba, and was one of the county superintendents of the poor for three years. In all of the positions he has held he has served his constituents faithfully, and in a manner to merit their approval. In addition to the incidents of his life here mentioned, he served his country three years as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion. He was a member of company A, 23rd Michigan Infantry.

Thus we have given some of the main features in the life of one of Gratiot County's most respected citizens; quiet and unassuming in manner, but justly recognized as a man of solid worth by all with whom he comes in contact in a business, official or social way.

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## BICKFORD.

Joseph Bickford and wife, among the early settlers of Gratiot, came to the county in time for the 4th of July celebration at Ithaca in 1856. Mr. Bickford bought his land on section 25, North Star Township, for 50 cents an acre, paying $40 in gold for his 80 acres. The certificate, issued from the Ionia land office, was signed by President James Buchanan, and is still in the family. When he came to Gratiot to look at the land he walked from Lansing, covering the distance of more than 40 miles in one day, following blazed trees as guides. He was one of the 12 men who organized North Star Township. When his family came they were drawn from St. Johns on a wooden "pung" hauled by oxen to Maple River, crossing the river in a log canoe paddled by an Indian. The remaining six miles was continued with oxen and sled through the dense Gratiot woods.

They withstood the hardships of pioneer life four years and then moved to the State of New York, remaining there five years and then returned to the Gratiot farm. After a residence on the farm nine months they again pulled up stakes and moved to Wisconsin where they resided 12 years. Then in the spring of 1878, they returned to the farm.

Joseph Bickford was born in Vermont, June 22, 1827. He was married July 5, 1847, to Miss Rhoda C. Cornell. His death occurred at his home in North Star, March 25, 1883. His wife, Rhoda C., was born in New York State, June 17, 1828. Eight children were born to this union—Jonathan, died in infancy; Myron L., Francelia O., deceased; Marvena; Solon E., deceased, and Olen E., twins; Carrie L.; Devillow E. The mother died May 13, 1906, at the home of her son, Devillow E., and was buried beside her husband in North Star Cemetery. She was an earnest and energetic Sunday school worker until her health failed in the later years of her life.

Devillow Ellsworth Bickford, youngest son of Joseph and Rhoda Bickford, was born in the State of New York, November 25, 1862. When a young boy he came with his parents to Gratiot, and did his share in clearing up and cultivating the new farm. Being the youngest of the children and the only one at home during his father's declining years, he was the chief support and mainstay of the widowed mother after his father's death.

Devillow E. Bickford was married July 2, 1885, to Cecilia M., daughter of Charles H. Medley, deceased, late of Ithaca, Mich. She was born in Washington, D. C., September 9, 1862, and was educated in the Ithaca High School. For six years thereafter she was one of Gratiot's most successful teachers. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bickford: Charles Joseph; Bernice Blanch, died April 26, 1890, at the age of two years; Ethel

Pearl and Devillow Earl (twins); Eugene Everett; Mamie Marvena. Charles J. learned the shoemaker's trade with his grandfather, C. H. Medley. He attended Yerington's College several terms. He was married to Miss Alice Meredith, and they have one son, Charles Devillow. He worked at his trade several years in Saginaw; now resides on his father's farm in Hamilton Township. Ethel Pearl was married to J. Vinton Gibson, of Farwell, Mich. He served as principal of the Perrinton School, and is now serving his third year at North Star. They have two children—Ilah Cecilia and J. Vinton, Jr. D. Earl married Miss Zella Kerr, of Hamilton, and now resides on a farm in that township. They have a daughter, Ethel Pearl. Eugene Everett is a Gratiot County teacher. Mamie Marvena is a student in Ashley High School. The children were all born on the old homestead, section 25, North Star.

In 1901, Devillow E. Bickford removed with his family to his farm on section 30, Hamilton Township, remaining engaged in agricultural pur-



D. E. BICKFORD AND FAMILY.

suits until 1910, when he removed to Ashley and took the management of the pickle salting station. In the spring of 1912 he bought the grocery business of Bert Wight..

Mr. Bickford has held various positions of responsibility in his township, and in societies of which he is a member—school inspector and overseer of highways in Hamilton Township, Commander in the K. of P., Commander in the K. O. T. M. M., Master of the Grange, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He has many times represented the various orders as a delegate. Mrs. Bickford is of a literary turn of mind, a concise and forceful writer when occasion demands or suggests. She is an active member of the L. O. T. M. M., of the Grange, of the O. E. S. and is president of the W. C. T. U. of Ashley.

Charles H. Medley, father of Mrs. D. E. Bickford, was a veteran of the union army in the Civil War, a shoemaker by trade and a man of superior

intelligence. His wife, Susan N. Medley, was a woman of fine character, deeply religious, and loved and respected by all who knew her. Their four children were as follows: Cecilia M.; Charles E., (deceased); Joseph Eugene and Philip E. The two last mentioned graduated with honor from the Ithaca High School. Eugene taught two years in the county and then took a course in the University of Minnesota. For about twenty years he has held responsible positions with the Minneapolis Tribune Company. He married Mamie Lucile Lyman, of Minneapolis, and they have one daughter, Marjorie Lucile. Philip Medley was for several years manager of the Akeley Lumber Company of Northern Minnesota, his office located at Park Rapids. He is now manager of the Blakely Lumber Co., of Bagley, Minn.

This sketch includes the biographies of several well-known and well-remembered citizens, and will be highly appreciated by many in the localities in which they lived or are now living.

## HUTCHINSON.

Loren Myron Hutchinson, farmer, residing in the suburbs of Ashley, was born in Highland Township, Oakland County, Mich., May 10, 1855. He is son of Myron B. and Lavisa (Wait) Hutchinson, the former born in Penfield Township, Monroe County, N. Y., November 25, 1835, died December, 1902, the latter born in Vermont in 1835, died in 1866, leaving two children —Loren M. and Cora. The latter married Orin Leland, now deceased. Half-sisters and half-brothers of Loren M. Hutchinson are the following: Zella, married Byron Turner and resides at Reese, Mich. Hattie Eloise married George Tappan and resides at Niles, Mich. Willard N. is married and resides at Bay City, Mich. Sadie married Charles Mudge and resides at Caro, Mich. Ruby married Fred Little and resides at Caro.

Loren M. Hutchinson was married to Armina A. Pitts, of the Township of Bennington, Shiawassee County, Mich., April 6, 1880. She was born in Williamston, Mich., December 13, 1857. Her father, Willard Pitts, a native of Vermont, died May, 1892. Her mother, Permelia (Burchard) Pitts, is living at the home of Mr. Hutchinson, at the age of 82 years. Eugene Pitts, a brother of Mrs. Hutchinson, is a resident of Henderson, Mich. Her sister, Jennie, married Frank Chipman, of Owosso; now deceased. Mrs. Hutchinson died at her home in Ashley, January 8, 1913.

Some of Mr. Hutchinson's ancestors were in the military service of their country. His great grandfather, Graves, was in the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, Hutchinson, saw service in the War of 1812.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson have been the parents of three children as follows: Cora died in infancy; Mabel died at the age of sixteen months; Jennie was born November 26, 1887. She was married June 28, 1911, to Grover Cleveland Roof and resides at Byron, Mich.

Mr. Hutchinson bought his land in Elba Township in 1879, before the Village of Ashley appeared upon the map. He moved on to the place in March, 1881, and moved back to Shiawassee County in March 1882. Then, in 1884, when the Toledo, Ann Arbor and North Michigan Railroad was established on the bias through Elba he moved on—or in, for there was much water in those days—and has remained to the present time. In the years that have passed he has worked hard to bring his forest farm to its present condition of fruitfulness. As a side-line to the usual agricultural program, he early embarked in dairying, to the extent of keeping a few cows and furnishing milk to the increasing population of the village, the business expanding until it attained gratifying proportions and with correspondingly satisfactory returns. He disposed of this business in the summer of 1913.

At the incorporation of the Village of Ashley Mr. Hutchinson was chosen a member of the first council, and he has done duty in that capacity for twelve years, first and last. He has also served many years as member of the board of education; one of the substantial and dependable citizens of the town. In his Church affiliations he was connected with the Baptist society from its organization in an early day to its recent dissolution. He now affiliates with its successor, the Disciple Church. Politically he is a Democrat, persistently sticking to his faith in spite of discouraging conditions. He is pleased to see the dawn of a brighter day for his party, and, though not a rank partisan, he hopes for better things for the people.

## ASHLEY SCHOOLS.

In educational matters Ashley is not behind other towns of its size in Central Michigan. The school building, a picture of which is shown in this connection, was built in 1886. I suppose a strict regard for absolute truth would compel the statement that the edifice under consideration is not bewilderingly beautiful to look upon, though it has what might be called a majestic aspect. However, a strict regard for politeness suggests silence on the subject.



ASHLEY'S SCHOOL HOUSE.

The school is graded, all of the usual twelve grades being taught. Five teachers are required. The corps of teachers for the year commencing September, 1913, is constituted as follows: Supt. —Otto J. Heber; Assistants —Gertrude Redford, Jennie A. Coon, Josephine Cornwell, Bernice Mills.

The present board of education is made up as follows: Pres.—Ira Otto; Sec. —M. W. Coon; Treas. David Duncan; Asa Bigelow, Whitfield De Bar.

## ASHLEY BANK.

The Ashley Banking Company was organized May 20, 1903, for the purpose of doing a private banking business in the Village of Ashley, Mich., the company being composed of James Anstey, Thomas Anstey, Lorenzo Chambers and George H. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was elected president, James Anstey vice-president, L. Chambers cashier,and Gertrude A. Lewis, assistant cashier. The same officers have been in control ever since the organization of the company.

The bank opened in part of the building occupied by L. Chambers as a drug store and continued its business there until 1907 when the firm bought the building and the next year the room was remodeled, the bank taking possession of and occupying the whole building.

In 1909 Gertrude A. Lewis succeeded to the cashiership. She is the only lady cashier in the county and it is believed that there are only two more in the entire state. A. G. Aldridge is assistant cashier.

The bank has had a steady and satisfactory growth from the beginning, until it has now reached a high place as a strong, conservative and reliable institution. Its career has been one of unvarying success. Being managed by well-known citizens, and backed by well-earned capital, the confidence of the people is firmly established. The bank will continue to give to its patrons the same careful attention in future as in the past, and thus confidently expects to merit and enjoy the continued good will of all.

Thos. Anstey, one of the members of the banking company died April, 11, 1912.

## ASHLEY CHURCHES.

### Congregational Church.

This organization went out of existence some years ago, but as it was the first to establish itself in the village, and was very strong for several years, it seems appropriate to mention such facts concerning it as are now available. The society was organized in June, 1885, with about eight members, as follows: Isaac P. Rose, Ansel H. Phinney and wife, Ransom M. Brooks and wife, Ed. Fields and wife. Rev. Frink was the first minister and his wife may be included in the first membership.

The society being the first of the kind organized, and the village increasing rapidly in population the membership grew and flourished until within two years the number reached about 100. A church building was erected and matters progressed very satisfactorily for several years. Then trouble began to creep in, and dissension arose, caused mainly, it is said, by a bad minister, and the Church rapidly went to pieces and disbanded finally, after an existence of about ten years, the members going into other organizations as they came into existence. The church building was sold to the Baptist society.

### Baptists—Disciples.

The Church dates its organization from May 6, 1895. Rev. C. E. Conley was largely instrumental in bringing it about. He was the first pastor, Rev. David Porterfield succeeding him in 1896. At the organization of the society and the election of a board of trustees L. M. Hutchinson was chairman and Dr. W. A. Hale was secretary. The three trustees elected were L. M. Hutchinson, Frank H. Gallup and Peter Rhynard.

The membership at the organization was as follows: L. M. Hutchinson, Mrs. Mina A. Hutchinson, Peter Rhynard, Mrs. Lena F. Rhynard, Wallace A. Hale, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, Levi Murphy, Mrs. Mary D. Murphy, Frank H. Gallup, Mrs. Maud L. Gallup, Mrs. Laura C. Mead, Orin Nickerson, Mrs. Matilda Daily, Mrs. Clara Woolston, Mrs. Emily J. Moore, Mrs. Katharine Hinman, O. J. Dutton, Mrs. O. J. Dutton, C. J. Brewbaker, Mrs. C. J. Brewbaker, Mrs. Ida M. Pitts, Mrs. Proctor.

The society has no stated services at the present time, and it seems not at all unfair to say that interest and effort are at a very low ebb with the organization. The church building was sold to the Disciples in 1912, and that society holds services quite regularly: Rev. R. Bruce Brown, pastor.

### Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ashley's Methodists were organized into a class in November, 1887, with charter members as follows: Samuel Webb, Mrs. Samuel Webb, John Powers, Mrs. Mary Powers, Darius Pechtel, Mrs. D. Pechtel. During the year 1888 members were added as follows: D. B. Ackmoody, Mrs. A. Steadman, Mrs. Mary A. Chittenden, Mrs. Annice Tripp, Mrs. Welthy Graham, Harley Garlock, Kelly S. Searl, Mrs. Maggie Searl, Chas. M. Smith, Mrs. Jeannette M. Smith, Della A. Wells.

The society maintained a reasonable degree of prosperity and popularity, and the succeeding years saw many new members added to the list. In 1888 the initial steps were taken for the erection of a church edifice. The foundation was laid that year, but the building was not completed till along in 1890. It is of brick and is a tasty little structure. The brick were the first manufactured in Ashley, and were made by D. W. C. Tiffany who established a brick-making plant in 1889. The society has the usual auxiliaries—Sunday school, Ladies' Aid, etc.

Since its organization the Church has been under the ministrations of the following named pastors: E. A. Boynton; J. W. McAllister, appointed 1887; F. P. Sprague, '89; A. E. North, '90; J. E. Messner, '91; John Close, '94; I. H. Skinner, '95; B. J. Youngs, '97; N. W. Weston, '99; J. W. Hayward, '02; F. E. Chamberlain, '06; John Clemens, '09.

The present pastor is Rev. R. V. Birdsall, who came in the fall of 1913.

## ASHLEY NEWSPAPERS.

Ashley has had a variety of newspapers since the first copy of the first paper—the Ashley Argus—was issued in March, 1887, by Wm. C. Briggs. A variety numerically and a variety as to quality. Reference to Ashley's newspapers will unavoidably be brief and somewhat disconnected. The Argus lasted only a short time, and in May of the same year Wm. P. Ismonde started the Ashley Gazette which survived until September of the same year. The next venture was made by L. Austin & Son, of Elsie, who commenced the publication of the Ashley Union, August, 1888. In the winter of 1890-'91 Editor Hooper was publishing a paper called the Ashley Gleaner. Along in January, 1891, the Gleaner suspended publication, moved to Carson City and was shortly afterward absorbed by the Carson City Gazette. In March, 1891, Louis W. Fuller came from Hesperia, Ottawa County, and purchased a printing outfit of A. L. Howes, who had run the Ashley News for a few weeks. Mr. Fuller's paper was called the Saturday Evening Post, and he stuck to it for several years.

In 1904 Will Coon was publishing—or trying to publish—the Ashley World. In September of that year he sold the paper to Edson H. Mudge, who proved to be a first-class newspaper man and made the World an exceedingly good country paper. He continued its publication until the spring of 1912, when he sold to A. L. Orser, and bought the St. Louis Independent. Mr. Orser is still at the World's helm, and is publishing a newspaper which has latterly shown much improvement in various ways, and is doing valiant service in behalf of Ashley's prosperity.

## ASHLEY POSTOFFICE.

The Ashley postoffice was established January 14, 1884. Ansel H. Phinney was its first postmaster, his appointment bearing that date. He was succeeded as follows: Clarence C. Reynolds, February 8, 1887; Ebenezer

Z. Fuller, July 20, 1889; Louis Fuller, August 14, 1893; George W. Mead, September 21, 1897; David Duncan, June 16, 1902; Martin W. Coon, May 9, 1908. Mr. Coon was re-appointed March 8, 1912. The office is now a presidential office, the change dating from January, 1912. Miss Mazie Coon is the polite and accommodating assistant postmaster.

Ashley postoffice accommodates the surrounding country with three rural carriers. No. 1 has George Coon as carrier; No. 2, Russell Wilcox; No. 3, Thomas Currey. The office is a Postal Savings Depository.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### F. & A. M.

The Masons organized Ashley Lodge No. 399 in 1890, with a charter membership of eight. The first officers were as follows: W. M.—D. W. C. Tiffany; S. W.—Thompson Kirby; J. W.—C. E. Chittenden; Sec.—B. D. Ackmoody; Treas.—Chas. E. Beck; S. D.—W. A. Hale; J. D.—Wm. Barker; Tyler—E. H. Wells.

Present officers: W. M.—Orlo B. Gallop; S. W.—Asa Bigelow; J. W.—Frank Shonk; Treas.—David Duncan; Sec.—Hubert C. Rose; S. D.—Hollie J. Rose; J. D.—M. W. Coon; Tyler—Charles Follett.

The present membership is 75.

The lodge had its first quarters in the upper story of the building now owned by G. W. Todd, west side of Sterling Street. Outgrowing its quarters it moved to rooms over the brick block owned by C. E. Beck, east side of Sterling Street. These rooms were elegant and commodious, fitted up especially for use of the lodge. February 27, 1911 the building was destroyed by fire, the lodge losing all of its furniture and equipments. The lodge then purchased the brick block owned by the G. A. R., south side of Oak Street, remodeled and added largely to the structure, and occupied it for lodge purposes in May, 1912. The formal dedication took place April 29, 1913.

### O. E. S.

Ashley Chapter No. 86, O. E. S., was chartered October 13, 1892. First officers installed: W. M.—Mrs. Sarah Hale; W. P.—Dr. W. A. Hale; A. Mat.—Mrs. Harriet Kirby; Sec.—A. A. Bennett; Treas.—Mrs. B. D. Ackmoody; Con.—Mrs. Wm. Perry.

Present Officers: W. M.—Mrs. Lucy Rose; W. P.—S. E. Burlingame; A. M.—Mrs. Eda Palmeter; Treas.—Miss Gertrude Lewis; Sec.—Mrs. Amy Haight; Con.—Mrs. Jessie Martin; A. Con.—Mrs. Myrtie Rose; Chap.—Mrs. Emma Duncan; Warder—Mrs. Belle Crook; Sent.—Chas. Follett.

The lodge has a membership of 54.

### G. A. R. Post.

Wm. M. Kirby Post, No. 323, was organized September 8, 1885, with the following on the records as charter members: E. D. Largent, Wm. L. Ball, Timothy Smith, Jacob Mummy, Wm. S. Sharp, Wm. H. Steadman, T. N. Geary, Thompson Kirby, Napoleon B. Bowker, Orin J. Sprague, Albert Bovee, David Frost, Thos. Brown, David Duncan, Chas. S. Douglas, Jacob Helt, Eli Bailey, Elisha Hoag.

The organizing officer was Commander Giles T. Brown of Moses Wisner Post, of Ithaca. The membership has been as high as 45 and as low as 16. There are 14 names yet on the list as living members.

Here is a list of commanders from first to last: E. D. Largent, Albert Bovee, Thompson Kirby, N. B. Bowker, E. Z. Fuller, David Duncan, Peter Laclear, Ad. Ginis, B. D. Ackmoody, Nathan Roof, O. J. Sprague.

Officers of 1913: Com.—B. F. Pease; S. V.—Wm. Sharp; J. V.—Geo. Van Alstine; Surgeon—Albert Shaw; Adj.—N. B. Bowker; Chap.—Chas. Manchester; Q. M.—Chas. Manchester; O. D.—David Duncan; O. G.—A. Shaw; Pat. Inst.—Geo. W. Harris; Q. M. S.—Chas. Manchester; Serg. M.—D. Duncan.

## I. O. O. F.

Ashley Lodge No. 233, I. O. O. F. was organized June 21, 1886, with charter members as follows: Marsden Bishop, John A. Sickels, Frank Riddle, Thos. E. Woodman, H. C. Terwilliger.

First officers are given as follows: N. G.—M. Bishop; V. G.—E. W. Fields; Sec.—J. A. Sickels; P. S.—G. C. Douglas; T.—C. Terwilliger; R. S.—E. W. Fields; L. S.—A. Hawkins; W.—T. Woodman; C.—F. Nichols; R. S. S.—F. Osborn; L. S. S.—E. S. Bailey; O. G.—O. Nichols; I. G.—J. Clifford.

Present officers: N G.—David Duncan; R .S.—Edwin Robbennolt; L. S.—Elmer Gallop; V. G.—Arthur Kennett; R. S.—Geo. Hoard; L. S.—John Miller; R. S.—Ervin Kennett; F. S.—Ira Otto; Chap.—Charles Manchester; Con.—Nicholas Wirebaugh; O. G.—Howard Martin; War.—Martin W. Coon; R. S. S.—Asa Bigelow; L.S. S.—Benj. Tigler; I. G.—Herman Kreger.

Present membership is 101.

## Rebeccas.

Elba Rebecca Lodge No. 108 was organized September 29, 1887, on application made by the following: Jessie L. Bishop, Mary B. Murphy, Mary Clifford, Melissa Clifford, Z. E. Kirk, Cora E. Osborn, Laura A. Coop, May E. Bannister, Bertha Strakweather, Matilda Busbee, Alice Terwilliger, Marsden Bishop, Jas. Clifford, T. B. Hirt, A. H. Osborn, Thos. A. Coop, C. A. Bannister, H. C. Terwilliger, Alonzo Starkweather.

Present officers: N. G.—Jennie C. Coon; R. S.—A. Manchester; L. S.—May Bigelow; V. G.—Mary L. Otto; R. S.—Rena Rhynard; L. S.—Jessie Martin; F. S.—Mrs. E. Bowers; R. S.—Jennie D. Clark; Chap.—Loretta Woodman; Past G.—Verna Corwin; O. G.—M. Bickford; I. G.—Mrs. Krueger; Warden—Esther Gallop; Cond.—Minnie Munson; Treas.—Mrs. Emma Duncan.

Present membership is 148.

## K. O. T. M. M.

Ashley Tent No. 444 was organized June 20, 1891. The first set of officers was made up as follows: Past Com.—Dr. B. C. Sickles; Com.—Lester Briggs; Lt. Com.—C. A. Bannister; R. K.—Louis Fuller; F. K.—D. W. C. Tiffany; Prel.—A. E. Worth; Phy.—B. C. Sickles; Serg.—Eugene Pitts; M. of A.—Chas. Hankins; 1st M. of G.—M. H. Mills; 2nd M. of G.—Geo. S. Wiltse; Sent.—J. H. Collins; Pick.—E. A. Collins.

Membership at the present time is 37.

Present officers are given as follows: Past Com.—L. M. Hutchinson; Com.—Myron Mills; Lt. Com.—Wm. Hunt; F. K.—Loren Corwin; R. K.—Chas. Corwin, Jr.; Chap.—D. E. Bickford; Phy. Dr. Orill Reichard.

### L. O. T. M. M.

Ashley Hive No. 259, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees commenced business with officers as follows: Past Com.—Emma Wolverton; Com.—Jeannette Cobb; Lt. Com.—Augusta Collins; R. K.—Florence Gunn; F. K.—Lena Fuller; Chap.—Alvira Steadman; Serg.—Julia Mills; M. at A.—Belle Wiltse; Sent.—Mary Wolverton; Pick.—Flora Day. Other charter members: Jennie Turner, Wealtha Graim, Stacia Lockwood, Ella Bannister, Josie Briggs, Lizzie Pratt, Addie Chappell, Nellie Corwin, Climena Wiltse.

The offices are filled at the present time as follows: Com.—Mrs. Julia Coon; Lt. Com.—Carrie Kreuger; F. K.—Esther Gallop; R. K.—Belle Corwin; Past Com.—Adah Stoner; Chap.—Emma Duncan; M. at A.—Anna Howard; Serg.—Loretta Woodman; Sent.—Frankie Coon; Pick.—Nellie Corwin; Organist—Frankie Turner.

The Hive has a membership of about 32.

### PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The Rockafellow Grain Co. of Carson City, Mich., owns and operates Ashley's elevator. They are extensive handlers of grain, feed, hay, flour, wool, coal, cement, etc. Bert Kimmel is the popular and efficient manager.

A cucumber salting station is one of Ashley's important institutions, and D. E. Bickford is the capable and popular manager. About 150 acres of cucumbers are taken care of annually.

Brick and tile works, long in operation here, are owned and operated by W. S. Dove. Tile is an article for which there is a great demand. A. E. Fuller, former owner, is the foreman.

The Cremo-Cheese factory is of much value to Ashley and vicinity, its product being in great demand by good judges of cheese. C. E. Chittenden and A. G. Aldridge, proprietors, the latter being manager of the factory.

Ashley has a lumber yard second to none for completeness if appearances are of any value as evidence. Chas. A. Green is the proprietor. He has been on the spot since 1898, embarking in the business with Samuel Gordon who came from St. Louis in the year mentioned. Later Mr. Green became sole owner and has built up a fine trade.

Alma, St. Louis and Owosso Sugar factories have field headquarters here, with Chas. Townsend as manager for Alma; Asa Bigelow for St. Louis; E. A. Chisholm for Owosso.

D. W. C. Tiffany conducts a general store northwest corner of Sterling and Pine Streets. Was formerly in furniture and undertaking, and for a time dealing in hardware.

Gilleo & Son—J. D. and L. E.—deal in drugs and medicines, wall paper, school supplies, etc., east side of Sterling Street. L. E. Gilleo is resident manager.

An extensive business in general merchandising is carried on by Harry C. Rose and Co. (Hollie J.) in Harry C. Rose's block, west side of Sterling Street. Successors to Benj. Garrett. In trade 14 years. Bell Telephone exchange.

Whitfield De Bar, dealer in hardware, in his own block, west side Sterling Street. Successor to De Bar & Davis, J. S. Husted.

M. D. Gunn is proprietor of a grocery and meat market, in his own brick block, east side of Sterling Street. In business 13 years.

L. K. Kirby, dry goods, boots and shoes, groceries and fruits; west side of Sterling Street.

G. B. Turner, furniture dealer and funeral director. Three years in the business in his own building, east side of Sterling Street.

Morrison & Ford—F. L. Morrison, D. W. Ford—harness and sundries; east side Sterling Street.

Josiah L. Cornwell, general hardware, successor to J. Weidman & Son—Wm. Weidman. Began business Dec. 8, 1913; in his own building.

O. B. Gallop; conducts the only barber shop in town. Successor to Orlo B. and Elmer G. Gallop.

C. J. Brewbaker, restaurant and ice cream parlors, west side Sterling Street, corner of Oak Street. Successor to J. Bert Landi.

C. E. Beck & Son (J. V.), dealers in groceries in their own brick block, east side Sterling Street, corner of Pine.

B. I. Zigler, meat market and canned goods; successor to Jas. Martin; in Maccabee building, east side Sterling Street.

A. M. Derry & Son (Ernest) dealers in agricultural implements, buggies, wagons, etc. In business five years, east side Sterling Street, north.

Geo. W. Todd & Son (Walter S.), bakery and restaurant, successors to Clark Burchard. Confectionery, cigars, ice cream. In their own two-story building, newly fitted up. West side Sterling.

The New Ashley House, George Kesling, proprietor and landlord, Sterling Street, north. Rates, $1.00 a day.

Mrs. C. M. Thayer, bakery and restaurant, in her own building, west side Sterling Street. Six years in the business.

Cora Hasbrook's hotel, west side Sterling Street, near Union depot.

Moore & Gillis—Allen Moore and Lewis Gillis—proprietors of feed barn and livery. New building, 44 by 96 feet; Sterling Street, north.

Jas. McCullough, general blacksmith, Sterling Street, north.

E. W. Shimmin, three-table billiard and pool room. In business five years, Sterling Street, south.

Ed. W. Randles, general blacksmith, in Chittenden's building, east side of New Street.

Hubert C. Rose is express agent, with office at the Union depot. The Wells Fargo and the United States companies do business over the Ann Arbor, and the National and American operate on the Grand Trunk.

Dr. Orill Reichard looks after and corrects, very acceptably, the physical disabilities of the people of Ashley and surrounding country.

Perry N. Crittenden, D. D. S., makes new teeth and repairs old ones to the satisfaction of those needing his skilled assistance.

Union Phone Exchange; in A. L. Orser's Ashley World office.

Millinery, by Bessie Chapman, in her own new cement block building. Eight years in the business.

R. L. Carter, jeweler; commenced here September, 1913. East side Sterling Street.

The Village of Ashley has had some very severe fires, as may be seen under the head of Elba fires. Fire protection is one of the serious problems of the small towns, and Ashley furnishes no exception to the rule. A hand engine and some reservoirs sunk in the ground and a quantity of hose constitute the appliances for fighting fire. With a lively organization, and interest kept up to the enthusiastic point this might be made reasonably effective; and as it is, citizens have frequently done very effective work in fighting the fire fiend.

# VILLAGE OF BANNISTER.

## Settlement—Progress—Present Interests.

Bannister owes its existence as a place on the map of Gratiot County, first to the fact that a postoffice was established at that particular spot early in the year 1883; and second, to the fact that a railroad was built through that section early in the year 1884. Thomas A. Hanvey was Bannister's first postmaster. Before the place was dreamed of as likely to be the site of a thriving village, Mr. Hanvey, who was one of the early settlers, had a little country, cross-roads grocery store there, and to accommodate himself and the few neighbors, went to Elsie twice a week and brought the mail. After this had gone along for a while, they secured the establishment of a postoffice, with Mr. Hanvey as first postmaster, appointed February 23, 1883. It was the intention of its promoters to have it named "Maple Bend", on account of its proximity to the big bend in Maple River, but the department objected to the double-geared name. Mrs. Alonzo Peterson is



MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST.

credited with having suggested the name "Bannister" in honor of A. M. Bannister who owned the land constituting the site of the future village. Mr. Bannister was from Jackson and had owned the land since 1881.

Early in 1884 the Ann Arbor Railroad reached Bannister, and as the postoffice had been established and a start made toward the founding of a hamlet, the place naturally was adopted as a suitable location for a railroad station. The fine agricultural country surrounding, no doubt had something to do with the adoption of the place for a depot. The village has had a steady, though moderate growth, keeping up with the development of the agricultural section surrounding it, and is all it claims to be—a good market town and trading point for a large scope of country, and a good little village in which to live and do business. So it will be assumed, without further elaboration, that there are few manufacturing institutions at the present time to assist in keeping it up.

The village is located upon the "gurgling Maple" so called sarcastically in the early days, for the reason that there was not a spot in its entire course in Gratiot County where it had life or speed enough to evolve a single gurgle. So, for power purposes it is a failure. But the village has a

good list of business people conducting stores of various kinds, and buying and shipping the varied products of the farm. At one time the village had a cheese factory, but its bigger neighbor—Elsie—five miles away, absorbed it some years ago, leaving vacant the large brick building in which it did business.

Bannister was platted by Asahel M. Bannister, Benjamin S. Brownell, Thos. A. Hanvey and Ralph Sutfin, January 10, 1885; located on sections 27 and 34 of Elba. The survey was made by A. M. Bannister. September 4, 1888, Ralph Sutfin platted an addition adjoining the original on the southwest, the whole covering about 120 acres.

Yes, there has been some rivalry between the two villages—Bannister and Ashley—in the past, over business and politics; but not enough of active and actual hostilities to necessitate calling out the National Guard. A few years ago the township was divided into two election precincts, since which time each town has conducted its own elections; but they have to "whack up" on candidates; and that's a condition of things that at times has its aggravating features to men of sensitive natures.

## KROM.

George Krom, now a resident of Bannister, but for many years residing on his farm one mile east of that village, on section 26 of Elba Township, is one of the well-known farmers of Gratiot County. He was born in New Vernon, N. Y., January 10, 1848. His father, Andrew Krom, in Ulster County, N. Y., March 13, 1813, of Holland ancestry. His mother, Huldah J. (Skinner) Krom, was of English descent, and was born in Orange County, N. Y., February 8, 1815. They were the parents of four children—William A., James, Anna Augusta and George, all born in the State of New York. James died many years ago at his home in Sullivan County, N. Y. William A. was long a resident of Gratiot County, having settled in Elba Township in 1867, engaging in farming and lumbering. Later he removed to Elsie, Mich., and died there December 27, 1909. Anna Augusta Krom was married to James Clarke, who was for several years one of Gratiot county's leading attorneys, and prosecuting attorney of the county for the term commencing January 1, 1891. He died June 26, 1906.

George Krom removed with his parents to Galesburg, Mich., April, 1849. They lived near Galesburg several years, removing from there to Kalamazoo. Huldah J. Krom, the mother, died November 27, 1852, while the family resided at Galesburg. The father, Andrew Krom, died at his home in Kalamazoo, July, 1888.

In 1866 George Krom came to Gratiot County to look after his father's lumbering interests in Elba and Hamilton Townships. In 1872 he bought the farm of 120 acres which he still owns and cultivates, located on section 26, Elba. As the result of hard work and good management he now has one of the valuable farms of southern Elba.

March 4, 1882, Mr. Krom was married at the residence of the bride's parents in Elba Township, to Eva, daughter of Bruce and Miranda (Sutfin) Hunter. She was born in Elba, May 16, 1861, one of a family of six children —William H., Frank, Fred, George, Eva and Florence. Her father, Bruce Hunter, died October 27, 1901. Her mother, Miranda Hunter died November 18, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. George Krom have one daughter, Nellie, born in Elsie, October 12, 1885. She was married March 14, 1907, to Frank H. Moulton,

now cashier of the Bannister Bank son of H. J. Moulton. They have a daughter, Hazel Elizabeth, born in Elba, July 21, 1909.

In politics Mr. Krom is an active Democrat. Mrs. Krom is a member of Bannister M. E. Church.

## BANNISTER SCHOOL.

There are many reasons for believing that Bannister has as good schools as any town of its size in the county. An assertion that her people are as enlightened and progressive as can be found in Michigan, and know the value and the desirability of having the best in the educational line, would be deemed superfluous. They are always after the best. The school is graded, with the grades running to and including the ninth. There are two departments and two teachers—Emma Howland and Clara Menter. Nine months school are taught, and there are about 100 pupils.



BANNISTER SCHOOL HOUSE.

The school building, an engraving of which is here given, was erected in the year 1887 at a cost of $2,000.

The board of education is made up of F. H. Moulton, director; Alonzo Peterson, moderator; R. G. Letts, treasurer. The school is supplied with all modern conveniences, and has a good library.

## BANNISTER CHURCHES.

### M. E. Church.

The Methodist Church is the pioneer church of Bannister. It was founded soon after Bannister became a place on the map of Gratiot County. During its first few years it was an adjunct of the Elsie charge, being served from Elsie, together with the church at Duplain. Rev. Mount was the pastor for several years. In 1888 Bannister was made a station by itself. During the same year the society erected a church building which is still serving the society as a house of worship. It was dedicated January 3, 1889, and on that occasion the Ladies' Aid Society of the Duplain Church presented a fine bible to the Bannister society; and it is still being used in the services. The building has since been remodeled to meet advanced needs and tastes. The present pastor is Rev. P. D. Huff who came in the fall of 1912.

### Catholic Church.

Within the past few years a large number of Bohemian families have settled in and around Bannister. They came as beet-workers, but found conditions so much to their liking that they have become permanent settlers. They are adherents of the Roman Catholic faith. In the fall of 1911 they erected a fine cement block church edifice in the eastern suburbs of Bannister. "St. Cyrils" is the name, and the society's spiritual needs are looked after by Father Mulvey, of St. Mary's Parish, Alma.

## BANNISTER BANK.

Among the most important of Bannister's flourishing institutions the Bannister Bank takes rank among the foremost. Not only flourishing and important, but a great convenience to the people of the village and a large scope of surrounding country.

The bank was established in the year 1903. In that year Dr. O. B. Campbell, of Ovid, and T. P. Steadman, of Elsie, believing that a banking institution at Bannister would prove a popular and paying investment, formed a co-partnership for the purpose, and the present fine business is the result. It is a private business, but the financial assets of the firm are such that their responsibility in the business is placed at $75,000; seemingly ample considering all conditions.

The first cashier of the bank was Roy D. Letts, son of William D. Letts, old settlers in Elba Township. Mr. Letts remained in the position of cashier until January, 1910, when he resigned to go into other business. He was succeeded by Frank H. Moulton, son of H. J. Moulton, also residents of Elba Township. Under Mr. Moulton's capable and courteous management the bank will doubtless continue its career of prosperity so well inaugurated and maintained under Mr. Letts' supervision.

The bank does business on Main Street in a block built and owned by the proprietors of the bank, containing also two other flourishing business concerns.

## BANNISTER'S POSTOFFICE.

As before stated Thomas A. Hanvey was the first postmaster at Bannister, appointed February 23, 1883. Others took their turns as follows: Edson C. Brown, December 29, 1886; Hanvey again May 29, 1889; Brown again May 24, 1893; George C. Douglas, September 13, 1895; Edwin Meacham, November 15, 1897; Frank Newsom, August 31, 1905, and he is still "holding the fort." A. F. Ryder is his talented assistant. The two rural routes from Bannister are served by C. D. Wooley and L. B. Angle.

## FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

### Modern Woodmen of America.

Bannister Camp No. 6066, Modern Woodmen of America, started in officially January 23, 1899, with the following as its charter members:

Joseph Addison, E. B. Bensinger, Albert Bishop, J. C. Lawson, S. E. Burlingame, Ben Scott, Sanford Cordray, W .H. Gilman, W. E. Rawson, F. Z. Galehouse, M. D. Shaw, Arthur J. Helmer, W. J. Morrison, F. F. Newsom, L. C. Palmer, R. Page, Julius E. Rouse, P. D. Stewart, John Scott, John D. Willis.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Day Tent No. 893, Knights of the Modern Maccabees, was organized August 31, 1894, starting off with officers as follows:

Past Com.—L. A. Harvey; Com.—J. N. Day; Lt. Com.—M. J. Horton; R. K.—F. C. Wooley; F. K.—W. H. House; Pre.—Lewis Boyd; Phy.—Dr. J. N. Day; Ser.—Wesley Smith; M. of A.—W. H. Hunter; 1st M. of G.—Otto Heinze; 2nd M. of G.—B. C. Brewer; Sent.—A. A. Ruby; Pick.—L. M. Marriott.

The present membership is about 20.

### L. O. T. M. M.

Bannister Hive No. 470, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees was instituted May 19, 1894, with this list of charter members:

Magdalena Scott, Mary S. Harvey, Zystia Steadman, Belle Smith, Ernestena M. Menter, Tillie Buness, Flora E. Day, Emily Fitzgerald, Maria E. Bishop, Ruth Anna Parker, Jennie Menter, Mary A. Letts, Eva J. Gallup, Elizabeth J. House, Annie Landi, Kate Peterson.

The first officers selected to conduct its affairs are in the records as follows:

Past Com.—Magdalena Scott; Com.—Flora E. Day; Lt. Com.—Belle Smith; R. K.—Zystia Steadman; F. K.—Mary Letts; Chap.—Ruth Anna Parker; Med. Ex.—John N. Day; Sec.—Eva J. Gallup; M. at A.—Mary S. Harvey; Sent.—Jennie Menter; Pick.—Emily Fitzgerald.

The hive has a present membership of about 30.

### I. O. O. F.

Bannister Lodge No. 130, I. O. O. F. was instituted May 4, 1893, with the following named as charter members:

A. H. Steadman, Wm. H. Morrison, Jacob Weidner, R. R. Smith, Edward Bensinger, Geo. C. Douglas, Edwin Meacham, John Riley, John W. Smith, Jacob Bishop.

First officers: N. G.—John Smith; V. G.—R. R. Smith; R. Sec.—A. H. Steadman— F. Sec.—Jacob Weidman; Treas.—Ed. Meacham.

N. G. appointments: R. S.—Wm. Morrison; L. S.—David McCafe; W.—Ed. Bensinger; Con.—Geo. Douglas; R. S. S.—Bert Bensinger; L. S. S.—John Letts; O. G.—Geo. Thomas; I. G.—John Riley.

V. G. appointments: R. S.—Wm. Coon; L. S.—D. B. Wooley; Chap.—Jas. Moore.

Noble Grands of Bannister Lodge No. 130, from organization to date: John Smith, Andrew Steadman, Edward Bensinger, David McCafe, S. E. Peterson, S. S. Menter, John Menter, John Riley, Ed. Meacham, John Youngs, Wesley Smith, Hugh Murray, Geo. Betzer, Chas. Bristol, John Scott, Henry Houston, Adam Stineblower, Albert Swett, Burt Jurmond, Truman Pierce, David Pates, C. D. Wooley, Wilber Stratton, John Strong, John Letts,

Alonzo Peterson, L. B. Crego, Chas. Simpson, C. F. Kohler, Earl Peterson, Jas. Hoover, Ira Sutfin, Calvin Thomas, Ira Hoover, E. W. Troop.

The present membership is about 105. The lodge owns its own hall, is free from debt and has money in the bank.

### Rebeccas.

Advance Rebecca Lodge, No. 336 was instituted June 14, 1899, with the following named persons as charter members:

Lena Scott, Belle Smith, Jennie Menter, Maria Bishop, Matilda Riley, Mary Bensinger, Alice Stratton, J. W. Smith, J. Bishop, Edward Bensinger.

### Modern Americans.

This Benefit Association was founded at Bannister, and the lodge organized December 17, 1909, Benjamin Scott being the prime mover in the work. Charter members were the following: Benj. Scott, Ernest J. Heinze, Leroy D. Letts, Albert F. Ryder, E. A. DeCamp, C. A. Letts, E. W. Praay, G. E. Heinze, Edward B. Bensinger, Fred A. Kelsey, Ainsley I. Willitts, Judd Cox, Israel Hier, Stephen E. Burlingame, Chas. Hammond, Edward H. Weston.

First officers: V. C.—Benj. Scott; V. W.—A. I. Willitts; Sec.—E. W. Praay; F. Sec.—C. A. Letts; Treas.—A. F. Ryder; Con.—G. Smith; Chap.—C. Willis; Escort—F. Bennett; O. G.—R. Menter; I. G.—L. Bensinger; Board of Directors—Benj. Scott, E. J. Heinze, R. D. Letts.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

There is a little steam saw mill in the south part of town, with a planing mill attachment, owned and operated by Riley Letts, which is a great convenience in its particular line of usefulness.

An elevator owned and operated by the Ithaca Roller Mills Co. and at present managed by Frank Kennett, buys and sells grain, hay, seeds, lumber, wool, coal, cement, and other various and sundry products.

The Alart & McGuire Co. has a cucumber salting station here which does a large business in its particular line. There are about 10 vats 16 feet in diameter and eight feet deep, besides other smaller ones. The larger ones hold 1,600 bushels each. About 150 acres of cucumbers are required yearly to furnish the raw material for this enterprise.

Mrs. Cora Donielson conducts the hotel to the satisfaction of patrons, at $2 per day rates. She and her sister, Mrs. Grubaugh, own the property, and have been in the business 13 years. Located on the northwest corner of Main and First Streets.

A livery is conducted by Roy Whitman as proprietor.

A blacksmith shop, with Alfred Sutfin as proprietor, does business on the north side of Main Street, west. Has been in the business seven years.

Another blacksmith—Wm. Marble—is located in the northeast part of town, on Harvey Street. He is successor to John Menter, and owns his building.

D. Campbell & Son, (Donald and Malcom) are proprietors of a general store—dry goods, groceries, shoes, etc.—at the northeast corner of Main and First Streets. They own their block and have been in the business 18 years.

F. C. Peck, north side of Main Street, conducts a grocery, confectionery and bazaar goods store; successor to Ed. Meacham estate. Eight years in the business and owns his two-story business building.

B. H. Steere is the proprietor of a ladies' and gents' clothing and furnishing goods store in the Bank block, south side of Main Street. About three years so engaged, successor to the Edgar Clark estate.

L. E. Weeks is Bannister's drug, wall paper and fancy crockery dealer. In the Bank block; succeeded the Economy Drug Co. about four years ago.

Jacob Weidner, south side of Main Street, west, conducts a general hardware business with the usual accompaniments, all in his own ample building. In the business off and on, interchangeably with farming for 21 years.

Mrs. J. A. Gardham, north side of Main Street, west, buys cream, poultry and eggs for Swift & Co., Alma. She formerly operated the Bannister Cheese factory when that institution was a live industry.

David McCabe does duty as the muscular and accommodating village drayman.

Frank Newsom, north side of Main Street, east, is proprietor of a general store in his own block. Odd Fellows hall in second story. Successor to Ed. C. Brown, and in business 16 years. Has been postmaster since 1905, with office in the front of his store.

A. R. Oliver is Bannister's skilled jeweler and engraver. Does business south side of Main Street, in the D. Campbell building.

That dry goods, grocery, crockery and glassware store on north side of Main Street has P. C. Beemer as its proprietor. Successor to John Letts. In business seven years, and owns his two-story business block.

Judd Cox is proprietor of the harness and horse furnishing emporium, south side of Main Street. Also deals in implements, vehicles, etc., including automobiles. In his own fine, two-story cement block.

A. E. Willitts, north side of Main Street, in building owned by Mrs. A. W. Dickerson, buys cream for the Durand creamery, and eggs for the Saginaw Beef Co.

Bannister's meat trade is looked after by Ed. Letts in his fine new market, north side of Main Street. Also conducts a market in Elsie.

Fred Tomlinson is Bannister's accomplished barber, in his two-chair shop, north side Main Street; nine years here, successor to Ed. Gallop.

L. Caplan is conducting a dry goods, clothing and shoe store in the Dickinson building; Harry Caplan, manager.

Frank Downey conducts a three-table billiard and pool room in the Grand Rapids Brewing Co.'s building, north side of Main Street, east.

Earlier in this brief reference should have been mentioned the skilled and successful physician and surgeon, Dr. Ethan Allen De Camp; a graduate of the Detroit College of Medicine, class of 1900. A popular practitioner who has built up a fine practice.

The Alma, St. Louis and Owosso sugar factories have their weighing stations here, and in the hauling season the town is the proper and convenient market for thousands of tons of sugar beets.

# VILLAGE OF BRECKENRIDGE.

## Early History – Industries—Elections, etc.

The Village of Breckenridge is a hustling burg and an important station on the Pere Marquette Railroad six and one-half miles east of St. Louis. It lies in the west part of Wheeler Township, and, as incorporated, takes in the south half of section 19 and the north half of section 30. The surface of the land is slightly rolling, and that fact, together with the sandy soil predominating, makes a village site that it would be hard to improve upon. Viewed from some angles the lack of a stream of water might be deemed a drawback, but that can hardly be considered a serious lack in these days of steam, electricity and gasoline. Anyway it doubtless would be impossible to find a citizen of Breckenridge who would be willing to concede that the town had any serious lack of natural advantages.

Chas. H. Howd, now a resident of Ithaca, made the first start toward conquering the wilderness where Breckenridge now stands. In 1860 he located 240 acres on section 30 of Wheeler Township, his tract taking in



SAGINAW STREET, LOOKING WEST.

the ground now constituting the southeast portion of the village. For more than ten years he held this land before he occupied it permanently. The railroad coming along in 1872, he concluded that it would be an opportune time to move on and take a hand in gathering in some of the benefits. So he took up his permanent residence there, and established a general store. Daniel W. and Justin A. Breckenridge bought land adjoining him on the north, on section 19, and had got a saw mill in operation, and the railroad company, deeming the spot about the proper place for a station, the future town had an assured start. The railroad furnished the means for disposing of the timber which constituted the main asset of the surrounding country, and the station soon became a great shipping point for the forest products —hoops, staves, lumber, square timber and logs.

A man named Sam. Brown took up the land now constituting the northwest part of the village; a son-in-law of John Knight, a first settler in Emerson, a mile north of Ithaca. James and D. D. Brooks were the pioneers of the southwest part of the village, the northwest corner of section 30. Settlers came and various business enterprises being established, improvements went on apace. Among those early on the spot was Ed. Smith with

his blacksmith shop. He is now a resident of Alma, and his son Newman is C. M. Brown's efficient helpmeet at the horse-goods emporium, Ithaca. A hoop factory operated by Warren Crandall and L. H. Town was an important industry soon doing business after the advent of the railroad. Along in the early '70s a large stave mill was established. This made a market for the surplus timber; and it was all surplus in those days; and also it was a godsend.

A little later Braddock & Son came on from Portsmouth, Bay County, and put in an oar factory. The institution made boat oars from white ash, and did a thriving business for a long time. The company was later reorganized, the elder Braddock going out, and the new company consisting of Arthur Braddock, Chas. H. Howd and Hiram Sexton. After doing a profitable business for some time they sold out to Ladue & Pinney, of Saginaw. On the morning of March 16, 1879, the factory was unfortunately burned; a total loss and no insurance. It was presumed to have been an incendiary fire.



BEETS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

In the winter of 1883-84 Traver Bros. established a hoop factory in Breckenridge, which was continued in operation several years, and was of considerable importance and value in the new town and to the surrounding country.

## BRECKENRIDGE POSTOFFICE.

May 19, 1873, a postoffice was established at Breckenridge, with Chas. H. Howd as its first postmaster. It is said to have taken considerable scientific campaigning to get an order for the establishment of the postoffice. The postoffice at Wheeler, two miles away, was already doing business, with A. P. Foland as postmaster. On the other side was St. Louis with Foland's father-in-law—Geo. W. McHenry—as postmaster, and, it is said that between the two Breckenridge had a serious time making the authorities believe that a postoffice was a necessity.

Postmasters following Charles H. Howd were Leverett H. Town, appointed September 7, 1885; George W. Torbert, May 29, 1886; John H. Parrish, April 11, 1889; George W. Torbert, May 10, 1893; Harvey U. Boyle, April 12, 1897; George P. Young, June 10, 1901; Byron S. Watson, January 22, 1906. Mr. Watson's last appointment is dated May 8, 1912. He is ably assisted by his wife, Mrs. Frances (Hudson) Watson. The office is a U. S. Postal Savings Depository, and is now in the Presidential class.

Five rural routes radiate from Breckenridge, to serve the rural communities. No. 1 has Carlyle Walker as its carrier; No. 2 is operated by C. L. Entrekin; No. 3 by Ira K. Bailey; No. 4 by Thomas E. Parks; No. 5 by Seth C. Sexton.

The original plat of Breckenridge was surveyed by S. S. Hastings for Daniel W. Breckenridge and his wife, Mary E., May 4, 1874. It contained about 50 acres, located on the southeast quarter of section 19, Wheeler Township. Saginaw Street, the main business street of the town, is the south line of the tract, Elm Street the north boundary. Chas. H. Howd's subdivision lies south of Saginaw Street, on section 30. O. L. Brailey added a small tract August 8, 1906.



MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENGINE HOUSE, JAIL, ETC.

The village was incorporated by action of the board of supervisors in January, 1908. Since its incorporation the village has made very satisfactory progress in improvements — sidewalks, streets, fire protection, sewerage, etc. The fire protection appliances consist of a horse-power fire engine, a good supply of hose, and five reservoirs. The latter are about twelve feet square and twenty feet deep. A village building was erected in the fall of 1911 at a cost of about $2,700 for lot and building. It is of cement blocks, two stories, giving room for a hall for elections and other meetings, a council room, a room for the fire apparatus and for a jail.

## INCORPORATION AND ELECTIONS.

At the session of the board of supervisors October 14, 1907, a petition was received from citizens of Breckenridge asking to be incorporated as a village. At the same session a remonstrance against the proposition was also received. The whole matter was laid upon the table, there to remain until the session of the board in January, 1908. On the first day of that session the matter was taken from the table and referred to a special committee composed of John L. Smith, of Emerson; A. H. Lowry, of the 4th ward of St. Louis, and Frank Peach, of Bethany. After investigation the committee reported favorably on the petition and the report was adopted by the board.

It was ordered that the first election should be held at the Opera House in said village, April 9, 1908, and that Chas. A. Zubler, Chas. S. Watson, Jesse Hodge and Alex. Chisholm should act as election inspectors.

The first election was held at the time and place designated by the board of supervisors.

The total vote was 131, and there was but one ticket in the field, as follows:

**April 9, 1908:** Pres.—Alfred F. Crawford; Trustees, 2 yrs.—Alex. Chisholm, Chas. S. Watson, P. C. Thomas; 1 yr.—Frank A. Sexton, Jesse E. Hodge, Clinton G. Falor; Clk.—Walter E. Swope; Treas.—Lemuel Waggoner; Ass'r—Chas. Merrill.

Appointments later: Mar. and St. C.—John M. Weed; Fire Chief—Chas. E. Watson.

**March, 1909:** Pres.—Alf. F. Crawford; Trustees—F. A. Sexton, Jesse E. Hodge, C. G. Falor; Clk.—Walter E. Swope; Treas.—L. Waggoner: Ass'r—W. M. Drake.

Ap.: Mar. and St. C.—H. M. Boneman; Ch. F. D.—Chas. E. Watson: Review—W. O. Watson, Geo. W. Torbert; H. O.—Dr. L. A. Howe.

**1910:** Pres.—Alf. F. Crawford; Trustees—Chas. S. Watson, Wm. B. Fox, L. Waggoner; Clk.—L. A. Howe; Treas.—Chas. Merrill; Ass'r—Adelbert G. Moore.

Ap.: Mar. and St. C.—H. M. Boneman; Ch. F. D.—Chas. E. Watson; Review—W. O. Watson, John W. Mathews; H. O.—Dr. L. A. Howe.

**1911:** Pres.—Alf. F. Crawford; Trustees—Frank A. Sexton, C. G. Falor, A. U. Giles; Clk.—L. A. Howe; Treas.—Chas. Merrill; Ass'r—A. G. Moore.

Ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—H. M. Boneman; H O.—Dr. L. A. Howe: Review—W. O. Watson, W. H. Zimmerman; Ch. F. Dept.—Chas. E. Watson.

**1912:** Pres.—A. F. Crawford; Clk.—L. A. Howe; Treas.—Lemuel Waggoner; Ass'r—Chas. Merrill; Trustees—Wm. B. Fox, Chas. S. Watson, Herman Zubler.

Ap.: Pres. pro tem—F. A. Sexton; Mar. and St. Com.—H. M. Boneman; H. O.—Dr. L. A. Howe; Ch. F. D.—Chas. E. Watson.

**1913:** Pres.—A. F. Crawford; Clk.—L. A. Howe; Treas.—L. Waggoner; Trustees—Fred L. Eldredge, A. U. Giles, F. A. Sexton; Ass'r—Chas. Merrill.

Ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—H. M. Boneman; H. O.—Dr. L. A. Howe; Mem. Bd. Review—W. O. Watson, C. A. Zubler; Ch. F. D.—Chas. E. Watson.

## BRECKENRIDGE OFFICERS.

### Presidents.

Alfred F. Crawford, 1908, '09, '10, '11, '12, '13.

### Clerks.

Walter E. Swope, 1908, '09. L. A. Howe, 1910, '11, '12, '13.

### Treasurers.

Lemuel Waggoner, 1908, '09, '12, '13. Chas. Merrill, 1910, '11.

### Assessors.

Chas. Merrill, 1908, '12, '13. Adelbert G. Moore, 1910, '11.
W. M. Drake, 1909.

### Marshals.

John M. Weed, 1908. H. M. Boneman, 1909,'10,'11,'12,'13.

## BRECKENRIDGE SCHOOLS.

Breckenridge has enjoyed the benefits of a graded school since 1893. There are five teachers employed, and the school ranks well up among the best in the county. A neat and commodious school house occupies a good position in the northern suburbs of the village. It was built in the year 1895 at a cost of about $5,000. The school has had but five superintendents, as follows: E. J. McCall, C. F. Pike, W. E. Swope, H. G. Graham, L. H. Russell. The latter is the present incumbent.



BRECKENRIDGE SCHOOL BUILDING.

The school is being served in 1913-14 by teachers as follows: L. H. Russell, Sup't; Elsie Knight, Prin.; Clara Martus, Gram.; Hazel Kitchen, Inter.; Mrs. Alice Russell, Pri. and Kin.

School officers, 1913-14: Marshall Hopkins, Director; L. W. Waggoner, Mod.; J. E. Hodge, Treas.; C. J. Shepard, L. A. Howe.

### High School Graduates.

**1893:** Class Motto—"Honors Wait at Labor's Gate." Rhoda Waggoner, Eunice Minnick, Sylvia Breckenridge, Ella Watson, Clara Andrews.

**1894:** Motto—"Out of School Life Into Life's School." Leon Breckenridge, Iva Thissell.

**1895:** Motto—"What Next?" Elsie Halbert, Maude La Dow.

**1896:** Motto—"Thus Endeth our First Lesson." Eugene Milligan, Carrie Ervey, Guy Ball, Clara Hipolite.

**1897:** Roy S. Watson.

**1898:** Motto—"Hitch Your Wagon to a Star." Chas. E. Watson, Alfred Vibber.

**1899:** Motto—"From the Beach We View the Ocean." Harvey Rosa. Lewis Sexton, Matie Bodfish, Maude Sexton, Mae Babcock, Nina Boyle, Flossie Douglas, Murtie King, John Moran, Seth Sexton, Edna Breckenridge, Ona Milligan.

**1900:** Motto—"Graduated—Not Educated." Edna Watson, Hugh Torbert, Byron Watson, Marshall Becker, Anna McLean.

**1901:** Motto—Through Trials to Triumphs." Minnie Ward, Alice Myers.

**1902:** Motto—"More Beyond." Charles Weed, Gertrude Oberlin, Helen Monroe.

**1903:** Motto—"End, There Is None." Wilmer McLean, Helen Chisholm Nellie Thissell.

**1904:** Motto—"Finished, to Begin." Orel Kime, Clyde Wolverton, Roy Partee, Edgar Holton, Allie Douglass, Edwin Chisholm, Seth Howland.

Stanley Young, Ray H. Boneman, Nellie Chisholm, Hah Milligan, Bess Watson, John Quirk, Ralph Weed, Elizabeth Holt, Carrie Church.

**1905:** Motto—"No Victory Without Labor." Mae Allen, Elsie McKenzie, Grace Holt, Glennie Brannan, Archie Burlingame, May Watson, Lena Merrill, Lida Bodfish, Flo Myers, Leonora Hohe, Floy Ronk.

**1906:** Motto—"Ropes of the Past, Ring the Bells of the Future." Flora Champion, Bernice Wilcox, Mabel Richardson, May Brennan, Sarah Himebaugh, Bertha Sexton, Floyd Burlingame, Achsah Tippin, Nellie Milligan, Clara Hill, Nellie Wierman.

The number of grades was changed from ten to twelve, so there were no graduates in the years 1907 and 1908.

**1909:** Rex Van Duzen.

**1910:** Ruth Howland.

**1911:** Motto—"One Stroke Against an Untried Current." Matie Partee, Iva Campbell, Earl Guthrie, Milo Sawvel.

**1912:** Motto—"Life is Now Our School." Fern Calthorp, Genevieve Doyle, Vern Van Duzen, Bert Hayward.

**1913:** Motto—"Not Evening, But Dawn." Mabelle Zimmerman, Olive Sawvel, Fern Bailey, Elsie Burlingame, Fred Tryon, Clifford Kime.

## BRECKENRIDGE CHURCHES.

### Baptist Church.

The Baptist Church of Breckenridge was organized April 10, 1878. It was started as a branch of the St. Louis Church, under the direction of Rev. P. P. Farnham, who was the first pastor. Nine members constituted the original membership of the church—Mr. and Mrs. E. Brooks, Amanda and Daniel Brooks, Susan Goodenough, Mr. and Mrs. D. Henderson, Cynthia Howd, Eugenia Watson.

The first choir was composed of H. Gladwin, Cynthia Howd, Addie Comstock, Dr. C. S. Watson and wife, and Belle Watson. Organist, Ada Watson. All under the talented and artistic leadership of Wm. Kipp, now and for several years the leading druggist of a neighboring hamlet. Services were held in Howd's hall.

The Church became an independent organization April 10, 1879, with a membership of 24. The present church edifice was erected in 1882, and was dedicated February 20, 1883, with Rev. Shanafelt, of East Saginaw, and Rev. H. C. Beals, conducting the services. It was dedicated free from debt.

A list of the pastors from the organization to the present time follows:

P. P. Farnham, G. Bly, W. H. Bettys, C. H. Smith, G. D. Kauffman, R. Cole, W. Woodhouse, A. O. McDonald, J. N. Webb, M. H. Pettit, I. B. Lunn, J. Hoag, C. D. Gregory, W. W. Dean, J. Sharp, Rev. Allenbaugh, B. Harding, E. McFarland.

The Church is prosperous and progressive, with an active membership of about 60. There is no regular pastor at the present time, but Rev. J. S. Clark serves as a "supply."

### Congregational Church.

The Congregational Church of Breckenridge was organized in 1881. The following is probably a complete list of the charter members, or at least the early members of the organization.

Daniel W. Breckenridge and wife, H. H. Tubbs, Joseph Cross and wife, Daniel R. Wood, J. B. Halbert and wife, H. S. Norton, J. W. Yeoman, A. R. Hill and wife, three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Halbert, Rose Tubbs, B. H. Selleck and wife, Geo. Selleck and wife.

The present church building was erected in 1885, E. G. Alverson, of Alma, architect and builder. It was dedicated December 27, 1885. The cost was $4,500.

The church has a present membership of about 100, and seems to be in a prosperous and healthy condition.

Rev. Geo. Henry Coman was pastor for several years, being succeeded in 1913 by the present pastor, Rev. E. F. Gray.

About $400 was expended for repairs and improvements to the church building in the spring of 1912; a circumstance which was a credit to the society, particularly as it was done without incurring debt.

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### M. E. Church.

The first sermon by a Methodist minister ever preached in Wheeler was by Rev. Thomas Campbell,, July 4, 1860. The services were held at the home of John Yager, two miles north of Breckenridge. Among the earliest members of the Church were Wesley J. Miller and wife, A. M. Wheeler and wife, Hattie Sexton, Ida Sexton, D. W. Breckenridge, Mary Breckenridge, Jennie, Rhoda and Lorilla Waggoner, Eunice Beach and others.

The church building was erected in 1892, and was dedicated August 14th of that year, the presiding elder, Rev. Geo. S. Hickey, preaching the sermon. Rev. A. O. Carman was pastor of the church and it was through his untiring efforts that the church was built. Rev. Orlow W. Carr, the present pastor, succeeded Rev. W. H. Emery.

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## BRECKENRIDGE BANKS.

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### First State Savings Bank.

The Village of Breckenridge existed without a banking institution of its own until the spring of 1896. At that time a banking organization was formed and incorporated, and given the name of The First State Bank of Breckenridge. It commenced business April 7, 1896, with officers as follows: President, Jas. B. Crawford; Vice-President, Wm. O. Watson; Cashier, Alf. F. Crawford.

The bank met a cordial welcome from the start, as the people of the village and vicinity had long keenly felt the need of an institution of the kind. It has had a remarkable career of prosperity; and its popularity with the people has kept even pace with its prosperity. This latter is fairly shown by the fact that the stockholders have never had occasion to change the

personnel of its managers. The same officers who took the management in 1896, are still at the helm, the only change being the addition of another vice-president; so the list now reads: President, Jas. B. Crawford; Vice-Presidents, W. O. Watson and Adam Johnstone; Cashier, Alf. F. Crawford; Assistant Cashier, O. G. Colthorp.

The progress and prosperity of the bank are best shown by the production of a few figures. At the beginning the capital stock was $15,000. This was increased in 1906 to $16,000. By careful and conservative management, the bank has been able to pay good dividends and set aside a surplus of $16,000. During the last three years the bank has had an exceptionally prosperous career, its deposits having more than doubled in that period.

"The Financier", of New York, in giving the rating of the State Banks in the United States entitled to a place on the "Roll of Honor", gives the First State Savings Bank of Breckenridge the 348th place in a list of 15,000 banks; and in the list for Michigan it is given the third place. All of which is gratifying to the stockholders, extremely satisfactory to the patrons, and certainly is a credit to the management.

The present board of directors is composed of the following: C. Peterman, Jas. P. Gibbs, Thos. Crawford, John Mitchell, Jr., L. Waggoner, W. O. Watson, Jas. B. Crawford, Adam Johnstone, Alf. F. Crawford.

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### Farmers' State Bank.

The Farmers' State Bank, located at Breckenridge, is one of the progressive and prosperous financial institutions of Gratiot County. The bank was organized in 1909, and though there was already one bank in the village, it was the belief of many that there was room for another. The popularity and rapidly increasing prosperity of the new bank furnishes ample proof that its promoters were right in their conclusions.

At the organization of the bank the following named gentlemen interested themselves as stockholders: J. L. Smith, A. L. Giles, Alex. Chisholm, B. L. Hodge, Ezekiel Arnold, Robert Donnan, W. H. Zimmerman, Clarence K. Fox, Henry Killinger, Murdo McIntosh, Warren Hopkins, C. G. Falor, Sheridan Sommerville, P. C. Thomas, Mrs. Elsie Bradley, W. M. Drake, Geo. J. Sandel, W. F. Bradford, Geo. Dershem, Jas. Shaver, Frank Arnold, Roy Curtis, Robert Boswell.

The following composed the first board of directors: E. Arnold, Alex. Chisholm, W. H. Zimmerman, B. L. Hodge, J. L. Smith, A. L. Giles, Robert Donnan. The stockholders and directors were among the representative and prominent farmers and business people of Breckenridge and vicinity.

The board of directors elected officers as follows: President, Alex. Chisholm; Vice-Presidents, John L. Smith and W. H. Zimmerman; Cashier, W. Lloyd Webster. Mr. Chisholm retains the position of president of the bank to the present time. He is recognized as occupying a position in the front rank among the business men of Breckenridge.

Cashier W. Lloyd Webster, though yet a young man, has been connected with banking affairs all of his business life—first in the Ithaca Savings Bank, and later in the St. Johns National Bank, and still later with the Owosso Savings Bank, from which position he came to take charge of the Farmers' State Bank of Breckenridge. He has "made good" in all of the positions which he has been called upon to fill.

The bank does business in a building of its own, located on one of the principal corners of the business section of the village. It is a fine building of brick, and has all of the conveniences and safeguards for transacting business according to modern requirements. The bank opened for business August 7, 1909, entering at once upon a career of prosperity, popularity and success.

The bank is capitalized at $20,000. Its report of April 4, 1913, shows resources and liabilities of $130,559.47. The very gratifying patronage by depositors is shown as follows: Deposits on September 1, 1909, $12,268.55. On September 1, 1910, deposits had increased to $64,966.68. The report of April 4, 1913, showed a total of deposits of $108,559.47.

The following named gentlemen constitute the present board of directors: Alex. Chisholm, J. L. Smith, Ezekiel Arnold, Clarence K. Fox, Robert Donnan, A. L. Giles, B. L. Hodge, Robert Boswell. And the following are the present officers: President, Alex. Chisholm; First Vice-President, A. L. Giles; Second Vice-President, B. L. Hodge; Cashier, W. L. Webster.

The bank has for its motto—"Absolute Safety for Depositors."

## NEWSPAPERS.

Along in earlier days several attempts were made by ambitious printers to establish newspapers in Breckenridge, but with indifferent success. Grant Steele succeeded for a while with his Breckenridge Clarion but that paper went out of publication about 1908. Then came Editor Ellsworth A. C. Allen with his Breckenridge American which he built up into a publication of more or less value and popularity. In the summer of 1912 Mr. Allen sold the American to G. Wayne Brown who made extensive improvements in the paper and in the spring of 1913 sold it to Fred E. Moffatt, late of Stanton, a newspaper man of many years' experience, who has transformed the paper into a well-conducted and well-printed sheet; a credit to the publisher and to the community.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### Grand Army of the Republic.

Billy Cruson Post No. 347 was chartered March 10, 1886. It was named in honor of Billy Cruson, a Gratiot County soldier who was killed at the battle of Chickamauga.

First officers were elected as follows: Com.—Garrett K. Cruson; S. V. C.—J. B. Halbert; J. V. C.—H. E. Histed; Adj.—Wm. H. Weed; Q. M.—Ed. Hasbrook; Ser.—Randolph Root; Chap.—Bradley Selleck; Off. of D.—Abel Cruson; Off. of G.—Chas. Rooks; Ser. M.—Barney Swope.

The membership of the Post ran up to about 86 in 1892, when the highest number was reached. The Post has had 123 members in all.

Present officers, 1913: Com.—Clarence K. Fox; S. V. C.—Myron R. Sherman; J. V. C.—L. H. Town; Chap.—Barney Swope; Q. M.—Geo. Costello; Adj.—W. H. Weed; O. D.—Henry Allen; O. G.—Seneca Curtis; Serg. Maj.—Thos. P. Staley; Q. M. Serg.—P. P. Vanorman.

The Post has a present membership of 29.

Comrade Wm. H. Weed tells of an interesting circumstance in connection with the enlistment of his father, Wm. Weed. In 1864 a draft had to be resorted to in Wheeler Township to meet the requirements of the government, and Wm. Weed happened to draw the winning number; that is, he was drafted. His son, James, thinking himself a better subject for a soldier's life, volunteered to go in his father's place. Afterward there seems to have been a deficiency in the quota apportioned to Arcada Township, and a draft resulted in the selection of David Bailey as a victim for military honors. At this juncture, Wm. Weed became imbued with the military spirit, so he enlisted as a substitute for Mr. Bailey. So James Weed and his father, Wm. Weed, finally got together as members of the 14th Mich. Infantry. Wm. Weed was discharged later for disability, and died soon afterward. Jas. Weed served till the close of the war, as also did his brother, Wm. H. Weed, who was an earlier recruit. David Bailey stayed at home, was elected sheriff that fall (1864), and served two terms.

### Woman's Relief Corps.

Billy Cruson Relief Corps, No. 95, was instituted Dec. 7, 1886, with the following named charter members:

Mrs. Ella H. Histed, Mrs. Binnie L. Jewett, Mrs. May Wolverton, Miss Ola A. Histed, Mrs. Velma B. Skinner, Mrs. Fannie B. Palmitier, Mrs. Patty Dailey, Mrs. Sarah L. Kime, Mrs. Cora Hasbrook, Mrs. Catharine Wilcox, Mrs. Ettie A. Minnick, Mrs. L. S. Livermore, Mrs. Ursula Sweet, Mrs. Eva Pittenger, Mrs. Sarah R. Braman, Mrs. Genie Watson, Mrs. Ann E. Ward, Mrs. Mattie P. Ward.

Present officers, 1913: Pres.—Mrs. Emma Bodfish; S. V.—Mrs. Julia Shafer; J. V.—Mrs. Margaret Swope; Sec.—Mrs. Jennie Breckenridge; Treas.—Mrs. Lucinda Livermore; Chap.—Mrs. Addie Weed; Guard—Mrs. C. K. Fox; Press Cor.—Mrs. Mary Rooks; Pat. Inst.—Mrs. Sophia Curtis; Color Bearers—Mrs. Mary Graham, Mrs. Mary Sabin, Mrs. Mary Swears, Mrs. Alice Entrekin; Musician—Mrs. Addie Weed.

### Odd Fellows.

Breckenridge Lodge No. 162, I. O. O. F., was organized February 6, 1888, the petitioners and first officers being as follows: N. G.—Neil B. McCollum; V. G.—George P. Young; Rec. Sec.—John B. Sabin; Fin. Sec.—Willis D. Perrin; Treasurer—George W. Torbert.

The present officers are as follows: N. G.—C. A. Wolverton; V. G.—Jacob Kime; Past Grand—F. C. Pernert; Rec. Sec.—Fred Chapin; Fin. Sec.—Marshall Hopkins; Treas.—W. O. Shellington; O. G.—George F. Huntoon; I. G.—John Weed; Chap.—James P. Wierman.

The lodge has a membership of 114.

### Rebecca Degree.

Minnehaha Rebecca Degree Lodge No. 158 was instituted Oct. 27, 1890, with charter members as follows:

Mrs. Katie Slough, Mrs. Lida Oberlin, Mrs. C. S. Watson, Mrs. Ella C. Watson, Mrs. Alice E. Milligan, Mrs. Mary J. Sabin, A. E. Milligan, Michael

Slough, J. B. Sabin, Wm. Oberlin, C. S. Watson, W. O. Watson, John Schmidt, J. P. Robinson.

Present officers: N. G.—Clara Kean; V. G.—Emma Wilkins; Past Grand—Jennie Shellington; Rec. Sec.—Cassie Stetzler; Fin. Sec.—Cora Davis; Treas.—Lula Whitney; I. G.—Jennie Hopkins; O. G.—Ed. R. Davis; Chap.—Sophronia Cruson.

The lodge has 66 members.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Peterman Tent No. 290 was organized May 8, 1890. The first officers are here given: Past Com.—H. J. Zubler; Com.—Geo. P. Young; Lt. Com.—J. H. Rowe; R. K.—J. E. Hill; F. K.—A. A. Root; Prel.—Jacob Cooke; Phy.—R. H. H. Woland.

Present officers, 1913: Com.—A. J. Slaughter; Lt. Com.—Elmer Weed; R. K. and F. K.—O. H. Bailey; Phy.—L. A. Howe; Chap.—H. C. Mead; Serg.—H. J. Zubler; M. at A.—H. M. Boneman; 1st M. of G.—C. A. Zubler; 2nd M. of G.—A. G. Moore; Sent.—Milton Falor.

The Tent has a membership of 46.

### F. & A. M.

Breckenridge Lodge No. 406 was chartered January 25, 1893. First officers were: W. M.—W. O. Watson; S. W.—Samuel Wheeler; J. W.—A. A. Root.

Present officers: W. M.—Byron S. Watson; Sr. W.—Ernest Muscott; Jr. W.—Elmer Kean; Sec.—Henry C. Mead; Treas.—A. F. Crawford; Sr. D.—L. A. Howe; Jr. D.—T. Earl Parks; Stewards—Chas. A. Zubler, Chas. Watson; Tyler—Russell Hastings.

The lodge has a present membership of about 115.

### Eastern Stars.

Breckenridge Chapter No. 323 was chartered October 15, 1903. Charter members: Ella Watson, Ella Hill, L. A. Howe, Emma Parks, G. P. Young, Mary Thomas, Bertha Ford, Matie Bodfish, Carrie Merrill, Alice Hopkins, Nellie Crawford, Mary Young, H. C. Parks, A. A. Root, Ida Sexton, Alice Fish, Kate Zubler, Melvina L. Howe, W. O. Watson, Clarence Hopkins.

Present officers: W. M.—Cassie Stetzler; Asso. M.—Jessie Kean; W. P.—Elmer Kean; Sec.—Effie Myers; Treas.—Alf. F. Crawford; Cond.—Helen Waggoner; Asso. Cond.—Frances Watson; Chap.—Ida Sexton; Adah—Maud Entrekin; Ruth—Matie Watson; Esther—Bertha Sexton; Martha—Alice Hopkins; Electa—Sadie Fea; Warder—Carrie Pearce; Sent.—Henry Mead; Marshal—Nellie Crawford; Organist—Hattie Hodge.

The order has a membership of about 70.

### Modern Woodmen of America.

Breckenridge Camp No. 8137 was instituted May 17, 1900.

Present officers: Consul—H. J. Weed; Advisor—J. M. Huff; Banker—M. Partee; Clerk—J. D. Hood (clerk seven years); Escort—Milo Richards;

Watchman—H. M. Boneman; Sentry—Jesse Hodge; Managers—C. G. Falor, Homer Weed, H. Boneman. Membership, 31.

### Royal Neighbors of America.

Hope Camp No. 2602 was instituted May 29, 1901.

Present officers: Oracle—Jennie Muscott; Vice-Oracle—Carrie Lenhart; Past Oracle—Ella Parrish; Chancellor—Ida Kime; Recorder—Ella Parrish; Receiver—Electa Partee; Marshal—Rosa Krupka; Asst. Mar.—Jennie Hopkins. Present membership about 20.

### Gleaners.

Breckenridge Arbor No. 492 was organized Sept. 28, 1900.

Following is a list of the present officers: Ch. G.—Orel C. Kime; Vice Ch. G.—Jessie A. Kean; Sec. Treas.—Frank Oberst; Chap.—Ida Kime; Con.—Andrew Barbour; Lecturer—Mrs. Geo. Snyder; Inner G.—Frank Bodfish; Outer G.—Oral Kime. Present membership is about 103.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Hodge Bros.—B. L. Hodge, J. E. Hodge—dealers in general hardware, agricultural implements, etc. Eleven years in the business. Own their building; double store, two-story brick and all occupied by the firm. South side Saginaw Street.

Zimmerman & Son—W. H. and Walter. Dry goods, groceries and shoes. About a year in the business; formerly in the implement trade.

Watson & Son—W. O. and C. E. Watson. Double store south side Saginaw Street. Drugs and druggists' sundries, furniture and undertaking. Thirty years in business.

Alex. Chisholm, general merchandise—dry goods, groceries, shoes, furniture, undertaking. South side Saginaw Street, west. Successor to Chisholm Bros. who started in trade in 1896.

G. F. Huntoon, jeweler and engraver, successor to John Converse. In Alex. Stewart's brick block, south side Saginaw Street.

Homer J. Weed deals in farm produce, provisions and feed. Buys cream for Swift & Co., Alma. In his own block, north side Saginaw Street.

A. G. Moore & Co., composed of A. G. Moore and Frank Oberst. Dealers in builders' supplies. Planing mill in connection. Automobile garage in connection, with J. J. Swarthout as manager.

Lemuel Waggoner, proprietor of a general store, in his own building, south side of Saginaw Street, west, has been in the business 27 years.

P. C. Thomas, in hardware and implement business 13 years. Is in his own building, south side Saginaw Street.

General merchandising by Chas. Merrill, north side Saginaw Street. Owns his building, and has been in the business 18 years, successor to Geo. A. Alderton, (Addison A. Root, manager).

Drugs, wall paper, school supplies, etc., by E. H. Lawrence, successor to Horace Hudson. South side Saginaw Street, east, in Fred Hudson's building.

W. B. Fox, dry goods, shoes, hats, caps, etc., south side Saginaw Street, in his own building. In trade five years.

C. A. Zubler deals in agricultural implements, south side Saginaw Street, west. In business 15 years in Breckenridge.

Two millinery stores do duty for the ladies of Breckenridge and vicinity —one conducted by Mrs. Anna Sabin, the other by Mrs. P. S. Robinson; both on south side Saginaw Street, east.

C. G. Falor, clothing, shoes, gents' furnishings, etc. In his own new building, north side Saginaw Street. In business 15 years in Breckenridge.

Meat market, by Alex. Stewart, in his new brick block, south side Saginaw Street; successor to Job. Sherman.

J. P. Wierman operates in life and fire insurance and in real estate, in H. J. Weed's block, ground floor.

H. M. Boneman, plumbing and tin work. Installs incandescent lighting systems. In his own building, north side Saginaw Street.

Harness shop and shoe repairing, by Elmer Weed, north side Saginaw Street, in his own building.

The tonsorial business is attended to by Geo. Darland and C. A. Myers, both on north side Saginaw Street. Both proprietors do business in their own buildings.

F. M. Sexton, proprietor of the meat market lately operated by Job Sherman, in the John Mitchell building.

Kean Bros.—Geo. W. and Elmer Kean, blacksmiths and general repair jobbers; north side Saginaw Street, east.

Terry Eldred operates a billiard room with four tables; north side Saginaw Street.

Blacksmithing by Geo. Coleman. Wagon repairing in connection. South side Saginaw Street, west.

H. J. Zubler deals in tile, sewer pipe, lighting systems, etc. South side Saginaw Street, west.

The Breckenridge Creamery is operated by Fred Eldridge and Robert Van Slyke, with Fred Eldridge as manager. Well equipped and doing a thriving business.

The Breckenridge Hotel has Fred Smith as landlord since March, 1913. He is also the owner. Rates are $2 a day. Livery in connection, Lee Myers, manager and part owner with Fred Smith.

Frank Bodfish is owner and manager of the big feed barn, 82 by 150 feet in size. Auto livery in connection. Jesse Vibber operates a horse livery in connection.

Crawford & Co. (incorporated) proprietors of the Breckenridge Elevator —Thos. Crawford, Jas. B. Crawford, Alf. F. Crawford, Lee Watson. Established in 1884 by Thos. Crawford.

Breckenridge Hay & Feed Co. (incorporated)—Thos., J. B. and A. F. Crawford, Lee Watson and Clarence Hopkins. Established in 1912; modern equipment, including stationary hay bailer.

Two skilled and popular physicians look after the physical disabilities of the people of Breckenridge and vicinity. They are Drs. L. A. Howe and W. M. Drake.

C. V. Curdy is the D. D. S. relied upon to keep the masticators in proper form for arduous service.

D. A. Curtis is the veterinary surgeon who answers calls for his services.

C. P. Neff is the urbane agent of the Pere Marquette, and Henry Dragel is his assistant.

Breckenridge has sugar beet weighing stations for three beet sugar factories—the factories of St. Louis, Alma and Owosso. Orin H. Bailey is manager for the Owosso company; John J. Miller for the St. Louis factory, and C. J. Shepard for the Alma factory.

# VILLAGE OF ELM HALL.

## One of Gratiot's Good Communities.

The Village of Elm Hall lies near the northwest corner of Sumner Township, about half and half on sections 6 and 7; a half mile from the Montcalm County line, and one and a half miles south of Riverdale, the nearest railroad station. The first settlers there and in that vicinity were the Strayers and Baron Blanchard. They came in 1855, and others soon followed. Investigation shows that the village got its start in 1858 when the settlers erected a log school house, the timber used being elm. Other buildings were of the same material, and the name, Elm Hall, was the result. There was much pine timber all along that western border of the county, and the lumbering business soon became a leading industry. Ordinary farming activities long since took the place of lumbering, and the village—a nice, quiet, clean little burg—is the center of a fine farming country and community.

Elm Hall (Trapp's subdivision, which was the original plat) was platted by Jesse Trapp, November 2, 1867. It covered a tract of 12 blocks extending six blocks east and west and two north and south from Cedar Street on the north to Elm on the south.



SUMNER STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

T. W. Palmer's addition was platted July 15, 1876. This addition adjoins the original on the south and contains more than twice as much as the original plat, extending from Pine River on the west to Hastings Street on the east.

### ELM HALL POSTOFFICE.

Elm Hall people and those who were settlers within a radius of many miles, until the summer of 1857, got their mail from Elyton, now Alma. The trip of ten miles was a long and tedious one in those days; and many

had still farther to go for their mail. The establishment, therefore, of a postoffice at Elm Hall, August 18, 1857, was hailed with great satisfaction by the settlers. Baron Blanchard was the man selected for the honor — or "for the duty" perhaps is nearer correct — and the mail still came by way of Alma. However, a carrier was appointed who made periodical trips if the weather permitted, and the arrangement was a great improvement over previous conditions. Baron Blanchard continued on the job for about ten years, and was succeeded as follows: George J. Sly, May 15, 1867; William C. White, August 23, 1875; Levi Houck, May 24, 1877; William E. Beeson, February 28, 1881; Seneca Sly, July 19, 1882; John C. Rings, September 7, 1885; Seneca Sly, April 3, 1889; George J. Butcher, July 8, 1893; Seneca Sly, June 8, 1897; Thomas J. Blair, July 8, 1907; Mrs. Olive F. Brooks, February 26, 1910.

The one rural route from Elm Hall postoffice is served by Albert Morton, carrier.



ELM HALL SCHOOL BUILDING.

## ELM HALL SCHOOLS.

Ten grades are taught in the Elm Hall School. Two teachers are employed, those serving at the present time being Wm. Jackson, principal, and Miss Sarah von Thurn, primary. As shown by the half-tone engraving, the school building is an exceptionally fine appearing structure. The board of education is constituted as follows for the year 1913-14: President—J. B. Hall; secretary—F. E. Clapper; treasurer—D. Hicks; Wm. Connor, Julius Marcy.

## HAD A NEWSPAPER.

Elm Hall at one time had quite a scrumptious newspaper. It was called the Corner Local, and it was founded in March, 1883, by T. F. Rogers, of Lakeview. In the following November Rogers sold the paper to C. C. Gilmore, of Elm Hall. In April, 1886, Gilmore sold to Shelley Bros., of Ionia. A year later Shelley Bros. moved the plant to Riverdale and in September, 1887, the paper was discontinued for lack of sufficient support.

The village has three Church societies — Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist and United Brethren — and all in a fairly prosperous condition. Rev. A. W. Baker is the present pastor of the M. E. Church; Rev. G. W. Bodine ministers to the spiritual needs of the Free Methodists; Rev. E. C. Clapp looks after the interests of the United Brethren.

### G. A. R. POST No. 158.

Col. Ely Post No. 158, Grand Army of the Republic was organized July 10, 1883, by Commander G. T. Brown of the Ithaca Post and 17 comrades of that Post. Comrades were mustered in as follows: Wm. H. Pratt, Chas. E. Schultz, Laf. Stevens, Geo. Rall, T. J. Blair, Ed. Wilson, Geo. W. Saunders, Michael K. Strayer, David Hill, Nat. K. Strayer, Ira B. Ellsworth, Baron Blanchard, Chas. A. Button, Archie Washburn, Seneca Sly, Geo. Douglas, John E. Booth, L. H. Dayton, Wm. A. Bradley, N. B. Bradley, H. W. Hughes, Newell Stevens, Peter Ostrander, Austin Blackmer, Arthur McCoy, Ed. K. McIntosh.

Present officers of the Post are as follows: Com.—R. Schnepp; S. V. C.—C. D. Hills; J. V. C.—Eber Loomis; O. of D.—A. Wiser; O. of G.—Seneca Sly; Q. M.—G. Oliver; Chap.—Geo. Rockefellow; Q. M. Serg.—Wm. Parks; Serg. Maj.—Seneca Sly.

The W. R. C. No. 158 has for its present officers, the following: Pres.—Chloe Morton; S. V. P.—Calista Pratt; J. V. C.—Belle Sly; Sec.—Alice Butcher; Treas.—Jennie Blair; Chap.—Belle Parks; Con.—Rosa Ward; Asst. Con.—Bessie Winters; Guard—Mary Billings; Press Cor.—Belle Parks; Color B.—Rebecca Loomis, Agnes Carmer, Viva Hicks, Cora Nunn.

Sumner Lodge No. 257, F. & A. M., is a popular order, and in a flourishing condition.

### OTHER INTERESTS.

The W. H. Earle Cheese Company's factory is an important institution for Elm Hall and vicinity. Roy Wilkinson is the local manager.

E. E. Hoxie & Co. conduct a general mercantile business; successors to the late T. J. Blair.

Dr. J. R. Shaffer is of long standing as the proprietor of the drug store.

D. Hicks' general store is one of the popular business institutions.

Chas. Elliott is the skilled mechanic who operates the blacksmith and wood working shop.

The first store in Elm Hall was started by Thos. Merrill in a log house that stood a little west of the T. J. Blair store. Mr. Merrill was a Saginaw lumberman who owned a tract of pine land in the vicinity, and he established the store to accommodate his workmen; and incidentally himself, doubtless.

# VILLAGE OF ELWELL.

## Some of Its Many Attractions.

Elwell is an unincorporated village located near the southeast corner of Seville Township, and is a station on the Pere Marquette Railroad, four miles west of Alma. It dates back to the late '70s, and the railroad furnished the first and principal reason for its existence. It has grown into a thriving and important market and trading point for a large scope of fine agricultural territory.

Though a station on the railroad, with a postoffice and a variety of business places for many years, Elwell never had an existence as a platted town until February 20, 1911, when, by order of the township board, a plat was made, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds. The township board was composed of Chas. E. Going, supervisor; W. M. Allen and D. M.



AN ELWELL VIEW, LOOKING NORTH.

Smith, justices of the peace; Wm. Horton, clerk. The plat is on both sides of the section line between sections 35 and 36. The Pere Marquette Railroad, running east and west on the quarter line, divides the plat about in the middle. The land on which the village is located was owned by R. S. Miller (section 35), and Joseph Lott (section 36). In an early day J. C. Richards, of St. Louis, established a stave mill, which was an important enterprise for the settlers with an overplus of timber.

Elwell's school is not graded. School officers are Seely Amsbury, director; John R. Miller, moderator; P. C. Colister, treasurer. Mrs. Leah Peterman wields the rod at the school house.

## McLACHLAN.

Dr. Charles H. McLachlan, of Elwell, where he has been located and in the active practice of his profession 30 years, was born December 16, 1845, in the Township of Downie, County of Perth, Ontario. His father was Alexander McLachlan, born in the Village of Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, in 1818, died in Orangeville, Ontario, March 20, 1896. His father and mother, grandparents of Dr. McLachlan, were Charles and Jane (Sutherland) McLachlan. Dr. McLachlan's mother was Clamina McLachlan, daughter of Daniel and Mary (McDonald) McLachlan. She was born in Isle of Skye, Scotland, in 1822, and died September 5, 1907, in the Village of Orangeville, Ontario.



DR. CHAS. H. McLACHLAN.

Children born to Alexander and Clamina McLachlan, brothers and sisters of Dr. Charles McLachlan, were Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Margaret, Daniel, Malcolm, John, William and Alexander, all born in the Township of Erin, County of Wellington, Ontario.

Dr. McLachlan was married in Alba, Pennsylvania, February 11, 1871, to Miss Sarah E. Peters, who was born in East Troy, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1851. She is the daughter of Comfort and Martha (Winnie) Peters, the former born in Springfield, Massachusetts, the latter born in Germany. Their other children—all born in East Troy—were Orin, Henry, Miranda, Anna and Laura.



MRS. C. H. McLACHLAN.

Dr. McLachlan came to Gratiot County February 15, 1883, locating in Elwell where he has ever since resided, engaged in his profession, and where he has built up an excellent and constantly increasing practice. In the course of years his methods of treatment were so successful and became so popular that he felt justified in erecting a sanitarium building, the better to serve his patrons and apply his treatment. The building was of wood, and two stories, and for a time was sufficient in size; but it became necessary in a few years to secure larger accommodations for his increasing business. Action followed closely on the decision to build, and in 1908 a large and commodious two-story, cobble-stone building was erected adjoining the first structure, the two combined and well supplied with various and sundry appliances for the treatment of his patients, constituting an establishment surpassed by few sanitariums even in cities of many thousand population.

All diseases are treated, a specialty being made of chronic troubles, rheumatism, nerve and skin diseases. The physical and physiological methods

employed are electricity, hot air and electric cabinets, Minnin-Ray, X-Ray, Fenson-Ray and massage. A steam power plant and a dynamo in connection furnish the electrical forces necessary for treatment along the lines enumerated. Many patients are treated, and with results highly satisfactory.

Three children have come to the union of Dr. McLachlan and wife, their names an birthdates as follows: Clamina, born in East Troy, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1873; William, born in East Troy, July 18, 1875; John, born in East Troy, April 20, 1878. Clamina was married to Isaac Fitch Hilsinger, at Elwell, September 10, 1895. They now reside at St. Louis, taking advantage of the superior facilities in that city for the education of their children, three in number, namely—Harold, born July 20, 1897; Dorothy, born August 17, 1902; Donald Cameron, born May 24, 1906; all born in Elwell. The daughter, Dorothy, died September 11, 1912.

Dr. McLachlan is a Democrat in politics, and is not backward in letting it be known as occasion seems to demand or even suggest. A man of positive convictions and perfect frankness, always ready to take an advanced position in behalf of any cause or proposition that he believes to be right. He is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows and of the Masonic Order. Mrs. McLachlan, freely conceded by the Doctor to be "the best man of the two", is a valued member of the Rebeccas.

## THE BANK OF ELWELL.

"Safety, Secrecy, Courtesy, Security", is the very comprehensive and comforting motto of the Elwell Bank, located in the Village of Elwell. A banking institution of any size, in any town large or small, with a motto or rule of action of that kind ought to be a valuable addition to the business conveniences of the community. And the Bank of Elwell seems to fill the conditions.

The bank was established in the fall of 1911, commencing actual business on November 21st, of that year. The bank is a private institution, the co-partnership which organized it being composed of G. H. Slocum, of Detroit; J. M. Ealy, of Caro, Mich., and John R. Hudson, of Middleton, this county. G. H. Slocum is president, the other two are vice-presidents. The cashier is Paul C. Colister, formerly of Laingsburg, Mich., where he was for five years district overseer of the Order of Gleaners.

The firm announces a responsibility for $100,000. The gentlemen forming the company are also the proprietors of the banking institutions of Middleton, this county, and of Butternut, Montcalm County.

The bank has its quarters in the cement block erected and owned by I. P. Taylor, east side of Main Street. The rooms are commodious and conveniently arranged. The vault would seem to be a discouraging proposition to anyone desiring to enter outside of business hours, and without the key; two feet of solid concrete at front, rear, sides and ceiling, and five feet underneath. A safe of modern construction adds to the safeguards, and a safety deposit cabinet is a much appreciated convenience for the use of depositors.

The bank offers inducements of four per cent. semi-annual interest if left three months or more, in addition to the element of safety assured. That the bank is a great convenience to Elwell and vicinity has already been amply proven, and is not subject to doubt.

## MILLER.

Few men in Gratiot County, particularly in the northern part, are better known than Robert S. Miller (now deceased), farmer and man of affairs at the Village of Elwell, where for 35 years he was interested in the prosperity of the county at large and of his locality in particular. He always took a leading part in all endeavors for the upbuilding of his home town and for the happiness and prosperity of his townsmen.



ROBERT S. MILLER.

Robert S. Miller was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, January 22, 1840. His father was a British soldier and died in his country's service in the East Indies. His mother, coming to America, was married in New York City to Samuel Lynn. They had two children—Samuel Lynn, who lives in Tuscola County, Mich., and Mary (Lynn) Sleeth, who lives in Milford, Oakland County, Mich. Mrs. Lynn, the mother, died in Tuscola County in 1875. Samuel Lynn, Sr., died in Tuscola County in 1902.

Quoting from a sketch: When nine years old, Robert S. Miller came to America with his uncle, John Miller, and for a short time lived with him in New York City, afterward going to Paterson, N. J., where he resided with his mother about a year, leaving to work on a farm near Paterson three years. The next few years he traveled quite extensively, and was employed at various avocations—one year in a harness factory, New York City; two years at farm labor in Oakland County, Mich.; two years on a new farm in Shiawassee County, Mich., and two years in Lake County, Ohio. He then went to County Lambton, Canada, where he worked in the oil fields for about two and a half years, at the end of which time he returned to Lake County, Ohio, and shortly after went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania. After a period of about three years he again returned to Lake County, Ohio, and was engaged several years in railroading. Leaving this occupation Mr. Miller located in Tuscola County, Mich., where he engaged in farming for a time, and then returned to Ohio, living in Hancock County, and engaging again in railroading.



MRS. R. S. MILLER.

In 1878 Mr. Miller located in the Township of Seville, this county, settling on a farm where now the Village of Elwell is located. Here, in the improvement and cultivation of his farm he was chiefly engaged up to the time of his death.

Elwell is a thriving little village, a station on the Pere Marquette Railroad, and Mr. Miller has the distinction of having been its founder. He was a Republican in politics. In 1879 he was chosen township clerk of Seville, and he served nine years as justice of the peace. His official services were always entirely satisfactory to his constituents. He served six years as station agent at Elwell, and was postmaster several years.

Mr. Miller was married in Lake County, Ohio, December 31, 1861, to Miss Mary Hutchins, daughter of P. R. and Margaret Hutchins. Her father was born in the State of New York in 1799, and died in Bethany Township, Gratiot County, in 1880. Her mother was a native of Chautauqua County, N. Y., and died in Seville Township, Gratiot County, in 1902. Mrs. Mary (Hutchins) Miller was born in Ohio, August 5, 1845, one of a family of three children. The others were Elizabeth and Catharine.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of a son, John R. Miller, born August 12, 1863, in Lake County, Ohio. He was married January 30, 1886, to Lillian Corl, daughter of Henry and Sarah Corl, of Seville. She was born in Canfield, Mahoning County, Ohio, October 23, 1867. They have a daughter—Hazel—born October 27, 1895, and she was married Nov. 24, 1911, to Hugh W. Johnson, son of Matthew and Laura (Butterfield) Johnson, of Pine River Township. Hugh and Hazel Johnson are farmers of Sumner Township, near Elwell. John R. Miller and wife together with the mother, Mrs. Robert S. Miller, reside on the home farm at Elwell.

The death of Robert S. Miller came quite suddenly at his home, October 10, 1912, and it came as a shock to his hosts of friends throughout the county. He was a man of intellect and thought and was possessed of superior ability as a public speaker. In his religious views he was very, very liberal, holding that the entire scheme and theory of the creation, together with the fall and redemption of man as portrayed in the Scriptures, is but a myth, and not entitled to serious consideration by intelligent mortals. His funeral was conducted by the Masonic Order of which he had been an active member; burial in the Pritchard cemetery, near Elwell.

## LATHROP.

Roswell J. Lathrop, a prominent resident of the little Village of Elwell, Gratiot County, was born in Oxford, Oakland County, Mich., May 26, 1851. His father was Josiah F. Lathrop and his paternal grandfather was Roswell Lathrop, a native of New England. Josiah F. Lathrop was born in Livingston County, N. Y., December 28, 1823. His wife, mother of our subject, was Emily H. Rice, descended from Massachusetts stock and born in Genesee County, N. Y., November 12, 1829. Her grandfather was captured by the Indians when but a small lad, at the same time that all the other members of his family, including his father and mother, were massacred by the savages. The lad was kept in captivity for eight years, finally making his escape at the great risk of being caught and murdered.

Josiah F. Lathrop and Emily H. Rice were married at Orion, Mich., May 6, 1848. Their children were Hiram T., Roswell J., Lizzie A. and Joseph. The two last named were twins. Hiram and Joseph died in infancy, and Lizzie died October 29, 1886, aged 30 years. Josiah F. Lathrop, the father, died in Saginaw, October 18, 1874. The mother, Emily H. Lathrop, resides with her children, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lathrop, at Elwell, aged 84 years.

Roswell J. Lathrop was married August 28, 1881, at Alma, Mich., to Miss Olive L. Madden, daughter of John P. and Phebe E. (Ingraham) Madden. She was born in Riley, Clinton County, Mich., August 20, 1863. Her father, John P. Madden, who was a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Gratiot for many years, was born in Bloomfield Center, Oakland County, Mich., February 3, 1842, and died at St. Louis, this county, August 17, 1901. Her mother, Phebe E. (Ingraham) Madden, who was married to John P. Madden, in Riley, Mich., March 29, 1861, was born in Yates

County, N. Y., September 18, 1842. Besides Olive L., their children were William A., born June 2, 1866; Albert M., born January 7, 1870; Ernest A., born August 8, 1874; Ray A., born January 6, 1877. William A. Madden resides at Port Huron where he is division engineer for the P. M. Railroad. Albert M. Madden died September 19, 1886. Ernest A. Madden is a resident of St. Louis, this county, where he is employed in the freight office of the P. M. Railroad. Ray A. Madden lives in Alma and is an engineer on the P. M. Railroad. The mother, Mrs. John P. Madden, resides at St. Louis.

Roswell J. Lathrop and his wife, Olive L. (Madden) Lathrop, the principal subjects of this family sketch, are the parents of one child, Nettie B., who was born in Elwell, April 21, 1882. She was married October 15, 1902, to Marlie Slingluff. They are engaged in mercantile trade at Elwell, and Mr. Slingluff is also Elwell's popular and efficient postmaster. A daughter, Dorris L., was born to them September 22, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Slingluff are both graduates of Alma High School, the former in the class of 1900, the latter with the class of 1901.

Mr. Lathrop, our subject, came to Gratiot in 1861, settling on section 2, Sumner Township. There he lived until 1872, engaged in farming and lumbering. In the last mentioned year he removed to Saginaw and remained in that city six years, employed in various capacities in the lumbering industry. Then he returned to Gratiot, taking up his residence at Elwell, the place that since that time has been his home. Since his residence there he has been actively engaged in various ways—farming, merchandising and building. He was postmaster for six years, and is now serving as assistant under his son-in-law, Postmaster Slingluff.

Mr. Lathrop takes commendable pride in exhibiting to his friends a document which came to him from the managers of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. It is a finely engraved Diploma of Honorable Mention from the Committee on Awards, for the part he took in organizing, setting up and managing the Michigan Outdoor Forestry Exhibit. The exhibit represented a Michigan lumber camp, with all its details of log buildings, sleds, logs, etc., supplemented and embellished with a gang of woodsmen accoutred and equipped in the fashion so familiar to the old settlers of Gratiot. The main building was purchased after the close of the fair by Geo. W. Childs, the great publisher of Philadelphia, and Mr. Lathrop was employed by Mr. Childs to manage and superintend the removal of the structure, and its re-establishment at his home in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop are now enjoying the rewards of their hard labors, pleasantly located in their home town—Elwell, contentedly and gratefully secure in the respect and confidence of their many friends.

## POSTOFFICE.

Elwell's first postmaster was George O. Adams, appointed April 15, 1880. Robert S. Miller followed, December 11, 1880; Benjamin D. Ackmoody, June 8, 1881; George O. Adams, June 10, 1881; Benjamin D. Ackmoody, January 9, 1882; Charles Phelps, September 7, 1885; Irving L. Fleming, April 1, 1889; Thomas J. Clarton, May 16, 1890; Emily H. Phelps, May 15, 1893; Irving E. Chapman, July 12, 1894; Robert S. Miller, October 23, 1897; Roswell J. Lathrop, May 20, 1901; Marlie Slingluff, June 7, 1907. The last-named is the present incumbent, and he is ably assisted by father-in-law R. J. Lathrop.

From Elwell two rural carriers are sent out. Route No. 1 has Henry Sheridan Romine as carrier. Route No. 2 is operated by Marion B. Fisher.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### I. O. O. F.

Elwell Lodge No. 552, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted September 26, 1909, with charter members as follows: Wm. L. Hutchinson, Alex. E. Miller, Frank E. French, Glenn L. Smith, Geo. Dalymple, E. E. Huff, Chas. H. Taylor, C. E. Slingluff, Chas. McLachlan, J. E. Morgan, Geo. W. Dick, Peter Dalymple.

Present officers: N. G.—Frank E. French, Sr.; Treas.—Wm. L. Hutchinson; F. S.—H. S. Romine.

### Rebeccas.

Oriole Rebecca Lodge No. 360, was instituted March 22, 1911, with charter members as follows: Emma D. French, Clara Layman, Olive Culver, Mary Dick, Pearl Smith, Audrey Layman, Frank E. French.

Present officers: N. G.—Mrs. Allen Sadler; V. G.—Mrs. Geo. Sandel; R. S.—Mrs. P. C. Colister; Treas.—Chas. Medler.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Elwell Tent No. 766 of the Modern Maccabees was chartered December 31, 1892, starting out with the following list of charter members and first officers: Past Com.—E. R. Knapp; Com.—Chas. McLachlan; Lt. Com.—F. E. French; R. K.—J. R. Miller; F. K.—H. H. Tinkham; Prel.—W. T. Clark; Phy.—Chas. McLachlan; Sergeant—Geo. Dick; M. at A.—Isaac Campbell; 1st M. of G.—D. F. Abbott; 2nd M. of G.—Adelbert Anderson; Sent.—A. R. Tipton; Pick.—W. Pritchard.

Present officers: Com.—John R. Miller; Lt. Com.—Felix Fea; F. K. and R. K.—B. A. Worthing.

### L. O. T. M. M.

Elwell's Smiley Hive, No. 228, Ladies of the Modern Maccabees set out with first officers as follows: Past Com.—Lottie Knapp; Com.—Mary E. Miller; Lt. Com.—Emma D. French; R. K.—Lillie E. Miller; F. K.—Olive L. Lathrop; Chap.—Belle E. Tinkham; Ser.—Viola H. Phelps; M. at A.—Melita Medler; Sent.—Sarah E. McLachlan; Pick.—Dora A. Dick.

Present officers: Com.—Mrs. Olive Culver; Lt. Com.—Mrs. Lavilla Nelson; R. K.—Mrs. Lillie E. Miller; F. K.—Olive L. Lathrop.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The Elwell Elevator Co. is composed of I. F. Hilsinger, president; Wm. L. Hutchinson, vice-president; P. C. Colister, sec.-treas.; Wm. Schiff, Geo. Sandel. Manager, Wm. Johnson.

A cheese factory has Harry Eldridge as manager.

Dr. Chas. H. McLachlan's Sanitarium is Elwell's most important business institution. A large cobble-stone building. Electrical and other appliances for the treatment of chronic diseases. (See his sketch.)

The Hilsinger Mercantile Co., incorporated, has I. F. Hilsinger, Mrs. I. F. Hilsinger, R. D. Olmstead, Mrs. Olmstead, as its stockholders. Business established 25 years ago by I. F. Hilsinger. Incorporated in 1907. Department store.

Marlie Slingluff, general store, in R. J. Lathrop's new cement block building. Ten years in business.

W. C. Pugsley, general hardware and implements. In his own cement block, erected in 1911. In business here 15 years.

I. P. Taylor, drugs and sundries. In business here 20 years. In his own cement block, built in 1910.

Elwell Telephone Co., incorporated. Pres.—I. F. Hilsinger; Sec.-Treas. —John Rockefellow; Manager—John W. Morton. Connected with Bell long distance. In Pugsley Block.

Millinery, by Mrs. Pearl Mathewson, at her residence. Four years in business.

Ed. Mathewson, meat market. In business four years, successor to Ernest Logie.

Blacksmithing by Edward A. Owens in Ed. Mathews' building.

Chas. Kelly, barber, three years here; in R. J. Lathrop's building.

Photograph gallery, John Freed, proprietor.

In an issue of the Elm Hall Corner Local in 1883, this is said of Elwell: "At present there are in trade the Phelps Bros. who carry about $3,000 in stock—general merchandise. They were formerly farmers in Sumner Township. They purchased their first stock of R. S. Miller. B. D. Ackmoody, also, was a Sumner farmer; in trade here, keeping dry goods, groceries and drugs. R. S. Miller is running the stave mill of J. C. Richards. D. Hilsinger owns and manages the Elwell Hotel. There are two physicians—Dr. E. Brewster and Dr. C. H. McLachlan. Elwell supports the best band in the county."

# FOREST HILL.

## How It Originated—What It Is.

Forest Hill is indebted for its name to the postoffice now and for many years located there. The Forest Hill postoffice was first established in 1857 and was located at the residence of Rev. Elisha H. Brooks, on section 1 of Pine River Township. Mr. Brooks was the first postmaster. The office was afterward moved to the residence of the pioneer who happened to have the most eligible location, or who had the best backing for the appointment. Instead of "backing", it is sometimes called "pull." But this is a digression. Elisha H. Brooks, the original postmaster of Forest Hill was appointed February 24, 1857. Following him came—Amasa Packard, June 17, 1859; Edward R. White, September 22, 1864; Joshua N. Robinson, December 11, 1866; Mrs. Julia A. Robinson, August 22, 1872; Henry W. Sandall, January 14, 1874; Albert Herald, July 12, 1875; James J. Kelly, April 11, 1881; Daniel H. Hill, October 20, 1881; Leavitt E. Camfield, January 11, 1883; Herbert N. Robinson, May 17, 1887; Eugene C. Owen, October 29, 1889;



MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST.

Myron E. Hull, March 15, 1894; Cage Wood, March 28, 1898; Edward W. Phillips, May 4, 1909; Leroy B. Leonard, May 5, 1910; and Mr. Leonard is still serving the people.

Forest Hill is a small hamlet or burg, and, of course, is unincorporated. It has a population within what may plausibly be called its limits, running to 50 or 75 people. It is a signal station on the Ann Arbor Railroad, four miles north of Alma. A good little trading and shipping point with a good elevator, a general store, two grocery concerns and an establishment which sells hardware, implements and autos. A blacksmith shop and a church building, (Christian), and a town hall building constitute the balance of the public or business places. The hamlet is located in part on the Hon. Silas Moody homestead, and Mr. Moody may be considered as the father of the town, if its paternity is limited to one, and certainly is one of the principal

fathers, at any rate. "Cage" Wood has been upon the scene many years. M. L. Perrigo, L. E. Camfield, L. B. Leonard and others, are among those who have been residents several years and are leading citizens, the last-mentioned being postmaster at this time. Others of the earlier residents were Joshua N. Robinson, Amasa Packard, H. N. Robinson, Rev. Orin Gates, Ed. Creech; John W. Doane, H. W. Sandall, Thomas Courter and John Lanshaw were not far away, and they and several others were classed as citizens of Forest Hill. Jehu E. Parkinson was a mile north, and at one time set up for himself and for a time had a little station at his place called Parkinson, and had a postoffice for about the same length of time. But station and postoffice have long been nothing but a memory. And Jehu himself was gathered to his fathers, lo, many years ago; probably 25 years ago.

The records in the office of the register of deeds show that some territory on sections 8, 9, 16 and 17, Pine River, the corners at which Forest Hill is located, was platted by Ellen M. Moody and Orin Gates, the Moody portion being on the north side of the section line.

School facilities of Forest Hill are nothing better or worse than the common district type. The burg forms a part of district No. 3, with the school house located a mile east.

A Christian society was formed here in pioneer days. One of its early ministers was Rev. William Moody, father of Silas Moody. George H. Carl,



CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

H. E. Rosell and Floyd Leland have officiated as preachers here, the latter's ministry continuing up to July, 1913, when he resigned and moved away. The church edifice was erected in 1897; a very creditable house of worship.

Pine River elections are held at Forest Hill, the town hall building having been erected in 1897.

The village is surrounded by fertile land and fine farms, with buildings to match. The face of the country is gently rolling, and partly on this account this section of the county was among the earliest to be settled up. Some of the most prominent of the early settlers of the county had their tents pitched in Pine River in the vicinity of Forest Hill. They chose well at the time, and their descendants and successors have no reason to be discontented, nor envious of any other portion of the county.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

### MOODY.

The subject of this sketch was born in Chatham, Medina County, Ohio, May 30, 1839. He was the eldest of a family of seven brothers and sisters, children of William and Maria (Ross) Moody, who were married August 29, 1838, in Lafayette, Medina County, Ohio, by Alanson Wilcox.

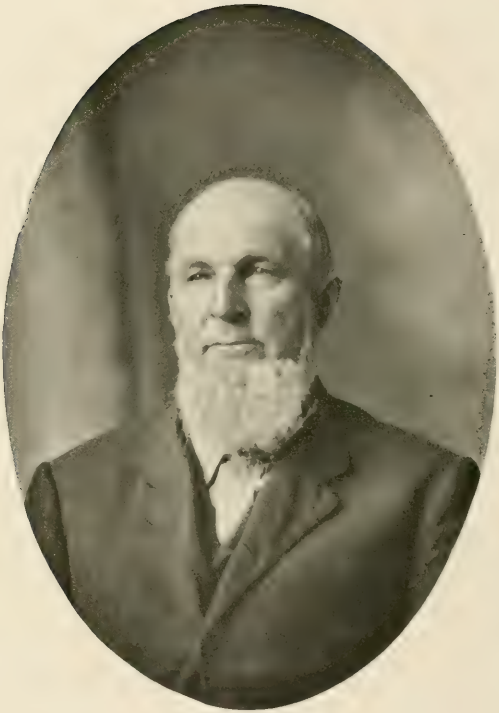
Wm. Moody, the father was born August 29, 1810, in Bosquine, New Hampshire. He was the eldest of eight children of Ebenezer and Lucy (Wood) Moody, of Berkshire County, Mass. The original of the Moodys as now known was Wm. Moody who came from England in the year 1634. Ebenezer and Lucy (Wood) Moody were of the sixth generation counting from him, and Silas Moody, our subject, is of the eighth generation from this original Wm. Moody.

Maria (Ross) Moody, the mother of our subject, was born November 30, 1817, in Vermont, on the east side of the Green Mountains. She was the eldest of twelve children. Her mother died when she and a brother were small, and Daniel Ross, her father, who was born about 1780 in Vermont, married Susannah Whitcomb. To this union were born six boys and four girls. The family came by team from Vermont to Lafayette, Ohio, where the father and boys built a sawmill, run by water, and sawed lumber for numerous buildings on a large farm at this place. He also gave his son William, father of our subject, lumber to build a barn, and wheat and other things to keep the growing family growing. William Moody was a Disciple preacher and organized a church in Lafayette, Ohio, where he preached twenty-five years for very little pay. He also preached in Royalton, a few miles from Cleveland, the work taking him away from home nearly half of the time. This left the subject of this sketch with many responsibilities in helping his mother carry on the varied operations in connection with the farm. Among other things he helped to make maple sugar, and at the early age of seven years he drove a pair of steers to gather the sap, and assisted his mother in boiling it and making the sugar.

Wm. Moody was not only a preacher but was called into debates with Mormons who were numerous at that time. He also did battle with the Spiritualists, preached a large number of funeral sermons, and, in fact, never missed an opportunity to sow seeds of truth. He was so familiar with the scriptures that no one could quote scripture wrong without being corrected by him. He grubbed and turnpiked some of the streets of Cleveland in his early life, when those streets were but a forest. He came to Forest Hill, Gratiot County, where the subject of this sketch had taken one and one-half miles of road to build, and showed Silas how to pull out a large number of stumps, and other work connected with the job.

After selling the old farm in Lafayette., Ohio, Wm. Moody and his wife removed to Forest Hill where Silas built them a home near his own, and where they lived some 20 years. The mother died May 27, 1896, and the father in February, 1898. He had preached 63 years of his life. They rest in St. Louis Cemetery.

Solon D. Moody, brother of Silas, was born in Chatham, Ohio, May 21, 1840. He married Josephine V. Robinson, May 10, 1860, in Chatham. He enlisted in the army in April, 1862, in Co. B, 42nd Ohio, and was killed the same year.



HON. SILAS MCODY.



MRS. SILAS MOODY.

Geo. A. Moody, another brother, was born May 17, 1842. At the age of 19 he enlisted in Co. B, 42nd Ohio, Garfield's regiment. He was six feet four inches tall, broad-shouldered, and a very strong, active man. He was wounded at the siege of Vicksburg, and died from the effects of his wounds. He was unmarried.

Mary Maria Moody, a sister, was born in Chatham, April 7, 1846. She was married in Homer, Ohio, to Charles Judson, May 8, 1866. They moved to Ottowa County, Mich., near Cooperville. She is the mother of twelve children, nine of whom are living. She still manages the farm, her husband being deceased.

Hattie L. Moody, another sister, born September 18, 1848, was married in 1887 to John L. McCurdy, at Forest Hill. They had one child, Ethel.

Henry W. Moody, another brother, was born at Chatham, Ohio, January 5, 1854. He married Ida Florence, daughter of Geo. C. and Lydia (Corlton) Buchanan. They had two children—a son and daughter, who are now in California.

John Ebenezer Moody, another brother, was born December 14, 1856, in Chatham. He was married October 28, 1880, to Josephine Hortense, daughter of Farnum and Calista (Garlock) Gibbs, of Brunswick, Ohio. They have two sons—Claude William Moody, and Ray Gibbs Moody, the former born December 5, 1882, at Lafayette, Ohio; married February 14, 1908, at Akron, to Althea Partridge, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James P. Boyd; the latter—Ray Gibbs Moody—born September 19, 1891, at Lafayette. These brothers are now residents of Cleveland, proprietors of an auto supply store.

Silas Moody was married April 6, 1861, in the Congregational Church at Chatham, Ohio, to Ellen Maria, daughter of Luther and Hannah (Jackson) Clapp, of Chatham. Luther Clapp was born in Chesterfield, Mass., January 20, 1813. He was married to Hannah Jackson, August 31, 1837. She was born February 25, 1817, in Mass. They came to Chatham when the country was a wilderness, and like all pioneers, had to endure many hardships.

Carrie K. Clapp, a sister of Mrs. Moody, was born May 21, 1839, in Chatham. She married Jonathan M. Beach, who shortly afterward enlisted in Co. B, 42nd Ohio Vols. To them were born two boys and three girls. The two sons, Willie and Harry, of Chatham, and Edith White, of Medina, still remain. Louie and Hattie are dead.

Adelaide, another sister of Mrs. Moody, was born December 29, 1848, and was married to Bunyan Whitney, of Chatham. They have two sons, Dr. Eddie Whitney, of Baltimore, and Mertie L. Whitney, of Chatham.

Dyer A. Clapp, brother of Mrs. Moody was born May 9, 1854, in Chatham, and owns the farm on which he was born. He married Cora Damon, of Chatham. To them were born two sons and four daughters—Gerald, Roldin, Gladys, Hannah, Carrie and Dorothy; all unmarried.

The children born to Silas and Ellen M. Moody are as follows: Arthur Newton, born at Forest Hill, Mich., August 29, 1862, died September 19, 1862. George A. Moody, born January 16, 1866, at Forest Hill; attended the common schools and later the high school at St. Louis, after which he taught two years. He was married to Clara Rock, December 22, 1886. He was treasurer of Highland Township, Osceola County, Mich., and served eight years as United States postal clerk, operating mostly on the Ann Arbor Railroad. He is now farming and lumbering at Park Lake, Mich. Four children were born to George and Clara Moody—May Ellen, born October 2, 1887, at Forest Hill; Roy Sherman, born June 26, 1890; Edith Esther,

born August 5, 1893, at Park Lake, Mich.; Eben Boynton Moody, March 3, 1897. The wife, Clara (Rock) Moody, died November 21, 1900. Geo. A. Moody married (second) Eva Sheriff, of Frankfort, Mich., April 26, 1902. They took a wedding trip to California. Their children are—Harold, born October 31, 1905, at Park Lake; Carroll, born June 3, 1907, died June, 1908, at Park Lake.

Ira C. Moody, second living son of Silas and Ellen M. Moody, was born April 11, 1867, at Forest Hill. He attended the common schools, and later Alma College. He is a farmer and stock raiser. He was married September 22, 1887, to Mattie Campbell, of Forest Hill. They reside on the old farm cleared by the subject of this sketch. They have one son, Willie, born June 22, 1888, at Forest Hill. He resides with his parents.

Edith Carrie, only daughter of Silas and Ellen Moody was born November 19, 1869, and died July 27, 1870.

Silas Moody has been an energetic and aggressive citizen all his life. In his youth he rendered valuable service on the farm. At the age of 17 he attended the high school in Chatham, Ohio. Then he followed teaching in the winters, working on the farm summers until 1861, when he and his wife came to their present home, at that time a wilderness tract. To get there required six days from their Ohio home. They came part of the way by rail to St. Johns, thence to Forest Hill with two teams. A wild "80" was soon bought and the making of a home commenced. Acres were added till a homestead of 320 acres was secured; a wild and heavily timbered tract at first but now transformed into one of the finest farms in Gratiot County. Mr. Moody also owns a tract of heavily timbered land in Osceola County, at Park Lake.

Besides his energetic life as a farmer, Mr. Moody has taken an active part in social and educational matters. He was superintendent of the Disciple Sunday school 25 years continuously. Also taught writing and singing schools and in various other ways has done his part for the best interests of society. Soon after his arrival in Pine River Township, F. M. Badger, the township clerk, went to war, and Mr. Moody was appointed to the resulting vacancy, and was also elected township clerk the next spring. In the fall of 1892 he was elected to represent Gratiot in the state legislature, filling the position with his usual ability and energy. One of the most important pieces of legislation in the session of which he was a member was the act raising the test for illuminating oils from 98 to 120 degrees; a rate that has prevailed ever since. This bill was ably championed by Mr. Moody, and the credit is his, mainly, for the passage of the measure.

Mr. Moody's connection with the Gratiot County Agricultural Society in an official capacity was continuous for a period of 25 years or more, and much of its past success was due to his persistent efforts. He has for many years been one of the most important business factors at Forest Hill. He was for 14 years the efficient agent at that place for the Ann Arbor Railroad and has been instrumental in organizing many excursions; and a very popular agent in carrying them through to a successful issue.

Mr. Moody tells interestingly of many amusing incidents of his early experiences in pioneer life. To mention only one in closing: He had a yoke of oxen that he could use single or double, and Mrs. Moody could handle them as well as he. They would go "logging" for neighbors, and when the day's work was done they would unyoke the oxen and he and his wife would each mount an ox and ride home. Mr. Moody engaged quite extensively in buying and breaking steers to work, sometimes breaking as many as three yoke of steers at a time. He can count up as many as 40 pairs of steers that he has broken to work.

To have been able to close this sketch without the melancholy duty of chronicling the death of Mrs. Moody would have been very gratifying to the writer. Mrs. Ellen M. Moody, wife of Hon. Silas Moody, passed away at her home in Forest Hill, June 4, 1913, after an illness of several months. She and Mr. Moody took a trip to California the previous autumn with the view of staying through the winter, but on account of Mrs. Moody's failing health they returned before spring to the old home, where, after a few months of suffering and gradual decline, she passed away, entering into rest. She was a woman possessed of a lovely character, a very superior mind, and in every way was a worthy wife, mother and member of society.

This sketch may be fittingly closed by the narrative of some of the main facts of a re-union held at the Hotel Arcada, Alma, Thursday April 20, 1911. The gathering was calculated to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Moody. Though the actual anniversary was April 6, the celebration was put off to a more convenient date. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Moody there were present eight of the old pioneers of Pine River, all of them neighbors of Mr. and Mr. Moody for nearly fifty years. They were Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Farr, now of Alma; Mr. and Mrs. Edward White, now of Alma; Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Sprague, of Pine River; John W. Doane, now of Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Mary Packard, of Pine River.

A sumptuous dinner was served by Landlord Geo. W. Pulfrey and wife, who entered fully into the spirit of the occasion. The re-union, celebrating as it did, the golden wedding of two of Gratiot County's most worthy and best-known citizens, and at the same time constituting a pioneer gathering of some of Pine River's most prominent citizens, was a notable occasion, and well worthy of the liberal notice given it in the local press, and of this brief addition to the biographical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Moody.

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## WOOD.

Micajah Wood, known to neighbors and friends as "Cage" Wood, was for many years one of the prominent farmers of Pine River Township. The farm lies adjacent to Forest Hill and part of it was platted to form part of the village. Since 1906 he has been engaged in mercantile trade at Forest Hill, and in the spring of 1911 he sold his farm, retaining only that part that had been platted and not previously sold. He has been a resident of the township since 1869, coming from Coe Township, Isabella County, where he had settled with his parents in 1865. He was born in Greene County, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1848, son of William and Hannah (Heartley) Wood, and is one of a family of eleven children, nine of whom are still living. They are—James Mason, David, Edward, Mary, Jesse H., George, Martha J., Micajah and Hiram C. William Wood, the father was the son of Micajah Wood, who came from England in an early day, settling in Maryland. After living there for a time they removed to Washington County, Penn. At that time the Indians were so numerous in that section that it was thought best to return to Maryland. There William Wood was born, after which the family moved to Greene County, Penn., settling in Center Township, on the line of Jackson Township. There William Wood lived until February, 1865, when he removed to Michigan settling in Coe Township, Isabella County, where he lived until his death in 1873. The grandfather, Micajah Wood, served as a soldier in the War of 1812.

William Wood was married to Hannah Heartley, March 10, 1831. Their sons, David, Edward, Jesse and George, gave their services to their country during the Civil War, members of Company I, 1st West Virginia Cavalry, and were in nearly 60 battles and skirmishes, including Blooming Gap,

Bunker Hill, and in the Shenandoah Valley with Sheridan; also in the great struggle at Gettysburg.

Micajah Wood, the subject of this sketch, settling in Coe in 1865, divided his time in his earlier years between aiding in clearing the farm and in attending school. His teachers were Professors E. K. Fowler, H. N. Robinson and J. Milt. Putman, well-known rural educators in the early days. He was granted a certificate to teach, but preferring the life of a farmer he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits instead of teaching.

On the 10th of October, 1869, Mr. Wood was united in marriage to Rosa Vanderbeek, daughter of John and Matilda Vanderbeek, pioneers of Pine River Township. John Vanderbeek was one of Pine River's most respected citizens, holding various positions of importance, among them that of supervisor three years. In the spring of 1871 Mr. Wood settled on section 15, Pine River, remaining there till March, 1883, when he removed to Forest Hill, section 17, of the same township, where he still resides. Mrs. Rosa (Vanderbeek) Wood had four brothers and two sisters, as follows: Lucinda, Martin, Harriet, Harrison, William and Daniel. Lucinda and Rosa are the only ones now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Cage Wood are the parents of seven children: Lillie, born September 28, 1871; Leslie, November 17, 1874; Minnie, April 19, 1880; Leo, August 23, 1885; Harrison, January 29, 1889; Carl, March 17, 1895, and McKinley, born December 23, 1898.

Lillie Wood married Bert Hamilton of Coe. They now reside at Forest Hill, and have children—Clara L., Dora M., Blanche L., Miles, Charles and Dale.

Leslie Wood married Lottie Raycraft, of Pine River. Their children are R V, Vernon, Donald, Thomas and Ruth. They live in Sumner Township.

Minnie Wood married Oliver Pembrook, of Pine River. They live in Alma and have children — Ward, Earl, Leon, Russell, Oliver and Clare.

Leo Wood married Clara Wilson, of Pine River. They live at Forest Hill and have a son—Hubert.

Harrison Wood married Edith Lanshaw. They live in Pine River and have a son—Paul.

Carl and McKinley are unmarried and reside with their parents.

Mr. Wood has always taken an active interest in township, county and local affairs. He has been director in his school district 18 years, and was township school inspector three terms. In April, 1898, he was appointed postmaster at Forest Hill, holding the position until July, 1909. As farmer, postmaster and merchant he has been a very busy man during recent years. After selling his farm he built a fine new residence near his place of business, and he and his estimable wife are taking life a trifle more quietly than in the years past, but they are still far from being idle people.

Mr. Wood is an active and aggressive member of the Republican party, ever ready to uphold its principles and work in its interest. Fraternally, he is a valued member of the K. O. T. M. M.; has been finance keeper sixteen years. He is also a member of No. 88, F. & A. M., of St. Louis. He and Mrs. Wood have been connected with the Christian Church at Forest Hill ever since it was organized. He had charge of the work of building the church edifice when it was erected in 1897, as well as of the parsonage when it was built. The fine building, occupied in its lower story as a town hall, and in the second story as a K. O. T. M. M. hall was built under his superintendency. And in the performance of all of his duties, whether of a public or private character, he has shown such care and faithfulness as to win the approbation and confidence of his associates.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### Maccabees.

Forest Hill Tent No. 526, K. O. T. M. M. was organized November 13, 1891, with charter members as follows: R. J. Boyles, Eugene C. Owen, J. C. Gimmey, William L. Wood, A. M. Bunker, C. O. Hayes, J. H. Lanshaw, John Gimmey, Eric O. Sperry, Geo. Watts, Thomas Courter, Simon Oberlin, Micajah Wood, Philip Dorland, James Gibbs, J. M. Westover.

First officers were elected as follows: Past Com.—George Watts; Com. —John Lanshaw; Lt. Com.—Charles Hayes; R. K.—E. C. Owen; F. K.—Micajah Wood; Prel.—Wm. L. Wood; Phy.—Richard Boyles; Sergeant—Amasa Bunker; M. of A.—Thomas Courter; 1st M. of G.—John Gimmey; 2nd M. of G.—Philip Dorland; Sent.—Simon Oberlin; Pick.—Jacob Gimmey.

### Forest Hill Hive.

Forest Hill Hive No. 619, L. O. T. M. M., was instituted December 14, 1895, with the following charter officers: Past Com.—Frances Fleming; Com.—Lida Hull; Lt. Com.—Maggie Oberlin; R. K.—Ida Hayes; F. K.—Augusta Owen; Chap.—Dora Katenhaus; Sergeant—Ina Vanderbeek; M. at A.—Annie Wood; Pick.—Perlie Sprague.

### Gleaners.

Forest Hill Arbor No. 1366, A. O. O. G., was organized July 16, 1909, with the following set of charter officers: Ch. G.—Frank Frisbee; V. Ch. G. —Elmer N. Post; Chap.—Jennie Kemp; Sec. and Treas.—Burtis Markham; Con. — Ray Vandemark; Conductress — Musa Owen; Lect. — Edith Lanshaw; I. G.—John W. Packer; O. G.—Ed. Wood.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Micajah Wood conducts a general store in his own business building. He has been in trade since the fall of 1906. Runs a large delivery and sales wagon into the surrounding country. He is assisted by his sons, Leo, Harrison and McKinley.

M. L. Perrigo has a large trade in hardware, implements and automobiles, owning his buildings. His blacksmith shop is managed by Frank Whited.

E. B. Hafer deals in groceries, notions, etc., in Ira Moody's brick building. Also serves ice cream, in season.

L. B. Leonard, postmaster, has groceries and notions in connection. Has been in business about 14 years.

Emery Parsons manages the telephone exchange. He has about 15 farmers' lines, with from one to twenty 'phones on a line.

The Forest Hill Elevator Company is composed of Elmer N., Otis A. and Thomas R. Post, with the first-named as manager. Mr. Post conducts an ordinary elevator business, dealing in all kinds of grains and seeds, also sells coal, cement, lime, etc. In his new elevator and buildings accessory thereto, with suitable sidetracks to expedite business.

L. E. Camfield is the urbane and accommodating station agent of the Ann Arbor Railroad. He will very obligingly stop the swiftest trains for your accommodation and convenience, or he will loan you the red flag or lantern with which to do it yourself. He obligingly sells the ticket to the departing guest, as cordially welcomes the occasional visitor; then shoulders the mail bag and hies him to the postoffice, a quarter of a mile away.

# VILLAGE OF MIDDLETON.

## Business Institutions and Other Attractions.

Middleton is located near the northwest corner of Fulton Township, and is an important station on the T. S. & M. Railroad. It is surrounded with an excellent agricultural district, ranking with the best in the county. The village has never been incorporated; so it depends on the good will and good judgment of the township officials for its local improvements, over and beyond what may come through voluntary, individual enterprise. Nevertheless the village keeps abreast of the times in matters calculated to advance the interests of the local community and make life worth living.

The original plat of Middleton was made by George Franks, George S. Naldrett, John B. Resseguie, Wm. T. Naldrett and Michael S. Howell and certified to August 24, 1887. It lies in the center of section 7, Fulton, and on both sides of the railroad. Surveyor Ransom H. Colburn. Newton Avenue has the greater portion of the business institutions. An addition was platted by Wm. N. First, April 6, 1912. It lies to the south of the original plat; surveyor, A. J. Chappell.



NEWTON AVENUE, LOOKING NORTH.

Besides those mentioned as connected with the platting of the new village, others interested and aiding in the enterprise were T. T. Newton, Lewis Reynolds, L. C. Hull, Henry Stitt, and probably several more. The magnetic influence that served to draw people to that particular spot, at that particular time was the railroad project which had claimed the attention of the people for some time and which came to be a certainty, when, in September, 1887, the first train from the east passed through the county and found its way to Carson City. J. B. Resseguie, who had started a little country store at the center of the township, moved it up to the line of the road some time before the track was laid. W. T. Naldrett who had a small tract of land at the site of the future village, had established and was running a small feed mill. Henry S. Phillips, now a resident of Ithaca was early on the ground with a stock of drugs. Others came along one by one and established themselves with various enterprises, and soon the little nucleus had become a settlement that promised permanence and substantial growth.

The early erection of an elevator assured a market for all farm products, and the establishment of the stave and heading works made a ready market for untold hundreds of cords of timber that the settlers were only too glad to get rid of.

## POSTMASTERS.

Since the establishment of a postoffice at Middleton, the people have been served by six different postmasters, as follows: M. S. Howell, appointed November 27, 1887; Freeman Salisbury, April 1, 1889; John W. Patterson, July 25, 1893; Charles S. Keefer, April 30, 1894; Roman Fyler, July 3, 1897; Ernest H. Naldrett, September 16, 1903.

There are two rural routes from the Middleton postoffice. W. N. First serves as carrier on No. 1; C. E. Mertz is carrier on No. 2.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

### RESSEGUIE.

John B. Resseguie, one of Middleton's most prominent citizens, was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., November 2, 1842. His father was Samuel Resseguie, a native of New York State, born in 1800. His mother, Lydia (Brown) Resseguie, was also born in the State of New York in the year 1800. They both died in the State of their nativity—New York—the father at the age of 53, the mother at the age of 83.

John B. Resseguie is the youngest of a family of nine children. One brother and two sisters are all that are living at the present time.

Mr. Resseguie came to Michigan on a prospecting tour in the year 1860, but returned again to his home state. In the year 1869 he again came to this state and located at Carson City, where he went into mercantile trade, continuing in the business there and meeting with reasonable success, until the year 1880, when he removed to Fulton Center, this county, where he started a country store in a building 16 by 20 feet in size. Continuing business in this location until the year 1887, the march of events seemed to call for another change. The Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad had been established through the township from west to east, on a line one and a half miles to the north of Mr. Resseguie's location. The railroad would require stations, and stations call for other business enterprises, so, having secured a tract of land on section seven, on the line of the railroad, our subject removed his business, building and all, to the new location, opened up business in general merchandising, and thus became the father of the present flourishing Village of Middleton.

On the 14th day of April, 1884, Mr. Resseguie was united in marriage to Florence E. Trask, daughter of William H. and Louisa J. (Peak) Trask, of Fulton Township. She was born in Henrietta Township, Jackson County, Mich., November 2, 1865. The father was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., October 13, 1840, and died at Williamston, Mich., January 12, 1906. The mother was born in Allegan County, Mich., August 6, 1841, and died in Williamston, April 6, 1905.

To the union of John B. and Florence E. Resseguie four children have been born. Ethel M. was born September 25, 1885; Lulu E., May 24, 1887; Lydia J., March 13, 1892; Nina M., January 20, 1906. Ethel M. Resseguie, the oldest daughter, is married to Dan Hickey. They are the parents of four

children: Jeannette M., born April 14, 1907, died April 25, 1911; Chester J., born November 9, 1908; Katharine R., born January 31, 1910; John Junior, born April 5, 1912. Dan Hickey and family are now residents of Elsie, Mich., where Mr. Hickey is engaged in mercantile trade. Lulu E. Resseguie graduated from the Middleton High School, after which she took a commercial course at the Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, followed by another business course at Monroe, Mich. She then took a course at Alma College, graduating from the commercial department of that institution. She was married December 31, 1912, to Roy Mott. They reside in Detroit. Lydia J. graduated from the Middleton schools at the age of 13, and is now a student at Alma College. Nina M. is yet an attendant at the Middleton schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Resseguie have always been prominent in promoting the interests of their home town, and they justly and worthily enjoy the confidence and respect of the entire community. Mr. Resseguie is an active member of the Masonic fraternity, and in politics is a Democrat of the consistent and progressive type. In business he is enjoying a lucrative trade, fairly earned and well merited.

## KINNEY.

Charles Wesley Kinney, a pioneer of Gratiot County, who died at his residence in Middleton, January 16, 1913, was a native of Ohio, having first seen the light of day in Bowling Green Township, Licking County, Ohio, September 11, 1841. He is the oldest of the children of John G. and Elizabeth (Harter) Kinney, late respected and well-known residents of Newark Township. John G. Kinney, the father, was born in Pennsylvania, December 6, 1817, and died at his home in Newark, January 24, 1904. The mother was born in Virginia, July 11, 1824, and died in Newark, July 9, 1880.

The eleven children of John G. and Elizabeth Kinney were born in the following order: Chas. Wesley Kinney; Lewis Hamilton Kinney (deceased); Isaiah Bing Kinney (deceased); Hester Ann (deceased), wife of Jerry McPherson; Mary Ellen (deceased), wife of David Strouse; Joseph O. Kinney residing at Pompeii; Lorenzo Lee Kinney (deceased); John Pheris Kinney (deceased); Clemuel H. Kinney (deceased); Elmer Hamlin Kinney (deceased); Elizabeth, wife of Simon Down, residing in Newark.

Chas. Wesley Kinney came to Gratiot County when 16 years of age, with his father's family, arriving in Newark, April 15, 1857, settling on 80 acres of wild land on section 26. They had to cut one and a half miles of road through the woods to reach their place. They made a clearing and erected the first log house on section 26. They had to contend with all the privations and drawbacks incident to life in a new country, their first summer being the summer when Gratiot County was first designated as "Starving Gratiot." There was nothing in the line of provisions in the county that money could buy. Hence it was a frequent occurrence that while the boys were chopping and clearing land, the father would take the one horse that they had and go to Hubbardston, St. Johns or Rochester Colony and buy a sack of meal or flour and a few groceries, throw them on the horse's back and foot it home, leading the horse. And so matters continued until they had land enough cleared to raise their living.

One of the brothers, Isaiah B. Kinney, was a soldier in the Civil War, losing his life in his country's service, and was buried in Alexandria, Virginia.

January 31, 1863, C. W. Kinney was married to Miss Semantha Reynolds, daughter of Isaac and Semantha (Crandall) Reynolds, of Lebanon Township.

Clinton County, Mich. She was born October 27, 1846. Isaac Reynolds, the father was born December 29, 1810, in Vermont. Mrs. Reynolds was born December 22, 1815, in Ohio. They were married August 18, 1833. The father died in Clinton County, July 3, 1890. The mother died in Ohio, October, 1846.

Soon after their marriage C. W. Kinney and wife settled on a farm on section 26 of Newark, which they cleared up and made into a fine home. The children are as follows: Isaiah Bing, born December 18, 1864; Miles Lee, born May 31, 1867, died July 21, 1870; Andrew Isaac, born December 12, 1869; Joseph Willis, born January 15, 1872; Chas. Elmer, born June 29, 1874; Ella Salina and Ellen Salena, twins, born July 13, 1877, the former dying February 5, 1879, the latter dying March 3, 1881; Bessie Elizabeth, born March 20, 1884, died March 23, 1884; John Morrison, born September 18, 1890.

All of the children that are living are residents of Newark and Fulton Townships.

The following combination of facts seem worthy of mention: C. W. Kinney in his youth attended school in District No. 1—the Yond district. Later on all of his children attended the same school. He served as assessor of the district three years, and as director 12 years.

While a resident of Newark Mr. Kinney filled many of the important offices of the township—constable, highway commissioner, justice of the peace, and eight years as supervisor; always ably and conscientiously performing his duties as a public official. In the year 1904 he became a resident of Fulton Township. After a residence of two years in Perrinton he removed to Middleton, and there remained until his death. He was serving his second term as justice of the peace of Fulton, and was a man who held the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens in a high degree. Editor Newton, of the Middleton Record, truthfully and gracefully says of his characteristics: "He was a progressive Democrat; a man of broad reading and gifted with a remarkably clear and vigorous mind; a good public speaker and a good conversationalist. A man in whom his acquaintances placed implicit faith, his advice being frequently sought in business matters. Among those who speak most highly of him are his neighbors. He was unfailingly kind, and thoughtful of those who lived near him, and they mourn him sincerely."

Mr. Kinney died with heart trouble, with which he had been afflicted some time, passing away, as stated, January 16, 1913, at the age of 71 years. Burial in Fritz Cemetery, Newark Township. He and Mrs. Kinney were active and earnest members of the Odd Fellows and Rebeccas, respectively.

## NEWTON.

Charles M. Newton, publisher of the Middleton Record, was born in Bangor, Wisconsin, May 17, 1875. His father was Dr. A. B. Newton, a physician who practiced in Bangor continuously for forty years. His mother's maiden name was Ida McKenzie, daughter of a farmer still living near Bangor. The subject of this sketch, after receiving a common school education in his home town, took college preparatory work at Wayland Academy, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, spent a year at Wisconsin University, Madison, and then entered the sophomore class at Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y., from which institution he was graduated in 1899.

After completing his college work, Mr. Newton was a teacher for three years in high schools and academies, and then went into newspaper work. He was employed as a reporter at various times on the La Cross (Wis.) Republican and Leader, the Minneapolis Journal, the Milwaukee Sentinel,

the Chicago Daily News and the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Tiring of city newspaper work and failing to see that it held any alluring future for him, Mr. Newton went back to the small towns. As a boy he had learned the printer's trade, and after working in small print shops for a time "to get his hand in again," he established The Independent, at Falmouth, Missaukee County, Mich. Later, that paper was merged with the Lake City Plain Dealer, in which Mr. Newton still has a business interest. In 1910 Mr. Newton established The Record at Middleton.

Mr. Newton was married May 14, 1908, to Miss Lulu P. Shaw, of Milwaukee. She was born at Jackson, Mich., November 7, 1880, daughter of C. H. and Luella (Deyo) Shaw. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, a skilled printer and newspaper woman; and the Record is a family co-operative institution.

## BAKER.

The name of Baker is one of the best known in the Township of Fulton. It may be remarked also that the name has been known here and always favorably known—nearly as long as that of any of the county's pioneers.



OSCAR F. BAKER.

Oscar F. Baker, the principal subject of this sketch, was born in Owego, Tioga County, New York, on the 5th day of October, 1829, son of Philip Seely and Hannah (Pearl) Baker. The parents were natives of Connecticut. The father was born June 19, 1795, the mother in 1802. They were married in Owego, Tioga County, N. Y., to which place they had removed with their parents. The names of their children, with dates of birth, are as follows: William Warren, born January 13, 1823; Philip Amander and Hannah Amanda, twins, were born in 1826; Oscar F., born as stated above, October 5, 1829; Jane M. born November 26, 1831; John H. D. and Mary Eliza, twins, born November 26, 1833; Laura Ann Prudence, born April 16, 1836. All of these are still living excepting Warren and Amander. The father, Philip S. Baker, served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812. He died in the State of Ohio in 1880. The mother, Hannah (Pearl) Baker, died in the same year. Their son John H. D. served in the Union cause in the Civil War.

Oscar F. Baker was married in Marshall, Mich., to Miss Lucy Holcomb, daughter of Ira and Mary (McConnell) Holcomb, January 31, 1857. She was born in Brownhelm, Lorain County, Ohio, July 19, 1840. After their marriage, in 1857, they came to Gratiot County to occupy and develop the farm on section 10 of Fulton Township, which Mr. Baker had located in 1854 and upon which he had already made some improvements. Here they have lived the most of the time since, experiencing their share of the hardships of life in a new country. Mr. Baker still owns the farm of 120 acres on which they settled more than 50 years ago.

Mr. Baker suffered the loss of his faithful and devoted wife March 27, 1909. While they were visiting at the home of their son, Henry, in Milwaukee, she passed away after an illness of only a few hours, a victim of apoplexy. Mr. Baker now resides with his son, Fred L., in the Village of Middleton.

Children were born to Oscar F. Baker and wife as follows: Mary Jane died in infancy; George C. was born January 26, 1859; Henry W. was born April 11, 1861; Vern W., June 19, 1865; Fred L., November 16, 1867; Leroy S., January 1, 1870; Mary Maude, born September 2, 1872, died October 19, 1887.

George C. Baker married Miss Letty Dodge, of Fulton. He died March 13, 1895. His wife, Letty, died in December of the same year. They left two children—Blanche and Claude.

Henry W. Baker married Miss Mary Reiter, of Milwaukee. They are the parents of a son, Oscar Willis, born October 12, 1892.

Vern W. Baker was married June 29, 1889, to Miss Ida Pettit, daughter of Albert and Harriet E. (Lafayette) Pettit. Their children are Lee F. A., born December 12, 1890, and Eugene Weston, born April 17, 1909. Three children died in infancy. Albert Pettit and wife, who were old residents of Gratiot, died in Kalkaska, Mich., the latter on August 29, 1903, and the former on October 7th of the same year.

Fred L. Baker was married January 7, 1894, to Miss Hattie F. Bagg, daughter of Ralph and Nana (Hall) Bagg, of Milwaukee. She was born in Pilot, Illinois, September 17, 1876. Names and birth-dates of their children are as follows: Herb Earl born in Milwaukee, November 13, 1894; John W. was born in Milwaukee, October 12, 1898, and died at the age of four months and four days; Ila E. born in Perrinton, September 16, 1900; Marie M. born in Fulton, September 19, 1902; Grace I. born in Middleton, April 30, 1908.

Leroy S. Baker married Geneva M. Scheier, of Nebraska, September 1, 1901. Their children are Scheier, born July 4, 1904, died January 16, 1909; Maude, born in January, 1907. The family reside at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Oscar F. Baker and his family enjoy the esteem of many friends. He has long been a member of Ithaca Lodge, F. & A. M. He has held offices of honor and trust in his township, having served as highway commissioner, and was township treasurer for a period of four years. Age is advancing upon him, but if the wishes of a host of friends and neighbors can have any effect he will live to enjoy many more years among them.

## FOCKLER.

James Henry Fockler, for ten years in mercantile trade at Brice, North Shade Township, but now the energetic and popular landlord of the Middleton House, Village of Middleton, was born in Elm Hall, this county, July 14, 1868, son of James and Matilda (Boyd) Fockler. James Fockler, the father, was born in Stoveville, Ontario, July 24, 1836, and died in North Shade, December 4, 1903. Matilda (Boyd) Fockler, the mother, was a native of Pennsylvania, born September 16, 1837. She died at the home of her son, James Henry, in Middleton, August 20, 1912.

James Fockler and Matilda Boyd were married at Wacousta, Clinton County, Mich., April 11, 1861. They were the parents of three children—Nettie, James Henry and Maggie. Nettie was born January 30, 1865, and died November 29, 1909. She was married to John Cook, and at her death she left a son, Irving Cook, who was born February 9, 1904, and now resides with his uncle, our subject. Maggie was born April 25, 1872, and is married to Earl A. Armstrong. They reside in North Shade and are the parents of two daughters, named May and June, respectively.

James Henry Fockler removed with his parents in 1884 to Oscoda County, Mich., and there resided 14 years, returning to Gratiot County in 1898. He was married September 9, 1889, at West Branch, Mich., to Miss

Mary E. Warner, who was born in Newark, this county, May 26, 1870, daughter of Andrew J. and Francelia (Wolson) Warner. The father was born in Ohio, September 4, 1849, and now resides in Ogemaw County, Mich. The mother was born in Hillsdale County, Mich., August 12, 1850, and died in August, 1877. Mrs. Fockler has two living brothers—Francis A. Warner, born in North Shade, May 9, 1872, still resides there; Charles A. Warner, born March 19, 1874, in North Shade, is now a resident of Newport, Wash.

In the year 1901, Mr. Fockler, the subject of this sketch, entered into mercantile trade at Brice, this county. He pursued this avocation successfully until the spring of 1911, when he disposed of the business, and, removing to Middleton, took charge of the hotel which he has conducted till the present time. Landlord Fockler and his worthy wife are ideal hosts; a statement not based entirely upon hearsay, but largely upon personal experience, the writer having personally sampled their brand of hospitality.

Mr. Fockler is an active member of the I. O. O. F. He and his estimable wife are very properly deemed valuable acquisitions to Middleton's business and social life.

## MIDDLETON SCHOOLS.

Middleton's school building compares favorably with that of many towns of larger pretentions. Located as it is on a very desirable site, and with its fine lawn and shade trees, it is well worthy of the satisfied pride of Middleton's citizens. All of which attractive features are well displayed in the accompanying engraving.



MIDDLETON SCHOOL BUILDING.

The corps of teachers for 1913-14 is made up as follows: Supt.—W. A. Roberts; Prin.—Catharine Wynne; Grammar — Julia Wynne; Inter.—Cora B. Smith; Prim. — Pearl Eyer. Roy C. Dodge is the school director. Twelve grades are taught, and the school year is fixed at nine months.

## THE BANK OF MIDDLETON.

Latter day civilization and the modern methods of transacting business have made banking institutions a necessity, even in many of the comparatively small towns. Really it is a mutual need that brings about the establishment of a bank in any town; and in the past ten years a host of banks have been organized and established in towns of very moderate size. The mutuality of the need is easily seen in the fact that while the business inter-

ests of the community demand the advantages of a bank, the financial interests of the capitalist demand a promising field for the investment of his surplus capital. So the capital and the location came together and a bank is instituted.

This is a view in the abstract. The concrete fact is that Middleton got its bank in 1906, and it has proved a great convenience to the village and surrounding country. It is a private institution, organized, owned and conducted by a partnership composed of Grant Slocum of Detroit, John M. Ealy, of Caro, and John R. Hudson of Middleton. The latter is the cashier of the bank. The bank is housed in its own new cement building, and is suitably equipped for the transaction of business in a modern way and for the convenience of its patrons. It has all the necessary safeguards for the conservation and safety of the people's funds. In its published statement the banking company acknowledges its responsibility for $100,000. The gentlemen constituting the company have banking institutions also in Elwell, this county, and in Butternut, Montcalm County.

## MIDDLETON HAS ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

The fact that Middleton's streets, business places and residences are lighted by electricity must be taken as pretty conclusive evidence that the people of the village are progressive and enterprising. Not all places of business and residences are so lighted, but a large proportion are, and sentiment seems to be favorable to a large extension of the service.

J. A. Garrison, an inconspicuous wagon maker with a little shop on Davis, east, is the father of the enterprise. Along in July, 1911, after studying on the matter and conferring with some of the citizens he became convinced that an electric lighting system would be patronized extensively enough to warrant its installation. So he launched the project, putting in a 12-horse power gasoline engine and a suitable dynamo in one side of his shop, strung his wires and commenced business. The project has grown in favor and in efficiency in spite of many discouragements and drawbacks till now there are more than 300 lights installed in residences and business places, and seven large street lights are in use. As the village is unincorporated all lighting of a public nature has to be paid for by private subscription or private enterprise.

As this is being written—May, 1913—it is understood that the plant and business have been purchased by Will Mertz, one of Middleton's most active and enterprising capitalists, and very naturally it is taken for granted that the lighting plant enterprise will be placed upon a permanent basis, and that it will become a much more important factor in promoting the well-being of the village and adding to its popularity as a trading point and place of residence.

## MIDDLETON NEWSPAPERS.

The Middleton News was launched in September, 1887, by Henry S. Phillips who kept it alive and continued its publication with more or less regularity till August, 1890, when the struggle was abandoned. In February, 1891, the Middleton Phoenix was started by C. Edwin Armstrong. The paper was not long lived.

The Middleton Record, the town's present up-to-date newspaper was founded in 1910 by Charles M. Newton who has remained its publisher up to the present time. Mr. Newton is a good newspaper man, and his paper is a credit to himself and the Village of Middleton; in truth it would be a credit to a town of much larger population. The citizens may well be proud of it, and in giving it encouragement and support they can make no mistake.

## M. E. CHURCH.

Middleton M. E. Church was organized in the spring of 1892, with three members—Mrs. J. F. Schultz, Alex. Cuson, Mrs. A. Cuson. Rev. A. K. Stewart, located at Perrinton, officiated for some time, services being held at first at the home of Mrs. J. F. Schultz nearly a year, afterward in the school house and later still in an empty store building. In 1895 a church building was erected at a cost of about $800. It was dedicated July 14, 1895, Rev. Wash. Gardner preaching the sermon.. Presiding Elder Geo. S. Hickey preached in the evening. The church was dedicated free from debt. It did duty till 1910, when it was removed to a new site, remodeled, enlarged and greatly improved at a cost of about $3,000. The picture gives its present fine appearance from one viewpoint. The dedication of the remodeled structure took place August 28, 1910, in presence of an audience filling the house to overflowing. Rev. W. P. French, of Lansing, and Rev. Geo. Elliott, of Detroit, had charge of the services. Judge Kelly S. Searl, of Ithaca, and Rev. Whaley, of Maple Rapids, made short and interesting addresses during the day. The last item of indebtedness was cleared up, and the house was dedicated entirely clear from debt.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The church was served in connection with the church at Perrinton until 1902 with pastors as follows:

Revs. A. K. Stewart, A. J. Steffe, H. D. Skinner, A. A. Stevens, L. B. Kenyon.

Since it has stood independently it has been served by Pastors W. W. Webster, C. T. Van Antwerp, Frank Chamberlain, O. C. Parmeter, Geo. Brown, A. E. Winn and Carl Seipp, who is the present incumbent of the position.

The membership at the present time is about 50. The Sunday School, Ladies' Aid and the Christian Endeavor Societies are all in a flourishing condition.

There are one or two other Church organizations in Middleton, all worthy of mention; and the people of the town and vicinity cannot complain of lack of example and precept calculated to guide them aright.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### I. O. O. F.

Middleton Lodge No. 420, I. O. O. F., was organized December 29, 1891, on petition of the following named persons:

Lewis Reynolds, Wm. Davis, G. P. Steadman, Albert Tuttle, L. C. Hull, H. M. Kelly, Chas. S. Keefer, H. S. Phillips.

Present officers, 1913: N. G.—John First; V. G.—Chas. Randall; P. N. G.—Marion Townsend; R. S.—Sylvester Franks; F. S.—Preston Dalgleish; Con.—E. A. Smith; Warden—Wm. Conklin; Chap.—C. A. Franks.

The lodge has a membership of 100.

### Rebeccas.

Merry Rebecca Lodge No. 201, was organized September 12, 1892, and started off with the following as the first set of officers:

N. G.—E. A. Sheller; V. G.—C. E. Freeman; R. S.—E. L. Keefer; P. S.—Lillian Davis; Treas.—C. E. Hull; D. D. G. M.—L. C. Hull; Warden—Lena Beardsley; O. G.—Sylvester Franks; I. G.—Ada Wood; Con.—C. B. Hull; Chap.—E. B. Garner; R. S. N. G.—C. E. Freeman; L. S. N. G.—A. L. Salisbury; R. S. V. G.—M. Sheller; L. S. V. G.—C. A. Perkins.

Present officers, 1913: N. G.—Ida Smith; V. G.—Ellen Randall; P. N. G.—Abbie Garrison; Chap.—Victoria First; Con.—Maggie Smith; Warden—Medina Carmel; R. S.—Golda Howell; F. S.—Marybelle Page; Treas.—Ellen Markham.

Membership, 100.

### M. W. of America.

Middleton Camp No. 5998, organized January 31, 1899, had charter members as follows:

Geo. E. Adams, Stewart D. Richey, W. W. Gould, M. C. Butler, Eddie Smith, C. A. Highfield, John W. Crismore, Wm. Crismore, C. F. O'Neill, B. J. Shong, Ransom Fraker, F. E. Rice, C. A. Schultz, John W. Garner, H. L. Rice, W. H. Wort.

Present officers, 1913: V. C.—Wm. Simmet; Advisor—H. W. Schultz; Banker—Elisha Counsellor; Clerk—H. J. Schultz.

### Maccabees.

Middleton Tent No. 807 K. O. T. M. M. was instituted November 8, 1900, with the following as the first officers:

Past Com.—C. E. Wagoner; Com.—J. N. Vorheis; Lt. Com.—Giles Isham; R. K.—E. J. Elligett; F. K.—W. S. Daniels; Chap.—W. H. McRae; Phy.—Dr. C. F. O'Neill; Ser.—C. L. Duflo; M. of A.—Wm. First; 1st M. of G.—A. H. Duflo; 2nd M. of G.—C. H. Gardner; Sent.—R. P. Reynolds; Pick.—S. P. Reichard.

The lodge has been for a while in a state of "suspended animation", and the number of live members has been reduced to about 13.

### L. O. T. M. M.

Middleton Hive No. 709, L. O. T. M. M. was chartered December 25, 1900, and had the following for its first set of officers:

Past. Com.—Hattie P. Schultz; Com.—Pauline Elligett; Lt. Com.—Mary K. Isham; R. K.—Ida Zion; F. K.—Susan Vorheis; Chap.—Sarah Cuson; Ser.—Berthena Norton; M. of A.—Carrie E. Crismore; Sent.—Dessie Reynolds.

### A. O. of Gleaners.

Middleton Arbor No. 1081, Ancient Order of Gleaners, was instituted April 11, 1906, and officers were elected as follows:

Ch. G.—Edwin A. Sprague; Vice Ch. G.—Benj. S. Pendell; Chap.—Mary L. Pendell; Sec. and Treas.—Howard Kelly; Conductor—Wm. R. Salisbury; Conductress—Mary Lindsey; I. G.—Bert R. Lindsey; O. G.—Floyd M. Kelly.

Present officers, 1913: Ch. G.—Wm. Teall; Vice Ch.—Preston Dalgleish; Chap.—Mrs. B. S. Pendell; Sec. Treas.—Henry Isham; Con.—W. R. Salisbury; Lecturer—Mrs. Preston Dalgleish. Membership, 80.

### F. & A. M.

Middleton Lodge No. 429, F. & A. M., began its existence under a special dispensation granted October 26, 1901. January 28, 1903, is the date of its charter, with the following as charter members:

E. H. Naldrett, W. H. Burrett, M. S. Howell, C. A. Isham, G. S. Naldrett, W. J. McLaren, J. S. Wright, O. A. Isham, E. P. Everest, Wm. J. Pendell, L. H. Moss, F. T. Isham, J. T. Swigart, R. T. Huyck, A. J. Wood, F. E. Durfee, Peter Shong, J. C. Buckingham, Fred Wermuth, R. R. Decker.

Present officers, 1913: W. M.—E. J. Elligett; S. W.—J. R. Hudson; J. W.—B. N. Creaser; S. D.—B. F. Gilbert; J. D.—R. A. Roberts; Sec.—C. E. Richard; Tyler—S. H. Wood.

The present membership is 75.

### Eastern Stars.

Middleton Lodge O. E. S. was instituted June 20, 1902, with a charter membership showing as follows:

E. H. Naldrett, Lena B. Naldrett, Grace E. Moss, L. H. Moss, Wm. White, Mary K. Isham, Frank T. Isham, Chas. A. Isham, Rebecca Isham, O. A. Isham, Ella Isham, Hattie Howell, M. S. Howell, Edward Elligett, Paulina Elligett, Daisy Everest, Hattie Tansley, S. H. Wood, Wilhelmina Wood, Nettie Naldrett, Wm. C. Naldrett, Lydia Naldrett, Caroline Naldrett, Geo. S. Naldrett, Kate R. Naldrett, Chas. Naldrett, John M. Bellinger, Carrie Burrett.

Present officers, 1913: W. M.—Mrs. R. C. Dodge; W. P.—E. H. Naldrett; A. M.—Mrs. Arthur Wood; Cond.—Mrs. E. H. Naldrett; A. C.—Mrs. A. L. Reynolds; Sec.—Mrs. L. H. Moss; Treas.—B. N. Creaser; Chap.—Mrs. C. A. Isham.

The lodge has a membership of 41.

## PRESENT INDUSTRIES.

The Middleton Cooperage Company, with brothers Joseph F. and Charles H. Schultz constituting the company, operates one of the important institutions of Middleton and vicinity. For the past 24 years it has been manufacturing staves, heading and barrels, and is still on the job. Joseph F. is the resident manager, and the institution gives employment to about 25 men. Nearly all kinds of timber are utilized in the business. In earlier days as many as 20,000 tight barrels were made and sold yearly. The works are located on Davis Street, east, and cover several acres of ground.

The Middleton Cheese Factory is now owned and operated by the George S. Hart Co. of New York. H. P. Fitz Patrick, the former owner, is the present manager. The factory has been in operation about 12 years. The output, which ranks high in popularity, finds a ready market in Michigan, but quite a large proportion is sold in the South. On Davis Street, east.

The Middleton House, a brick hotel located on Newton Avenue, north, is conducted by J. H. Fockler, ably assisted by Mrs. Fockler. They have been at the helm about two years, succeeding H. P. Fitz Patrick, who succeeded Fred L. Baker. Rates are $1.50 to $2.00. The hotel building is owned by Will Mertz.

The Middleton elevator is owned and operated by the Rockafellow Grain Co., of Carson City, Mich. B. J. Shong is manager of the institution, a position held by him for 12 years. They handle extensively grain, seeds, beans, wool, hay, lumber and building material generally.

The Gleaner-Farmers' elevator has been in operation something over a year, and seems to be firmly established, with Fred Gruler, an experienced elevator man, as manager.

J. B. Resseguie, general merchandiser, was the first dealer on the ground, moving his business from Fulton Center in the spring of 1887. He owns his double brick store, a fine residence a block away, and is interested in various enterprises in the town. East side Newton Avenue, south, corner of Oak Street.

Martin Bros.—John W. and Webster F.—general hardware, farming implements, etc. In business here seven years, owning their buildings; west side Newton Avenue.

B. N. Creaser, dealer in general merchandise—dry goods, groceries, shoes, sundries. Thirteen years in the business and owns his two-story brick building. Masonic hall in second story. West side Newton Avenue.

D. E. Brackett, groceries, crockery and bazaar goods, east side Newton Avenue, corner of Davis Street. Commenced business about May 1, '13, succeeding Dwight Marsh. Does business in his own building.

Edward J. Elligett, bakery and restaurant. In the business here six years, in his own building east side of Newton Avenue.

L. H. Moss deals in drugs, medicines, wall paper, school supplies, sundries. Moved a stock of goods from St. Johns 17 years ago. In his own building, west side of Newton Avenue.

Roy C. Dodge, furniture dealer and funeral director. Located in his own brick block, west side of Newton Avenue.

Mrs. R. C. Dodge deals in millinery, west side Newton Avenue, corner of Oak Street.

Middleton's jewelry trade is looked after by A. L. Blair, who has been in the business 10 years, owns his place of business and has the Bell telephone exchange. West side Newton Avenue.

The Middleton Hardware Co., G. A. Giles manager, succeeded Crismore & Kuster early in April of this year.

Will Mertz is proprietor of an auto garage and repair shop on west side of Newton Avenue, north. The building is a two-story, cement block structure, 45 by 100 feet in size, and built in 1912. The upper story is devoted to the purposes of a public hall, skating rink, etc.

The Middleton Feed Barn has Will Mertz as proprietor and was built in 1910. It is 62 by 90 feet in size. Livery in connection. Auxiliary and adjacent to this building Mr. Mertz has a blacksmith shop, presided over by S. A. First, iron-working artist.

Richard Bros.—C. E. and Verne—operate a three-chair barber shop in B. N. Creaser's building, west side Newton Avenue. Four years here, successors to Loren Wilcox.

M. E. Wiseman's market supplies the Middletonians with their meat rations. West side Newton Avenue.

Eber Cowles, general blacksmith and wood-worker. In the business 25 years, "off and on."

Bert Gilbert, harnessmaker and dealer in horse furnishings. Successor to F. E. Ennis; west side Newton Avenue, south.

Henry E. Wille is the talented agent for the T. S. & M. Railroad. Also agent for the National Express Co.

The Carson City Produce Co. has a branch station here with H. J. Wilson as manager. East side Newton Avenue, corner of Davis Street.

C. B. Case does general blacksmithing; horse shoeing a specialty. East side Newton Avenue, south.

Dr. C. F. O'Neill has an office in his fine, new brick block. Middleton's physician for many years, with an enviable record in his chosen profession.

Dr. Denney, practicing here about a year, is taking rank as a popular and successful physician.

# VILLAGE OF NORTH STAR.

## Something of Its Local Institutions.

North Star Village is located at the exact center of North Star Township. On account of such location it is not an uncommon thing to hear it called North Star Center. It is three miles south and three miles east of Ithaca, and is a live and wide-awake station on the Ann Arbor Railroad. The station was first called Douglas, but was changed to North Star on the removal of North Star postoffice to that location in June, 1885. The village is in the midst of an excellent farming section; in fact the township is one of the best, agriculturally, in the county. The village contains its share of the best people of the county; a statement constituting ample praise for any community.



CENTER STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

North Star was platted by Surveyor T. H. Harrod for James Anderson, Marshall A. Coss and Marshall Iles, December 13, 1884, the winter following the advent of the Ann Arbor Railroad into the county, and the establishment of a station at that place. The plat takes in territory on the four sections, 15, 16, 21 and 22.

### POSTOFFICE MATTERS.

North Star postoffice was first located toward the northeast corner of North Star Township, James M. Luther being the first postmaster, appointed October 20, 1857. He seems to have held the office for 17 years, for the next appointment was that of Hiram Brady, October 1, 1874. The office was discontinued October 16, 1874, and re-established October 28, 1874, with Charles E. McBride as postmaster. The next incumbent was John Q. Adams, appointed February 6, 1885, and the office was moved to its present location, the center of the township, and at the railroad station established in 1884. Following Mr. Adams came Edward L. Kimes, October 29, 1885; Stephen K. Johnson, Jr., April 26, 1889; William H. Curtis, December 27, 1890; Alvin D. Clark, May 12, 1892; Albert W. Bahlke, November 7, 1893; William

Carmel, March 31, 1894; Alvin D. Clark, November 11, 1897; Herbert S. Brown, October 19, 1903; Daniel T. Altenburg, September 22, 1907; Vernon C. Eyer, June 16, 1911.

There are three rural routes running out from North Star. No. 1 is served by W. E. Lehner; No. 2, by R. C. Palmer; No. 3, by C. M. Kleckner.

## NORTH STAR SCHOOLS.

A Special Act of the Legislature of 1897 gave North Star its graded school system. The school building erected at that time was destroyed by fire, August, 1909. Another was built the same fall at a cost of $1,500. The school is divided into two departments, and ten grades are taught. The enrollment is about 90.

The interests of the school are well looked after by a board of education, at the present time composed of Jacob Shupe, D. C. Whitmore, Simon S. Munson, Alfred Brown, Roy Wolf. S. S. Munson is president, Roy Wolf is secretary and Jacob Shupe is treasurer.

Teachers for 1913-14 are as follows: J. Vinton Gibson, principal; Lola M. Orser, primary.

## NORTH STAR CHURCHES.

### U. B. Church.

The United Brethren Church is one of the strongest religious organizations in North Star, the present membership being about 50. The society was organized as the "Bethel Class" in 1886 by Rev. E. B. Miller. About eight members constituted the original class: W. H. Kleckner and wife, Hiram Barstow and wife, Gerry Peabody and wife, Thornton Shrodes and wife.



UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

Services were first held in the town house, later in the school house. In 1891 the present brick church building was erected; a very creditable building for a town of moderate size, as the half-tone illustration shows.

The following is believed to be a complete list of pastors to the present time: E. B. Miller, Dan. C. Fleming, Rev. Watson, J. S. Beers, Chas. Parmeter, Rev. Gebhart, Rev. Schlappi, Rev. Porterfield, Mrs. Hinman, Jesse Harwood, J. C. Clark, A. E. Ritter and A. B. Bowman; the latter officiating at the present time.

### M. E. Church.

The M. E. Church in North Star Village had its start along in 1891, when a Ladies' Aid Society was formed, composed of members of that denomination and others. Those active in the formation of the society were Mrs. A. D. Clark, Mrs. S. L. Litle, Mrs. Geo. Smith, Mrs. Ida Carmel, Mrs. A. W. Bahlke. Previous to this, M. E. services had been held in school houses in different parts of the township, in fact the first class organized in the county was formed in the southern part of the township, by Elder Elias Sower away back in the '50s, and a little later another was formed in the northeast part of the township by the same pioneer preacher.

Rev. Geo. Killeen stationed at Ithaca was instrumental in the organization of the class at North Star Village, with the Ladies' Aid Society mentioned as a nucleus for the Church Society. Mr. Killeen also undertook to engineer the erection of a church building and in November, 1897, the cornerstone was laid for the present edifice of the society. The building was dedicated March 1, 1898.

Church services were conducted by the ministers stationed at Ithaca until 1906 when the charge was connected with that at Ashley, with the latter as head of the circuit, with Rev. Frank E. Chamberlain as pastor. In 1909 the charges were reorganized and North Star became the principal point in a circuit that takes in the Church at Beebe, and one formed in Newark, with services at the Newark Grange Hall. Rev. Carl Seipp is pastor and resides at North Star. He succeeds Rev. F. E. Chamberlain who was pastor three years. All three charges are enjoying a healthy growth. The membership at North Star has more than doubled in three years; that at Beebe shows a good percentage of increase, and that at Newark has doubled within the past two years.

The prosperity of the charges, and the increase in membership is also having a gratifying influence and effect upon the emoluments of the hard-working pastor, the cash salary now reaching the goodly sum of $925 a year, with the use of a fine parsonage thrown in. All of which favorable features of the situation it is a pleasurable task to record.

### Other Churches.

At one time quite a flourishing Baptist society existed in North Star, but it has gone into retirement, probably owing to the fact that a small town finds it difficult to support so large a number of churches. They had a good little church building, but recently it has been sold and transformed into dwelling apartments.

A Free Methodist Church also was a North Star institution of considerable importance, but in recent years there has been but little doing, and it is only occasionally that services are now held.

## BANK OF NORTH STAR.

F. N. Selby, banker, embarked in the banking business in North Star in 1907. He had previously conducted banking institutions in both Clio and Montrose, Genesee County. The bank was originally located in the post-office block, but in the fall of 1911 Mr. Selby erected a fine brick bank building on Main Street, which he has occupied since early spring, 1912. A one-story structure, finely finished, and with a tasty front of modern design.

The inside finish is of oak, beautifully polished. The arrangement of the rooms is such as to secure convenience and adaptability to the business. One of the principal accessories to the banking business—the vault, is of the burglar-proof class, with time-lock safe, and with a chest of safety deposit boxes for rent.

The responsibility of the bank is placed at $25,000. The institution has proved one of great convenience to the people of North Star and vicinity, and it has constantly grown in strength and in the favor of the people since it was first established.

It may not be inappropriate to remark in this connection that the addition of Mr. Selby to the permanent citizenship of the town is regarded with much satisfaction by the entire community, and he enjoys the confidence and respect of all in an unusual degree.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Mahar Tent No. 640 was organized March 17, 1892, the original charter bearing date of April 2, 1892. Following are the names of the first officers of the order: Past Com.—Jesse A. Pettit; Com.—Wm. H. Curtis; Lt. Com.—Wilbur H. McBride; R. K.—Wm. Carmel; F. K.—Anson Shaull; Prel.—Wm. Dillon; Phy.—Benj. H. Gardner; Serg.—Edward Swift; M. of A.—Geo. W. Elco; 1st M. of G.—Geo. H. Turner; 2nd M. of G.—C. E. Wilkinson; Sent.—Geo. W. Potter; Pick.—Henry Lott.

The order numbers about 40 members and is in a fairly flourishing condition. Its Commanders to the present time have been—Jesse A. Pettit, Wm. H. Curtis, W. F. Clapp, Anson Shaull, Jesse Parling, C. A. Crane.

### L. O. T. M. M.

North Star Hive No. 630, L. O. T. M. M., was chartered March 31, 1896, and organized with first officers as follows: Past Com.—Jennie Bovie; Com.—Rena McBride; Lt. Com.—Elsie Clapp; R. K.—Mae Frise; F. K.—Mary Parling; Chap.—Ida La Rue; Serg.—Sarah Heslin; M. of A.—Jennie Gwinner; Sent.—Mary Zoss; Pick.—Ida Kline.

The list of Lady Commanders since the organization of the Hive is as follows: Rena McBride, four years; Jennie Bovie; Bessie Carter, four years; Mary Parling; Nettie Losey; Mary Dillon, three years.

The Hive has about 20 members.

### F. & A. M.

Gratiot Lodge No. 459 organized under a special dispensation granted October, 1909, with charter members as follows: Leland H. Russell, Fred N. Selby, W. H. McBride, John Parker, L. M. Hicks, D. T. Altenburg, Chas. J. Tabor, Robert R. Crandell, Elbridge Franklin, Chas. E. McBride. Dispensation officers were elected as follows: W. M.—L. H. Russell, Sen. W.—Fred

N. Selby; Jun. W.—W. H. McBride; Sen. D.—F. E. Chamberlain; Jun. D.—John Parker; Sec.—D. T. Altenburg; Treas.—L. M. Hicks; Stewards—R. R. Crandell, L. M. Hicks; Tyler—L. C. Clark.

The charter bears date of May 25, 1910, and officers were elected as follows: W. M.—Fred N. Selby; S. W.—W. H. Bovee; J. W.—W. H. McBride; S. D.—F. E. Chamberlain; J. D.—C. Peterson; Sec.—R. C. Palmer; Treas.—L. M. Hicks; Stewards—R. R. Crandell, Geo. Reed; Tyler—L. C. Clark.

Present officers: W. M.—W. H. Bovee; S. W.—C. A. Crane; J. W.—R. C. Palmer; Treas.—R. R. Crandell; Sec.—J. V. Gibson; S. D.—Warren Mellinger; J. D.—V. C. Eyer; Tyler—Henry Kennett; Stewards—Wm. F. Odell, Willis Maxwell; Trustees—R. R. Crandell, R. C. Palmer, L. M. Hicks. Membership, 35.

## I. O. O. F.

Heath Lodge No. 222 was organized December 17, 1885, with charter members as follows: Wm. H. Heath, Henry Mason, Edward L. Kimes, Alex. McDaid, Moses Johnson, Jackson M. Williams.

The order is in a flourishing condition with a membership of 87. It owns a two-story brick block, with two business fronts, one used as a store, the other as an opera house. It is well located on the main street of the village.

The list of N. G.s to the present time is as follows: E. L. Kimes, Henry Mason, Alex. McDaid, Moses Johnson, J. D. Peacemaker, John Swartzmiller, David Hull, S. K. Johnson, F. L. Coss, A. W. Bahlke, Wm. Zoss, Abram Signs, E. R. Crandall, N. Azelborn, J. S. Bard, L. C. Clark, V. D. Palmer, Ira Signs, D. C. Stockwell, D. J. Wilkinson, Wm. Hull, H. T. Sage, Jas. Alldaffer, I. C. Hawley, Geo. Turner, N. Merten, David Hull, E. J. Smith, H. Perdue, L. C. Clark, Geo. Goodhall, Maurice Avery, W. E. Robertson, W. H. McBride, Geo. P. Robertson, David Bovie, Jesse Parling, Andrew Azelborn, C. A. Crane, Jas. Greenlee, A. D. Clark, Geo. Kesling, S. G. Losey, Ed. Unger, Wm. Carothers, Arlie Azelborn, Chauncey Williams, Thos. Parling, Alex. Cassady, J. R. Allan, S. Sieber, Floyd Turner.

### Rebeccas.

Chulah Lodge No. 38 was organized March 7, 1893, with the following list of charter members: Mrs. N. L. Azelborn, Mrs. Sarah Williams, Mrs. L. C. Clark, Minnie Clark; Bros. Nicholas Azelborn, Jackson M. Williams, L. C. Clark.

The membership is over 100.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The North Star elevator is owned and operated by the Ithaca Roller Mills Co., and has Henry Kennett as resident manager. They deal in all kinds of grain, also coal, cement, wool, and all kinds of building material.

The interests of the Alma Sugar Factory are looked after by Bert Bangs; Mr. Johnson, of Ithaca, is head man for the St. Louis factory, and Robert R. Crandell, North Star, is manager for the Owosso factory.

W. F. Clapp, general hardware dealer; also handles agricultural implements, vehicles, etc. Twenty years in the business, successor to A. W. Bahlke. Owns his extensive buildings, west side Center Street.

Homer H. Snider, general merchandise dealer—dry goods, groceries, shoes, crockery. Ten years in the business, successor to Clark & Hawley. In his own two-story brick, east side Center Street.

V. C. Eyer, drugs, medicines, wall paper, sundries. Two years in business here, successor to D. T. Altenburg, in the latter's two-story brick building, east side Center Street. Is also postmaster since July, 1911. Has Union Telephone exchange.

L. M. Hicks, general merchandise, east side Center, in Odd Fellows' brick block. Five years in business here, successor to A. J. Azelborn.

The North Star Hotel, now and for seven years conducted by Frank Waters. Rates, $2.00.

A furniture store, west side Center Street, is operated off and on, now owned by E. C. Crandell, of Alma.

A. M. Doyle operates a meat market in the building owned by Shaull & Peacemaker, east of the town hall.

Otto Adamek, blacksmith and wood-worker, successor to W. E. Cole. Has a planer and other facilities in connection.

S. G. Losey is successor to E. C. Crandell in the harness and horse-furnishing business. He owns his place of business, west side Center Street.

C. E. Austin and G. G. Bowman started a garage and automobile repair shop, March 1, 1913; west side Center Street, north.

S. J. English operates a barber shop in Mrs. Rosalie Adamek's building, west side Center Street, south.

A popular restaurant was opened about the first of the present year by J. B. Aldrich, in Mrs. Adamek's building, Center Street, south.

Dr. C. A. Crane, resident physician for many years, skillfully treats all human, physical ills. Residence and office north side Third Street, east.

Ira D. Sperbeck is station agent for the Ann Arbor R. R., and is also express agent—Wells-Fargo Express.

Dr. Pankhurst, physician and surgeon, has practiced here about a year. Office east side Center Street, south.

The North Star tile works are now owned and operated by Chas. Lee. The works were started by Geo. Smith; afterward operated by Smith & Bryant; later by Hoffman Bros.; still later by Botroff & Snyder, who sold to Mr. Lee.

# VILLAGE OF PERRINTON.

## Early History and Present Institutions.

The Village of Perrinton dates its existence from the year 1886, and owes its existence largely to the fact that the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad was built through the township of Fulton, and that railroad companies require stations for the accommodation and convenience of their patrons and themselves. The land on which the village is located was owned by Alvin Hodges, A. N. Arnold and Oscar F. Baker. When the building of a railroad became a certainty, Ansel H. Phinney, who had been one of the founders of the Village of Ashley, saw a chance for a further outlay of energy along that line, and straightway proceeded to purchase land and, with others, plat a village. The projected village was named "Perrin", in honor of a prominent firm of lawyers of St. Johns, who had large landed interests in Fulton Township. Later the name was changed to "Perrinton" for the reason that there was already a postoffice in Michigan named Perrin.



ROBISON STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

The original plat of Perrinton was made by Ansel H. Phinney and Warren W. Baker, March 30, 1887. It contained about 50 acres lying on both sides of the line between sections 8 and 9, Fulton Township. What was called the Fulton addition was platted and dedicated February 24, 1890, by Ansel H. Phinney. This is located on the south and west of the original plat and contains between 25 and 30 acres. Thomas W. Sines was the civil engineer employed. Robison Avenue is the principal business street.

Perrinton is located in the midst of an excellent farming country; no better anywhere in Gratiot County; or not much better, to speak safely. And that fact is an added reason for the existence of the town. As a market town for the disposal of all the varied products of the farm there are none better. And as a trading point it is conceded that Perrinton is up to the standard, with dealers and stocks to satisfy all demands of a discriminating public.

The village has electric lights, with a complement of 25 street lights, and has many other conveniences and luxuries not mentioned in this connection.

The village is fairly supplied with religious societies. Statistics covering the details are somewhat meager in this connecton. But Perrinton is a peaceable, law-abiding town, and a guess that the churches are doing their full duty and are amply sufficient in numbers and influence for the work, will not be far out of the way. Rev. John G. Biery is present pastor of the M. E. Church, officiating also at Pompeii and Fulton Center.

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS.

Perrinton's first village election was held June 8, 1891. The election board consisted of A. Pettit, Jas. A. Cassada and David H. Meeker. There were 117 votes cast, resulting in the choice of the following officers:

**June 8, 1891:** Pres.—David H. Brown; Trustees, 2 years—Virgil A. Bovee, Wm. E. Bigwood, Wm. Brown; 1 year—Wm. Peterson, Howard L. Feek, Emery V. Dean; Clk.—Edwin W. Baker; Treas.—Joseph G. Pettibone; Ass'r—Robert W. Coleman; St. Com.—Martin V. Allen; Const.—Elmer J. Pruden. Ap.: Mar.—Chas. Lever.

Oct. 6, '91, Clerk Baker resigned and Geo. W. Groom was appointed to the vacancy.

Oct. 30, '91, the board engaged John T. Mathews, of Ithaca, as village attorney, his compensation to be $30 a year.

Feb. 9, '92, Wm. Brown resigned as trustee and the board appointed Jas. Merical in his place.

**March, 1892:** Pres.—J. G. Pettibone; Trustees—D. M. Brown, T. C. McFadden, Wm. Peterson; Clk.—G. W. Groom; Treas.—J. W. Creager; Ass'r—C. W. Hale; St. C.—A. H. Stuart.

April 26, '92, the board appointed Chas. E. Lever, marshal; R. W. Coleman, H. O. G. W. Groom resigned as clerk, and M. P. Montgomery was appointed. A. H. Stuart resigned as street com. and H. D. Curtis was appointed.

September 24, '92, the trusteeship of W. E. Bigwood was declared vacant and J. W. Sickels was given the position.

Oct. 25, '92, the office of treasurer was declared vacant by reason of the decease of J. W. Creager, and Frank E. Durfee was given the appointment.

Feb. 16, '93, Frank O. Bennett was given the position of marshal, vice Lever, resigned.

**1893:** Pres.—Benj. F. Owen; Trustees—Jas. A. Cassada, Robert M. Logan, Emery V. Dean; Clk.—John L. Richard; Treas.—F. E. Durfee; Ass'r—Isaac N. Terpening; St. C.—John Beckwith; Const.—Elmer E. Cassada.

Ap.: Mar.—F. O. Bennett; H. O.—Dr. Wade.

A special election was held Nov. 20, '93, to vote on the question of bonding for $4,000 for the establishment of water works. Yes, 44; no, 31.

**1894:** Pres.—F. E. Durfee; Trustee—Jas. E. Henning, Avery B. Batchelor, Robert Blantern; vacancy, Andrew Kirk; Clk.—J. L. Richard; Treas.—Virgil A. Bovee; Ass'r—I. N. Terpening; St. C.—John H. Orcutt; Const.—F. O. Bennett.

Ap.: Mar.—Jas. A. Cassada; H. O.—D. H. Meeker.

May 28, '94, Dr. G. B. Wade was appointed H. O.

Sept. 10, '94, Joseph Sidel was appointed St. C. vice Orcutt, removed from town.

Dec. 26, '94, Elmer Pruden was appointed St. Co. vice Sidel, resigned.

**1895:** Pres.—John L. Richard; Trustees—Andrew Kirk, Addis C. Gillett, Clark E. Burchard; 1 yr.—Ammon Stone; Clk.—Thad. C. Chidester; Treas.—V. A. Bovee; Ass'r Frank E. Stroup.

Ap.: Mar.—Washington Smith; St. C.—E. Pruden.

March 25, '95, Geo. W. Groom was appointed trustee vice A. Stone, and F. E. Durfee treasurer vice V. A. Bovee.

**1896:** Pres.—I. N. Terpening; Trustees—Frank Clark, Henry Clark, Wm. Price; Clk.—T. C. Chidester; Treas.—F. E. Durfee; Ass'r—L. E. Woodruff.

Ap.: Mar.—Washington Smith; St. C.—Geo. W. Groom.

**1897:** Pres.—Chas. H. Schultz; Trustees—Oscar F. Baker, Ammon Stone, John Wallace; Clk.—Ernest E. Burchard; Treas.—Henry H. Spaulding; Ass'r—L. E. Woodruff.

March 22, '97, Albert H. Stuart was appointed trustee vice A. Stone, and John Beckwith vice Harry Clark, both resigned. Geo. Adams was appointed president vice Schultz, who failed to qualify. Adams declined, and then I. N. Terpening was appointed. Dr. G. B. Wade was appointed H. O. at $3.00 per year. John Hook, St. C.; Ivan McKeeby, marshal.

June 14, '97, O. F. Baker resigned as trustee and Chauncey Sheller was appointed. Dr. G. B. Wade was appointed trustee vice John Beckwith, resigned. E. E. Burchard resigned as clerk and C. H. Schultz was appointed. Sept. 20, T. C. Chidester was appointed trustee vice A. H. Stuart, resigned.

**1898:** Pres.—C. H. Schultz; Trustees—H. H. Spaulding, Wm. H. Nelson, F. R. McKibben; Clk.—F. L. Longwood; Treas.—I. N. Terpening; Ass'r—F. E. Durfee.

March 24, '98, Jas. A. Cassada was made marshal and St. C.; Thos. Elligett and T. C. Chidester trustees to fill vacancies; J. G. Carnes, trustee, vice Nelson; C. Sheller, trustee, vice Baker.

**1899:** Pres.—J. L. Richard; Trustees—J. G. Carnes, J. Guyton, J. Guyn; Clk.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—Geo. E. Adams.

Ap.: Mar.—J. Price; St. Com.—J. E. Graham; H. O.—E. C. Vandecar.

**1900:** Pres.—J. L. Richard; Trustees—J. J. Myers, G. W. Groom, E. V. Dean; Clk.—Chas. Dodge; Treas.—Wm. P. Packard; Ass'r—F. E. Durfee.

**1901:** Pres.—Jas. A. Cassada; Trustees—Geo. W. Groom, E. Arnold, P. Hoffman; Clk.—C. Burchard; Treas.—W. P. Packard; Ass'r—Frank T. Prince.

Ap.: Mar. and St. C.—Thos. Holland; H. O.—John Howe. H. H. Spaulding was appointed trustee vice Geo. W. Groom, resigned.

**1902:** Pres.—Chas. F. Hardy; Trustees—H. H. Spaulding, Jeremiah McPherson, Chas. E. Herrick; Clk.—E. E. Cassada; Treas.—Isaiah B. Kinney; Ass'r—Frank T. Prince.

Ap.: Mar.—Wm. Huffman; St. C.—Jas. Cushman.

June 16, '02, Geo. W. Groom was appointed St. C. to fill vacancy. Nov. 10, F. T. Prince was appointed marshal vice Wm. Huffman.

**1903:** Pres.—F. E. Durfee; Trustees—E. M. Arnold, Clark Burchard, Clarence F. Schultz; Clk.—E. E. Burchard; Treas.—I. B. Kinney; Ass'r—F. T. Prince.

Ap.: Mar.—G. W. Groom; H. O.—Dr. Kilbourn.

**1904:** Pres.—John U. Howe; Trustees—Robert S. Cushman, Elmer Davis, Chas. Jackson; Clk.—Arthur J. Preston; Treas.—J. L. Richard; Ass'r—F. T. Prince.

April 4, '04, Warren Leddick was appointed marshal and street commissioner. Sept. 12, Thos. Holland was appointed marshal and street commissioner vice Leddick, resigned.

**1905:** Pres.—F. T. Prince; Trustees—Lewis H. Richards, Rudolph Luscher, Ammon Stone; Clk.—A. J. Preston; Treas.—Vern Baker; Ass'r—Chas. W. Kinney.

March 20, '05, Monroe Sheller was appointed trustee vice Cushman, resigned. Thos. Holland was appointed marshal and street commissioner. H. O.—A. J. Preston.

Aug. 21, '05, Ed. Winans was appointed street commissioner to fill vacancy, and W. S. Wilson was appointed to fill a vacancy as marshal.

Nov. 27, W. S. Wilson resigned as marshal and Ed. Winans was appointed.

**1906:** Pres.—Wm. H. Davis; Trustees—Chas. H. Schultz, I. B. Kinney, J. G. Carnes; Clk.—Warren Norton; Treas.—Frank Otto; Ass'r—Wm. H. McRae.

Ap.: Mar.—Wm. Wilson; H. O.—R. Luscher.

**1907:** Pres.—Lewis H. Richards; Trustees—Ernest E. Holton, Ammon Stone, Michael E. Sheridan; Clk.—Ernest C. Arnold; Treas.—Monroe Sheller; Ass'r—Elmer Davis.

Ap.: Mar. and St. C.—Ed. Winans; H. O.—R. Luscher.

April 8, '07, Ed. Winans, failing to qualify as marshal, W. Wilson was appointed. July 22, the office of marshal was declared vacant and Geo. A. Harris was appointed.

**1908:** Pres.—Lewis H. Richards; Trustees—Geo. A. Harris, Chas. E. Herrick, John S. Baker; Clk.—Warren Norton; Treas.—Monroe Sheller; Ass'r—Elmer Davis.

Ap.: Mar.—Lee Whiting; St. C.—Ed. Winans; H. O.—L. S. Harris.

**1909:** Pres.—J. G. Carnes; Trustees—Frank M. Brewbaker, Andrew I. Kinney, Wm. H. McRae; Clk.—W. Norton; Treas.—G. W. Groom; Ass'r—Clyde E. Cushman.

Ap.: Mar. and St. C.—W. H. Richards; H. O.—L. S. Harris.

June 14, '09, Wm. H. Davis was appointed treasurer vice Groom, resigned.

**1910:** Pres.—Lewis H. Richards; Trustees—I. B. Kinney, Ernest E. Holton, Thos. B. Musser; Clk.—Ernest C. Arnold; Treas.—W. H. Davis; Ass'r—L. S. Harris.

Ap.: Mar. and St. Com.—Ernest C. Arnold; H. O.—Geo. A. Harris.

**1911:** Pres.—Lewis H. Richards; Trustees—A. Stone, Lee Whiting, M. E. Sheridan; Clk.—Geo. A. Harris; Treas.—W. H. Davis; Ass'r—Clyde E. Cushman.

Ap.: Mar.—G. A. Harris; St. Com.—Andrew I. Kinney; H. O.—W. H. McRae; Pres. pro tem—I. B. Kinney.

**1912:** Pres.—L. H. Richards; Clk.—Geo. A. Harris; Treas.—Isaiah B. Kinney; Trustees—Andrew I. Kinney, Howard Wood, Wm. H. McRae; one year, Jonas G. Carnes; Ass'r—E. C. Arnold.

Ap.: Pres. pro tem—W. H. McRae; Mar.—G. A. Harris; St. Com.—C. E. Herrick; H. O.—Lee Whiting.

**1913:** Pres.—John Buttolph; Clk.—Arthur Stead; Treas.—I. B. Kinney; Ass'r—Clyde E. Cushman; Trustees—M. E. Sheridan, Henry Spaulding, Geo. S. Otto.

Ap.: Mar.—Howard Wood; St. Com.—Arthur Stead; H. O.—Ammon Stone.

## VILLAGE OFFICERS.

### Presidents.

David M. Brown, 1891.
J. G. Pettibone, 1892.
Benj. F. Owen, 1893.
Frank E. Durfee, 1894, '03.
John L. Richard, 1895, '99, '00.
Isaac N. Terpening, 1896; ap. '97.
Chas. H. Shultz, 1898.
Jas. A. Cassada, 1901.
Chas. F. Hardy, 1902.
John U. Howe, 1904.
F. T. Prince, 1905.
Wm. H. Davis, 1906.
Lewis H. Richards, 1907, '08, '10, '11, '12.
J. G. Carnes, 1909.
John Buttolph, 1913.

### Clerks.

Edwin W. Baker, 1891.
Geo. W. Groom, ap. Oct. 6, '91; '92.
M. P. Montgomery, ap. April 26, '92.
John L. Richard, 1893, '94.
Thad. C. Chidester, 1895, '96.
Ernest E. Burchard, 1897, '03.
C. H. Schultz, ap. June, '97.
F. L. Longwood, 1898.
Chas. Dodge, 1899, '00.
C. Burchard, 1901.
E. E. Cassada, 1902.
Arthur J. Preston, 1904, '05.
Warren Norton, 1906, '08, '09.
Ernest C. Arnold, 1907, '10.
Geo. A. Harris, 1911, '12.
Arthur Stead, 1913.

### Treasurers.

Joseph G. Pettibone, 1891.
J. W. Creager, 1892.
Frank E. Durfee, ap. Oct. 25, '92; '93, '96.
Virgil A. Bovee, 1894, '95.
Henry H. Spaulding, 1897.
Isaac N. Terpening, 1898.
Geo. E. Adams, 1899.
Wm. P. Packard, 1900, '01.
Isaiah B. Kinney, 1902, '03, '12, '13.
J. L. Richard, 1904.
Vern Baker, 1905.
Frank Otto, 1906.
Monroe Sheller, 1908.
Geo. W. Groom, 1907.
Wm. H. Davis, ap. June 14, '09; '10, '11.

### Assessors.

Robert W. Coleman, 1891.
C. W. Hale, 1892.
I. N. Terpening, 1893, '94.
Frank E. Stroup, 1895.
L. E. Woodruff, 1896, '97.
F. E. Durfee, 1898, '00.
Frank T. Prince, 1901, '02, '03, '04.
Chas. Wesley Kinney, 1905.
Wm. H. McRae, 1906.
Elmer Davis, 1907, '08.
Clyde E. Cushman, 1909, '11, '13.
L. S. Harris, 1910.
Ernest C. Arnold, 1912.

### Marshals.

Chas. Lever, 1891, '92.
Frank O. Bennett, ap. Feb. 16, '93; '93.
Jas. A. Cassada, 1894, '98.
Wash. Smith, 1895, '96.
Ivan McKeeby, 1897.
Thos. Holland, 1901, ap. Sept. 12, '04; '05.
Wm. Huffman, 1902.
Geo. W. Groom, 1903.
Warren Leddick, 1904.
W. S. Wilson, ap. Aug. 21, '05; '06.
Ed. Winans, ap. Nov. 27, 05.
Geo. A. Harris, ap. July 22, '07; '11, '12.
Lee Whiting, 1908.
W. H. Richards, 1909.
Ernest C. Arnold, 1910.
Howard Wood, 1913.

## McRAE.

William H. McRae, a leading merchant of Perrinton, and one of the best-known citizens of southern Gratiot, was born in Quebec, Canada, February 27, 1866. His father, W. H. McRae, and his mother, Isabella McRae, were natives of Scotland. The father died while William H. was young, and the mother was afterward married to N. S. Coleman, who still survives, living at the home of our subject at Perrinton. The mother died at North Star in the year 1894.

Mr. McRae moved to Gratiot with his parents in 1878, settling in Newark where they remained ten years and then removed to North Star Township, where, as in Newark, he was engaged in farming for about ten years, after which—in 1898—he removed to North Star Village. In 1899 he removed to Newark, and conducted the "Newark store" for J. A. Pettit & Co., till the spring of 1900, when he went, for the same firm, to the Brice store in North Shade. After nine months he removed to Perrinton and a few months later to Middleton, entering the employ of J. B. Resseguie as salesman. After one year he went as clerk to the store of J. J. Myers at Perrinton, where he stayed about four years.

In 1908 Mr. McRae started in business at Perrinton on his own account, with a stock of groceries and a bakery; is still in the business and is meeting with very gratifying success.

Mr. McRae was married at Ithaca, November 18, 1888, to Arvilla E. Mikesell, of Washington Township. She was born October 26, 1870, in Washington Township, daughter of James and Emeline (Hurd) Mikesell, the former born in Ohio, the latter born in New York State; married in 1864. Their children were Edgar, Philo, Arvilla, Effie, Hattie, Ruth and Lelia.

To Mr. and Mrs. McRae three children have been born—Minden D., born December 5, 1890, died March 20, 1891; Harvey, born August 3, 1900; Celia, born October 17, 1905.

Mr. McRae is a member of the I. O. O. F., a Past N. G., and is now a District Deputy for Perrinton. He served as township clerk of Fulton two years, as village assessor and is now serving his second term as village councilman. He is also a member of the school board. Mrs. McRae is a Royal Neighbor, a Rebecca and a worker in the Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. Church.

## KINNEY.

Isaiah Bing Kinney, commonly known as Bing, a leading merchant of the Village of Perrinton, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kinney whose biographical sketch appears elsewhere. He was born in Newark Township, December 18, 1864, and resided there with his parents until the spring of 1890. At the age of ten years he moved with his parents into the woods known as the "Elm Swamp," where he spent his boyhood days, enjoying only the advantages which usually go with pioneer life, attending school during the winter months and helping clear up the forest during the balance of the year, consequently securing only a common school education.

In March, 1891, Mr. Kinney was married to Miss Clara DeBar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. DeBar, of Arcada Township, and moved the same spring to a wild forty on section 34, Arcada, which he soon transformed into a productive and profitable little farm, working in Ithaca and as section hand on the railroad at Perrinton part of the time in order to get the necessities of life while clearing and improving the farm.

In November, 1900, he moved to Perrinton, where he engaged in the grocery business. Starting in with less than $300, he has built up a large and profitable trade, till at this time he is conducting the largest general store in Perrinton. He ascribes a large part of his success to his faithful wife, who has worked hand in hand with him, both on the farm and in the store. They are inseparable companions. Two children have been born to them to brighten their lives—James Howard, who preceded them to the Great Beyond in 1893, and Charles Bryan, now a bright boy of 15 years, and the pride of their lives.

Mr. Kinney has held all the various village offices, also that of township treasurer and many other positions of trust. He is a member of the Maccabees and I. O. O. F. lodges, in both of which he has held positions of trust. Is a member of the M. E. Church and has been superintendent of the Sunday school for a number of years. Brought up amid the privations and hardships incident to life in a new country, he is now in a position to fully appreciate the blessings which the county now enjoys, and to very properly indulge the feeling that he has contributed his share of hard work, of trial and privation to make it what it now is, one of the best and most prosperous agricultural counties in the state.

## POSTMASTERS.

Perrinton's first postmaster was Thompson Kirby, appointed March 9, 1887; following were—Thaddeus C. Chidester, April 1, 1889; Lester E. Woodruff, June 29, 1893; Thaddeus C. Chidester, June 26, 1897; Almond C. Arnold, March 3, 1905; John L. Richard, November 7, 1906, who continues in that capacity.

The office sends out two rural carriers. No. 1 is served by John U. Howe, who has been in the service thirteen years. Frank G. Harden is the carrier for No. 2. The office has been made a United States Savings Depository, opening for business as such July 1, 1912.

## PERRINTON'S SCHOOL.

Perrinton's school building is a frame structure of two stories erected in 1888, and pleasantly located. The school consists of two departments presided over by a principal and an assistant. Ten grades are taught, and graduates with diplomas are accepted by Ithaca High School without examination.



PERRINTON'S SCHOOL BUILDING.

Teachers for the year ending June, 1913, were M. J. Crawford and Alice McCarthy, and the same are in charge the present year. There are about 97 pupils.

The interests of the school are looked after by officers as follows: Director—W. H. Richards; Moderator—W. H. McRae; Treasurer—J. U. Howe.

## NEWSPAPERS.

It has been some years since Perrinton has had a newspaper published within its borders. But for a few years in its history it had a variety of them. None of them were of enough permanency to warrant extended notice. A mere mention will suffice. In August, 1887, W. W. Secord started the Mirador which lasted till after the election of 1888, and then faded away. During the following winter a few issues were dated at Pompeii; and then —the end. In the fall of 1887 Wm. P. Ismonde, formerly of the Ashley Gazette, commenced the publication of the Weekly Herald; lasted only two or three months. In May, 1889, the Perrinton Globe started on an existence of a few weeks, with Editor McFadden at the helm. In February, 1896, Louis W. Fuller, of the Ashley Post, started a paper called the Fulton Star, and purporting to have Perrinton as its home. It was not long lived. In September, 1896, an effort was made by D. J. Westfall to maintain a paper which he called the Gratiot Enterprise; it failed to get a foothold. If there have been any other efforts along that line the record of them has been mislaid.

## OLD PERRINTON BANK.

The Perrinton Bank was founded in February, 1889, opening for business on the 14th day of that month. Its founder and proprietor was Frank E. Durfee. It was, and still is, a private banking institution. Mr. Durfee conducted it as sole proprietor for eighteen years, at the end of which period he sold an interest to Wm. H. Davis, the partnership commencing January 1, 1907, and continuing until January 1, 1911, when Mr. Davis purchased the interest of his partner, becoming sole owner of the business, a condition which has continued to the present time.

When Mr. Davis became the exclusive owner of the institution he changed its name to "The Old Perrinton Bank," and by that name it is still known. The bank has always enjoyed a marked degree of popularity, its business being conducted from the start in a way to win the confidence of its patrons. Mr. Davis is well sustaining the efficiency and high standing of the bank, inaugurated and so long maintained by Mr. Durfee, not only proving himself a good banker, but winning, as well, an enviable standing as an energetic and useful member of the community.

Mr. Davis is ably assisted by Miss Hazel Kinney, who, as bookkeeper, adds materially to the efficiency and popularity of the institution.

The bank is well located in the Fulton House block on the west side of the main business street of the village.

## FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.

### G. A. R.

Chas. A. Price Post No. 405 was re-organized May 13, 1903, by Robert Anderson, of Maple Rapids, with the following list of charter members: G. W. Groom, W. W. Dalgleish, A. C. Gillett, R. Luscher, Peter Greenswicke, T. B. Musser, John S. Wright, R. S. Cushman, Dwight Payne, Geo. McKinney, Lyman Crosley.

The first Commander was Geo. Groom, and he has been succeeded by T. B. Musser, R. S. Cushman, and again by T. B. Musser. The number of members to be counted on has been reduced to 12 at the present time. The membership has been as high as 30.

Present officers: Com.—T. B. Musser; S. V.—Chas. Hooker; J. V.—Wallace Grace; Chap.—Rudolph Luscher; Q. M.—R. S. Cushman; O. D.—R. S. Cushman; O. G.—John Beckwith.

One of the present members is John O. Clark, now in his 85th year, and one of the best-known of the early settlers of southern Gratiot, having located in North Shade immediately after the Civil War.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Perrinton Tent No. 314 was organized July 12, 1890, starting with first officers as follows:

Past Com.—Isaac N. Terpening; Com.—Robert W. Coleman; Lt. Com.—Chas. E. Lever; R. K.—David H. Meeker; F. K.—Wm. Bigwood; Prel.—Jasper Sickels; Phy.—Robert W. Coleman; Ser.—John W. Creager; M. of A.—Wm. Brown; 1st M. of G.—Harmon Canouts; 2nd M. of G.—Russell Teeter; Sent.—John Howe; Pick.—Edward Smith.

Present officers: Com.—Owen Chaffin; Lt. Com.—Geo. Beck; Sec.—Geo. Beck; F. K.—W. H. McRae; Phy.—Dr. H. F. Kilborn; Chap.—Adelbert Cowles.

About 26 members now answer to the roll call.

### L. O. T. M. M.

S. M. Shepherd Hive No. 242, L. O. T. M. M., auxiliary to Perrinton Tent No. 314, K. O. T. M. M., was instituted September, 1892.

Charter members: Jennie Cowles, Mary Beechler, Amanda Orcutt, Christa A. Francis, Jennie E. Longwood, Susan S. Laycock, Martha A. Lawrence, Etta Walker, Ina C. Butler, Mary J. Smith, Lavinia S. Ackley, Mary J. Logan, Emma Burchard, Amanda E. Vallance.

First officers: Past Com.—Mary E. Feek; Com.—Metta A. Patterson; Lt. Com.—Loelda Chaffin; R. K.—Minnie Chidester; F. K.—Metta A. Terpening; Chap.—Clarissa A. Smith; Ser.—Delia Arnean; Mat.—Lizzie Rice; Sent.—Louisa Allen; Pick.—Viola E. Dodge.

Present officers: Past Com.—Mrs. W. H. Beardsley; Com.—Mrs. Rhode S. Beck; Lt. Com.—Mrs. Dell Cowles; R. K.—Mrs. W. L. Baker; F. K.—Mrs. J. M. Sheller; Phy.—Dr. H. F. Kilborn; Chap.—Mrs. J. L. Richard; M. at A.—Mrs. G. A. Harris; Sergeant—Mrs. O. N. Chaffin; Sent.—Mrs. Lee Whiting; Pick.—Mrs. Wilbur Cushman. Mrs. Hettie Guyton served ten years as Record Keeper.

Present membership is about 40.

### M. W. of America.

Perrinton Lodge No. 6178, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized February 25, 1899, with charter members as follows: Roy S. Baker, V. W. Baker, W. L. Baker, C. C. Beckwith, F. A. Crosley, A. Cowles, F. E. Durfee, John Folman, C. W. Hale, F. L. Longwood, D. H. Meeker, W. H. Richards, J. F. Richards, C. B. Sheller, E. C. Van Decar, C. E. Winans, Jr., F. A. Wilson.

Present officers: V. C.—E. C. Arnold; Banker—J. U. Howe; W. A.—C. Schultz; Clerk—W. H. Richards.

The Camp has a membership of 32.

### Royal Neighbors.

Perrinton Camp No. 2418, Royal Neighbors of America, was instituted February 28, 1901, with charter members as follows: Louise M. Roberts, Edith Lepley, Lucy M. Baker, Lillian A. Richards, Luella Everett, Winifred Dodge, Rose Graham, Jennie U. Cowles, Elzada Allen, Jessie A. Roberts, Libbie Payne, Nettie Wood, Belle Groom, Minnie Longwood, Marian Sheller, Edna Norton, Ida E. Baker, Myron E. Everett, W. H. Richards, T. H. Crawford.

Present officers: Oracle—Arvilla McRae; P. O.—Mary Carnes; V. O.—Mrs. L. Richards; R.—Mrs. E. Musser; M.—Mrs. E. McCombs; A. M.—Mrs. B. Baker; C. S.—Mrs. L. Baker; I. S.—Mrs. M. Sherman.

Number of members, 23.

### I. O. O. F.

Perrinton Lodge No. 126, I. O. O. F., was organized November 25, 1887, with charter members as follows: Jas. A. Cassada, John A. Sickels, Albert A. Stewart, Aaron Aten, Lewis F. Price.

After an existence of about five years the lodge died, or at least went into a state of coma, as it were. December 13, 1905, restoratives brought it to life with the following as sponsors for its good faith: Geo. W. Groom, Abner Reynolds, Henry Bentley, Ernest Holton, A. N. Arnold.

M. R. Salter, of Ithaca, was the instituting officer in both cases.

Present officers: N. G.—L. C. Hull; V. G.—John McPherson; Sec.—J. U. Howe; Treas.—A. E. Stead; Chap.—Rev. C. H. Kelsey.

The Order is flourishing, with a membership of 68.

### Rebeccas.

Perrinton Success Rebecca Lodge No. 239 was organized March 27, 1908, by Mrs. Lydia M. Peet, of Ithaca, with charter members as follows: Eva Sheller, Lena Wood, Mrs. Geo. W. Groom, Monroe Sheller, Howard Wood, Geo. W. Groom.

First officers as follows: N. G.—Mrs. Eva Sheller; V. G.—Mrs. Lena Wood; Sec.—Geo. Groom; F. Sec.—Howard Wood; Treas.—Monroe Sheller; Chap.—Belle Groom; Warden—Gertie Holton; Con.—Estella Howe.

Present officers are as follows: N. G.—Helen Spaulding; V. G.—Mary McPherson; Sec.—Carrie Otto; F. Sec.—Mrs. Lena Wood; Treas.—Alice Stead.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

I. B. Kinney deals in general merchandise—dry goods, groceries, shoes, sundries. Has been 13 years in business, successor to Jas. A. Cassada. Owns his two-story business building, west side Robison Avenue.

Wm. H. McRae, grocery, restaurant and bakery. In business 12 years; west side Robison Avenue. Has the Bell Telephone exchange, and is township clerk. Owns his buildings.

Perrinton's drug, medicine and wall paper trade is looked after by Will H. Sewall. Men's hats as a side issue. In his own building, west side Robison Avenue.

L. H. Richards, general merchandise dealer. Eight years in the business here. Owns his two-story building, east side Robison Avenue, corner of Fulton Street.

Mrs. J. Gyuton, groceries and bazaar goods, west side of Robison Avenue, north, corner of Railroad Street. In business 25 years; in her own building.

C. F. Otto, deals in general hardware, implements, vehicles, fencing, sash, doors, etc. In trade 10 years, successor to W. P. Packard, who succeeded L. E. Woodruff. Jewelry corner in connection. Owns his business block, west side Robison Avenue, corner of Fulton Street.

Mrs. J. A. Helms deals in groceries and confectionery, in E. C. Arnold's building, whom she succeeded in the fall of 1912. Union Telephone exchange in connection; west side Robison Avenue.

The Perrinton meat market has W. H. Richards as proprietor. In the business one year, succeeding C. H. Jackson. In his own building, west side Robison Avenue, south.

Clyde E. Cushman is Perrinton's tonsorial artist, west side of the avenue. Five years' local experience, successor to Elmer E. Cassada. A two-chair shop. Is present village assessor.

Geo. Holton is proprietor of the blacksmith shop in the Geo. Harris building. Thomas Burns is the operating partner; east side Robison Avenue.

J. G. Carnes owns and operates a feed mill run by gas engine power. Also deals in flour, coal, cement, etc., on Railroad Street, west.

M. E. Sheridan, east side of the avenue, buys poultry, eggs, butter, etc.

The Perrinton Flouring Mills, Clarence F. Schultz, owner and manager, does custom work and a general milling business. East side of the avenue, north.

The Perrinton elevator is owned and conducted by the Stockbridge Elevator Co., of Jackson, Mich. The enterprise was originated by A. H. Phinney, founder of the village. Geo. S. Otto is manager, having been at the helm about four years.

The Perrinton cheese factory, doing business here about seven years, is now owned by the Geo. S. Hart Co., of New York, with R. E. Weaver as local manager. Its product is shipped all over the country, and is strongly endorsed by all good judges of a first-class article.

W. H. Beardsley is proprietor and landlord of the "Fulton Tavern" and owner of the premises, a brick hotel building, northwest corner of Robison Avenue and Fulton Street. It was erected by A. H. Phinney in 1887. Mr. Beardsly succeeded Amassa Otto nine years ago. Rates, $1.50.

Dr. H. F. Kilbourn is the resident physician, a practitioner of good standing and popular in the community.

# VILLAGE OF POMPEII.

## How It Originated—Present Attractions.

The Village of Pompeii, as at present located and constituted, owes its existence to the fact that along in 1886 and 1887 the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad was projected and built from Muskegon to Ashley, cutting through Gratiot County from west to east through the southern tier of townships—North Shade, Fulton, Washington—one and one-half miles south of the north line of those townships, and consequently intersecting the St. Louis and St. Johns state road one and a half miles south of Pompeii as then known and located, at the corner of Fulton, Washington, North Star and Newark Townships, six miles south of Ithaca, and now occasionally revived in memory and designated as "Old Pompeii." The old town had that well-known old pioneer, Jo. B. Smith as its progenitor; "Jo. B." who settled at that point in the year 1854, and whose log house was the famous and welcome stopping place or "half-way house" for so many years for wayfarers seeking homes further north, or toiling over the road—or through



MAIN STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

or under the road—in the transportation business from "outside" to "inside", Maple River being the dividing line between the two sections of country so designated.

About the year 1860 "Jo. B.'s" began to take on the proportions of a small settlement—a very small settlement, with a blacksmith shop and what was designated as a store, as its business institutions; and the huddle was given the name of Pompeii. The little village throve and grew as rapidly as could reasonably be expected; but not much was expected of it excepting as a stopping place for the traveler, and as a trading place for the agricultural community surrounding. With its tavern, blacksmith shop, store or two, school house and finally a church building, it filled its allotted place. With a north and south electric line so confidently expected for many years, Pompeii would have been a convenient and important station. But the electric was not built, and when the east and west steam road came along one and a half miles to the southward, the old town's doom was sealed.

The new town on the railroad soon got a foothold, fostered and boomed by those with property interests at that location. J. B. Willoughby, Joseph

Foster and B. P. Bradley, owners of land at the intersection of the railroad with the state road proceeded without unnecessary delay to plat portions of their lands, and to offer inducements to settlers, and especially to the business people and others of Old Pompeii, to move their possessions and business to the new location. The railroad company established a station there, the town grew apace, and it was not long before the new town not only had the railroad and station but it had assumed the name and absorbed the business institutions of the old town, including the postoffice and churches. Many residence and business buildings were moved bodily and others were torn down and re-constructed in the new location.

The official records in the office of the register of deeds of the county show that the present Village of Pompeii was platted by Joseph Foster and Burton P. Bradley, December 29, 1887; R. J. Fraker, surveyor. The plat occupies territory on the township line between Washington and Fulton Townships, on section 7 of Washington and 12 of Fulton, and is all north of the railroad. January 27, 1913, M. B. Towslee platted and had recorded an addition on the north of the original plat, and on the east side of the state road; J. W. Harrod, surveyor.

The town has had a good, steady growth and is an attractive place in several ways. It is a clean looking little burg, with fine agricultural surroundings; no better farming country in the state, than that stretching away on all sides of Pompeii. It has all of the usual business institutions of the rural town, and possibly some peculiar to itself.

## SCHOOLS.

The interests of Pompeii's schools are looked after at the present time by officers as follows: Director—Harvey J. Wood; Moderator—Chas. W. Burt; Treasurer—Dr. B. C. Hall. Ten grades are taught, teachers for 1913-14 being Glenn A. Woodman and Olive Allen.

## POMPEII POSTOFFICE.

The Pompeii postoffice has William B. Foster as postmaster, and it is located in Mr. Fosters brick block built by Harvey J. Wood. The office originated at Old Pompeii away back in 1856 and had that well-known pioneer—Jo. B. Smith—as its first postmaster, his appointment dating May 14, 1856. His successors in their regular order were as follows: David H. Shelley, February 29, 1864; Abram M. Jessup, September 19, 1864; Joel T. Smith, April 6, 1866; David H. Shelley, September 10, 1866; William L. Phillips, September 20, 1869; Frederick L. Coss, April 10, 1871; Culwell Martin, June 13, 1872; George E. Whitman, April 29, 1874; John M. Trask, November 10, 1874; Isaac S. Seaver, November 29, 1880; Byron A. Hicks, November 18, 1893; James W. Payne, October 20, 1897; William B. Foster, March 29, 1902.

It was during I. S. Seaver's incumbency of the office that it was moved from the old town to the new. Up to October 20, 1897, the spelling of the name of the postoffice had been "Pompei." On that date, which was coincident with the appointment of J. W. Pryne as postmaster, the orthography of the name was officially given another "i", to correspond with the original spelling of the name of the ancient city. I do not know why the letter was left off in the first place. Certainly the government officials must have known how to spell the word, even though the pioneers might have been a

little "off" in their orthography. I hope no one will ever ask me why it was—whether it was carelessness or ignorance, or a fine regard for economy I known not. The reader is entitled to his own guess.

The rural routes out of Pompeii are two in number. Samuel F. Foster is the carrier on No. 1, Harvey J. Wood on No. 2.

## POMPEII STATE BANK.

This good-sounding name refers to the banking house that has to do with the financial affairs of the good little town bearing the name of the buried city of the East—Pompeii. To fill a decided and growing want, the Pompeii State Bank was organized in 1910, and commenced business August 10th of that year. A fine cement block building was erected especially for the bank's use, and it is endowed with all of the modern appliances, conveniences and safeguards usually found in similar institutions in towns of much greater pretentions.

The organization of the bank was consummated on the 10th day of June, 1910, the stockholders choosing a board of directors constituted as follows: John C. Hicks, St. Johns; Dr. B. C. Hall, Pompeii; F. H. Horr, Ithaca; Addison Fraker, Pompeii; Alva Bonesteel, Breckenridge. The board of directors chose officers as follows: President—John C. Hicks; Vice-President—Dr. B. C. Hall; Cashier—Alva Bonesteel. Mr. Bonesteel had served as assistant cashier in the State Savings Bank at Breckenridge.

The bank seems to have had a career of prosperity and the reports issued from time to time give evidence of a rapid increase of business. The bank's report of February 4, 1913, shows that the bank opened for business August, 1910, with resources of $13,220.50. The same statement shows that on the date mentioned — February 4, '13 — the aggregate of resources reached the snug sum of $92,008.53.

Directors for 1913 are John C. Hicks, Dr. B. C. Hall, Chas. A. Price, Addison Fraker, Frank H. Horr. Officers are, President—J. C. Hicks; Vice-President—B. C. Hall; Cashier—Harry C. Reed.

Quotation: "The only State Bank in the southern part of Gratiot County."

## POMPEII M. E. CHURCH.

The Pompeii M. E. Church was organized at Old Pompeii about the year 1880, Rev. S. Nelson, stationed at Ithaca, being a moving spirit, aided and encouraged by local sympathizers, from among whom the first board of trustees was chosen as follows: E. C. Cook, Philip Fritz, A. W. Lockwood, J. Snider, John McNicholl, Benj. Burt, I. S. Seaver.

The church increased in importance and in membership, and within a few years a very good brick church building was erected. This was dedicated June 5, 1887, out of debt when the exercises closed. Rev. James Hamilton conducted the exercises. On the removal of the village to the new site on the railroad, the church building went with the rest, being taken down and re-erected on its present site in the new town. The following is approximately a complete list of the members at the time of the removal: Burton and Margaret Bradley, E. C. Cook, Philip, Rosa, Ellen and John Fritz, Isaac S. and Jennie Seaver, Jonathan and Sarah Snider, Julia and Hattie E. Burt, Margaret Barrus, John G. Kinney, Mary McCutcheon, Joseph and Josephine

Harter, Malinda Lemley, Sarah Mulholland, Emma Sequard, Peter and Mary Deline, Eleanor Hopkinson, Arabella and Nina Spurgeon, H. C., Mary J., Nellie and Sarah Goodell, N. O. and J. E. Mills, John and Mary A. McNicholl. The pastors, following Rev. S. Nelson were C. A. Jacokes and J. H. Thomas, whose home station was Ithaca.

At the re-dedication of the church at its new location, Rev. Charles Thomas, brother of the pastor, conducted the services. Since its removal the following have served as pastors: A. K. Stewart, J. W. Steffe, H. D. Skinner, A. A. Stephens, L. B. Kenyon, O. J. Golden, C. A. Whaley and C. H. Kelsey. The society is served in connection with those of Perrinton and Fulton Center.

In 1911 the church building was remodeled, enlarged and greatly improved; re-decorated and beautified, a large parlor and kitchen added and a new furnace installed; all at a cost of about $2,300. The re-dedication took place Sunday, November 5, 1911, conducted by Rev. W. P. French, assisted by Rev. O. J. Golden and Rev. J. W. Steffe.

The church is in a flourishing condition, with a large membership. Rev. John G. Biery is the present pastor.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

### HALL.

Bert Chester Hall, M. D., one of the best known of Gratiot's popular physicians, who resides and has his office at the Village of Pompeii, this County, was born in Owosso, Mich., February 23, 1868, son of Earl S. and Angeline (Fox) Hall, the former born in Rochester, N. Y., November, 1832, the latter born in Redfield, Genesee County, Mich., September, 1839.

Dr. Hall's father was an early settler in Shiawassee County, Mich., coming with his parents in 1839, when but seven years of age. They settled in the woods near the little settlement planted but four years previously, and which has developed into the beautiful and important City of Owosso. A history of Shiawassee County published in 1880, records the fact that Earl S. Hall was highway commissioner of Owosso Township in 1862, and was township clerk in 1877, '78 and '79. He and his wife, Mrs. Angeline Hall, are residents of Owosso at the present time. The parents of Dr. Hall's mother, Angeline (Fox) Hall, came from Tioga County, N. Y., in 1837, settling in Genesee County. The father and mother died at the ages of 45 and 97 years, respectively.

Dr. Bert C. Hall is one of a family of four children—Willis E., born April 19, 1858; Louis C., born August 30, 1864; Bert C.; Myrtle M., born July 18, 1871.

Willis E. Hall married Carrie Laugerwisch, of Owosso. They reside in that city and have children—Earl, Lora and Helen.

Louis C. Hall married Jennie Byerly, of Owosso. Two children—Ethel and Louis—were born to them. Jennie (Byerly) Hall, the wife and mother, died June 9, 1911.

Myrtle M. Hall married Otis Waugh, of Owosso. They still reside in that city and are the parents of two children—Lloyd and Ora.

Dr. Bert C. Hall was married at Ithaca, May 16, 1906, to Winifred M. Barstow, daughter of Charles E. and Lucy C. (Swift) Barstow. She was born in North Star June 9, 1884. Her father was born in North Star

Township May 23, 1856. Her mother was born October 6, 1863, in Eaton County, Mich. Mrs. Hall is one of a family of four; the others as follows: Matie, deceased; Will N.; Floyd W.

Will N. Barstow married Sabra Hart, of St. Louis. They now are residents of Detroit and have a son—Nelson.

Floyd W. Barstow is also a resident of Detroit, and is unmarried.

Dr. Hall passed his boyhood days in Owosso. He acquired his education in the public schools of that city, and at Oakside Normal Seminary, an educational institution also located in that city. He afterward taught for several years in the schools of the county. In the meantime, having come to the determination to adopt the medical profession as his chosen life work, he devoted his spare hours to medical study and research. In 1893 he entered Detroit College of Medicine. He took the full course, graduating with the class of 1897.

July 6, 1897, Dr. Hall "pitched his tent" in the Village of Pompeii for the practice of his profession. To chronicle the statement in this connection that he has been eminently successful in general practice and in surgery would but express a fact conceded by all who claim any acquaintance with the facts of local history covering the past sixteen years. The Doctor is a member of the Gratiot County Medical Society and of the State Medical Society; also of the American Medical Association. Within the last few years he has taken a post-graduate course in surgery at the New York Polyclinic.

Dr. Hall is interested in local business projects and activities, and in social and fraternal matters. He is vice-president of the Pompeii State Bank; is an Odd Fellow, Knight Templar, Shriner, Knight of Pythias; and in politics is an active Republican. Agriculturally speaking he takes pride in a fine farm of eighty acres lying a mile west of Pompeii—the old Ira W. Montague place.

Of the Doctor's estimable wife it seems but justice to say that she is a helpmeet in every sense; is thoroughly devoted to his profession and is an ever-ready assistant and a sincere sympathizer. And as a member of society she has the esteem of the entire community.

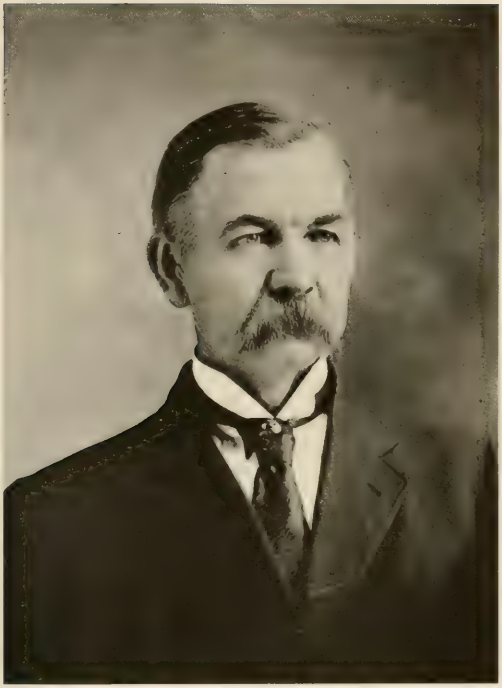
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## SEAVER.

Isaac S. Seaver, the subject of this sketch, was born in Clinton County, Mich., August 27, 1852. His father, Thomas W. Seaver was born in the state of New Hampshire in the year 1815, and died April, 1867, at Pewamo, Ionia County, Mich. The maiden name of our subject's mother was Elizabeth Bushnell. She was born in Madison County, N. Y., about 1816. These parents were married in Madison County, N. Y., in 1839, and were the parents of children as follows: William E. Seaver, John S. Seaver, Milo Seaver, Lora (Seaver) Hill, Isaac S. Seaver, Oscar Seaver.

Isaac S. Seaver was united in marriage, at Pewamo, Mich., to Miss Mary A. McReynolds, February 27, 1878. Her death occurred March 6, 1880. Mr. Seaver's second marriage occurred May 28, 1881, at Maple Rapids, Mich., to Miss Jennie McReynolds. Both wives were born in Canada, daughters of Andrew T. and Elizabeth (Abernethey) McReynolds, both natives of Scotland; married in Canada about the year 1855.

The children born to Isaac S. Seaver, together with their birth-dates, are as follows: Ethel M. Seaver, born February 5, 1880, died July 16, 1904;



JUDGE ISAAC S. SEAVER.

C. Luella Seaver, born March 16, 1883; Mattie E. Seaver, born November 19, 1884; Milo Bert Seaver, born October 23, 1887; Bessie F. Seaver, born June 12, 1889; L. Meyrl Seaver, born August 3, 1891. All were born at Pompeii, this county.

C. Luella Seaver was married to Warren A. Stahl, December 25, 1909. Born to this union—Elizabeth Genevieve Stahl, February 5, 1912, died October 1, 1912; George S. Stahl, born February 23, 1913. They reside in Ithaca, Mr. Stahl occupying the position of cashier in the Ithaca National Bank.

Mattie E. Seaver has a responsible position in the Ithaca National Bank, a position filled by her efficiently for several years.

Milo Bert Seaver was married June 3, 1910, to Miss Gertrude Lewis. They reside in Ithaca, where "Bert" has a position as salesman in the general store of Henry E. Lewis. They have had children born to them as follows: Lewis I. Seaver, born June 10, 1911; Jeannette Seaver, born January 27, 1913.

Bessie F. and L. Meyrl Seaver are residents at the family home with their parents. All of the children are graduates of the Ithaca High School.

Isaac S. Seaver first came to Gratiot County from Pewamo, in October, 1874, settling in Old Pompeii and entering into mercantile trade in partnership with John M. Trask, under the firm name of Trask & Seaver. Continuing in the business two and a half years, he sold his interest to Peter Hoffman, and, returning to Pewamo, was married there and engaged in farming pursuits for a period of one and a half years. Returning then to Old Pompeii he repurchased his former business and formed a partnership with his brother, John S. Seaver, under the style of Seaver Bros.; a partnership that has continued since that time—nearly 35 years.

Judge Seaver served as postmaster of Pompeii (Old and New) from 1878 to 1893. He also served the township of Fulton as treasurer and justice of the peace. In November, 1900, he was the candidate of his party—Republican—for judge of probate, and was elected by a majority of about 1,000 over his Democratic opponent—Chas. H. Chase—who had held the office one term. In November, 1904, Mr. Seaver was re-elected probate judge by a majority of 2,262, his Democratic competitor being Oliver McEnderfer. In the election of November, 1908, he was for the third time his party's candidate for judge of probate, Henry Read being his opponent for the position; and again he was successful, having a majority of 1399 in his favor. Thus he served twelve years in this very important and responsible office; three four-year terms; a record which may well be considered good evidence that he filled the position efficiently and faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of his constituency.

While a resident of Ithaca, serving as probate judge of the county, Judge Seaver was elected to the Ithaca Board of Education, and served three years. He has also served as president of the Ithaca National Bank since 1903 and of the People's State Bank of Ithaca since its organization in 1911.

Judge Seaver and his estimable wife have been for many years, and still are, active and worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; also of the Odd Fellow and Maccabee societies. They returned to their old home in Pompeii in April, 1913, after a residence of twelve years in Ithaca; and it expresses but half the truth when it is here recorded that the removal of this good family was regarded with sincere regret by the entire community. At Pompeii Judge Seaver again takes up mercantile trade with his brother, John S., as of yore, at the old stand.

## WILLOUGHBY.

Jonathan Burke Willoughby (deceased) was born at Joliet, Illinois, in 1837. At the age of ten years he moved with his parents to Osceola, Crawford County, Ohio, where he received a common school education. In 1859 he was married to Sarah Lucinda Montpier.



JONATHAN B. WILLOUGHBY.

Sarah Lucinda (Montpier) Willoughby (now deceased) was born at Steubenville, Ohio, March 16, 1837. Her parents both died while she was very young, and being thus thrown practically upon her own resources, she was deprived of the educational advantages that she otherwise would have had. At the age of 18 she united with the Disciple Church. Her two brothers soon after died, leaving her without a relative whom she could trace. Four years later—October, 1859—she was united in marriage with Jonathan Burke Willoughby.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby commenced housekeeping in their home town, where four children were born to them prior to 1865, all of whom died in infancy. Charles G. came to them in December, 1866. In the following May Mr. Willoughby, in company with his father, G. W. J. Willoughby, came to Gratiot County by team, and a short time thereafter their families followed, coming by train as far as St. Johns, which was then the nearest railroad station. Each family bought an 80-acre tract on the east side of section 12, Fulton Township. They cleared the ground and built themselves log houses. For a number of years the usual pioneer hardships were experienced, and they were conquered with the resources which those early days afforded. Another son — George M. — came to them February 16, 1869. The father — G. W. J. Willoughby—died in June, 1881.



MRS. J. B. WILLOUGHBY.

In the fall of 1883 Mr. Willoughby removed with his family to Ithaca, where for two years he was deputy sheriff under Sheriff K. P. Peet. Afterward he was in the hotel business a little over a year. In the spring of 1887 the Village of New Pompeii was started, when the family, excepting Charles G., returned to the farm.

In September, 1898, Mr. Willoughby met with an accident which soon after brought on blood poisoning, resulting in his death, October 14, 1898. He was buried with Masonic honors in Fulton Center Cemetery. Mr. Willoughby was an active member of the Masonic Order and of the Knights of Pythias. His acquaintance extended throughout the entire county, and it may be truthfully said of him that he made life-long friends wherever he went.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Willoughby continued a resident of Pompeii, her son Geo. M. ("Mont."), managing the farm, consisting of the original 160 acres. They disposed of the farm to Jay Walker late in 1905, and Geo. M. removed with his family to New Mexico. July 18, 1911, Mrs. Willoughby, on account of failing health, journeyed, in company with Mrs. Ruth Clark, to Lubbock, Texas, intending to spend her remaining days with her son "Mont." who had removed to that place. Soon after reaching Lubbock she suffered a stroke of paralysis from which her death resulted August 24, 1911. The remains were brought back and buried beside those of her husband.

**Chas. G. Willoughby,** the oldest son, was married April 14, 1892, to Miss Edith E. Taubert, of Ionia, Mich. They have one child, a daughter, Jessie M., born November 21, 1896. They reside in New York City where Mr. Willoughby is engaged in the photographic supply business, at 814 Broadway.

**George M. Willoughby,** the youngest son, was married to Miss Nellie Vosburgh, who was born in Newark, N. Y., September 8, 1870. They now reside at Brockway, Oregon, and have children as follows: Burke, born March 4, 1892; Katherine, born August 19, 1894; Constance, born June 25, 1898.

## MARKHAM.

Wilbur F. Markham, a well-known citizen of Gratiot County, now a resident of Pompeii, and engaged in mercantile trade, was born in the Township of Duplain, Clinton County, Michigan, April 27, 1864, son of Charles and Nancy June (Humphrey) Markham. The father, Charles Markham, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, went to New York State at the age of six months, and remained there till he was 14 years old when he returned to Ohio. At the age of 22 he migrated to Woodhall Township, Shiawassee County, Mich., where he lived one year and then removed to Duplain. He resided there till 1871 when he came to Gratiot County, settling on a tract of wild land on section 5, Township of Elba. This farm he cleared up and erected upon it good, substantial buildings.

April 29, 1861, Charles Markham was married to Nancy Jane Humphrey, who was born in Lorain County, Ohio, October 5, 1845. Soon after their marriage they removed to Michigan and were residing on their farm in Elba Township at the time of her death, July 18, 1887. She was buried in North Star Cemetery. Her father, Norman Humphrey, was born in Ohio and resided there until his death. Her mother, Olive (Mathews) Humphrey, was born in Ohio, her parents being natives of the "Emerald Isle." Four children were born to Charles and Nancy Jane Markham: Wesley A. was born April 6, 1862; Wilbur F. was born April 27, 1864; Burtis O. was born September 13, 1866; Dora O. was born July 5, 1870.

Wilbur F. Markham, the subject of this sketch, came to Gratiot County with his parents when seven years old, when they located as mentioned heretofore, on the wild 80 acres, section 5 of Elba Township. There he remained with his parents, sharing in the labors and the usual experiences of a life on a new farm in a new country, until his marriage, November 6, 1884, to Miss Fannie Farr, who was born in the State of New York, daughter of Morgan Farr and Minerva (De Witt) Farr. The marriage occurred in the Village of St. Louis, this county, Elder G. J. Massey, of that village, pastor of the Church of Christ, performing the ceremony.

Fannie Farr was born January 17, 1866, and came to Michigan with her parents when three years of age. Soon after their marriage, Mr. Markham and wife went to live on a rented farm 10 miles west of Ithaca, in Sumner Township, residing there two years and then moving back to Elba on land within the corporate limits of Ashley. There they remained till November 12, 1889, when, having bought a farm four miles south of Maple Rapids they moved there, remaining two years and then migrating to Shepherd, Isabella County, and was engaged there in the livery business for a period of six months; thence, in the spring of 1893 to a farm southeast of Clare, but located in Isabella County. After residing there one year they returned to Gratiot County and located on a new farm, the southeast quarter of section 20, Township of Hamilton, with no road to it, and not a rod of it cleared. Buildings were erected and the work of clearing and cultivating was persevered in till the spring of 1900, when he traded the farm to William H. Sower for a store and small stock of goods in the Village of Sickels, Hamilton Township, where he resided, and where he built up a good mercantile trade. In August, 1909, Mr. Markham sold



MARKHAM & BALLARD'S GENERAL STORE.

his real estate in Sickels, and bought the F. P. Hoffman stock of general merchandise at Pompeii, to which place he moved with his Sickels stock, combining the two stocks and continuing the business in Pompeii. In the summer of 1912, he erected a brick block for the accommodation of his increasing business, and this he now occupies. It is one of the most convenient and up-to-date stores in the county.

Six children have been born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Markham: Lulu Pearl, born August 14, 1885, was married to Arthur Kennett, March 17, 1907, and resides two and one-half miles northeast of Ashley. They have had children—Ruth, born July, 1908, died at the age of six weeks; Bernice, born November 4, 1910; Nila, born June 1, 1913. Maude Elnora Markham was born August 10, 1887, and was married December 25, 1908, to Fred Ballard. They have a daughter, Winifred, born November 1, 1909. They reside in Pompeii where Mr. Ballard is associated with Mr. Markham in mercantile trade, having formed the partnership March 1, 1912. Charles L. Markham was born September 30, 1890, was married to Cossie Zoll,

of Sickels, September 29, 1911. They have a daughter, Muriel, born November 28, 1912. Clyde A. was born July 6, 1892. Ethel May was born April 18, 1895, died at the age of five months; buried in North Star Cemetery. Beatrice, the youngest, was born December 12, 1905.

Mr. Markham deservedly stands high in the esteem of his townsmen. Though a Democrat in politics, he served both as township clerk and supervisor while a resident of Hamilton, though the township was strongly Republican. In the positions mentioned he gave entire satisfaction. He belongs to the Ancient Order of Gleaners and to the I. O. O. F.

## DOAN.

Charles B. Doan, for many years a farmer in Fulton, later in hardware trade at Pompeii for about eleven years, still later a real estate dealer in the same village, now a resident of California, was born in Fulton Township, Gratiot County, January 17, 1859. His father, John Doan, was born in New York State, February 20, 1826; was a soldier in the Civil War, and was killed in battle, June 18, 1864. His mother, Orpha (Smith) Doan, was born in the State of New York, March 3, 1835. She is now living at St. Louis, this county. They came to Gratiot County in 1854, settling in Fulton Township.

John and Orpha Doan were the parents of four sons, viz.: George P. Doan, born February 23, 1857, died March 20, 1859; Charles B. Doan; Henry L. Doan, born August 16, 1862, now a resident of Pompeii.

The subject of this sketch was married at Ithaca, August 14, 1881, to Effie E. Walker, oldest daughter of Nathaniel and Elvira Walker, of Fulton. Nathaniel Walker was born in Michigan, February 18, 1836, and died at his home in Pompeii, May 18, 1912. Elvira (Reynolds) Walker was born in 1838, also a native of Michigan. She died at Ithaca June 8, 1906. Effie E., wife of our subject, was born February 13, 1862.

Mr. and Mrs. Doan are the parents of ten children, seven of whom are now living. Their names, birth-dates, etc., are as follows: J. Clyde Doan, born January 4, 1883, was married June 28, 1906, to Sibyl Grace, of Fulton, only child of J. W. and Arminta (Rice) Grace. They have a son—Maurice—born August 5, 1907. Rolla A. Doan was born December 7, 1886, and was united in marriage to Margaret Taylor, of Pompeii, March 31, 1907. They now reside in Ithaca. Earl N. Doan, born December 13, 1887, died April 13, 1888. Orpha Doan, born June 5, 1890, died August 9, 1890. Altha M. Doan was born February 28, 1893. Lyle C. Doan, born June 2, 1895, is now in California. Orlo P. Doan was born April 22, 1896. Milo J. Doan, born August 27, 1899, died April 21, 1900. Ford C. Doan was born January 3, 1902. Mildred M. Doan was born February, 1906.

Mr. Doan has always been classed among the leading men of his community, always taking a commendable interest in public affairs and in all matters calculated to advance the welfare—materially, morally and socially—of his township and neighborhood. He served his township four years as justice of the peace, and was elected supervisor in 1906, '07 and '08, serving to the satisafction of his constituents. In political affiliation he is a Republican.

Mr. Doan and his wife were converted in May, 1891, and united with the M. E. Church at Pompeii the following year. They are active and influential workers in church matters.

Mr. Doan removed with his family to California in October, 1912. They reside at Redlands, and expect to make California their permanent home.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### I. O. O. F.

Pompeii Lodge No. 417, I. O. O. F. was organized November 27, 1891, by M. R. Salter, of Ithaca, with charter members as follows:

Joseph Foster, Albert E. McKinney, Joseph D. Gilleo, T. A. Yaw, John Hamilton, A. W. Loomis, F. H. Cook, Richard W. Foster, Wm. B. Foster.

Here is a list—nearly complete—of N. G.s to the present time:

A. E. McKinney, A. A. Fraker, J. F. Ceasar, Chas. B. Doan, W. B. Foster, Adelbert Foster, Geo. L. Jessup, W. C. Long, Jas. E. Ladd, Hiram McKinney, E. J. Smith, Chas. Wideman, Peter Wolfe, Wm. Whitney, J. B. Walker, John Hamilton, H. L. Doan, Chas. Burt, Wm. Moon, Victor Ovenden, Arthur Cowles, John Wang, Wm. H. Smith, Wm. Crowell, L. E. Snyder, Oscar Moon, Chas. C. Clark, F. P. Hoffman, Richard Wolfe, C. F. Jolly, Frank Smith, Wm. Morley, Claude Ovenden, Samuel Foster, C. D. Allen. Present membership about 100.

### Rebeccas.

Honor Rebecca Lodge No. 194, was instituted April 7, 1892, the following named persons appearing as charter members:

Polly McKinney, Eva A. Smith, Josephine Marriott, Melissa Clifford, Mary A. McNitt, Anna Redknapp, Beatrice A. Ladd, A. E. McKinney, Lott H. Marriott, Jas. Clifford, Frank McNitt, Fred E. Smith, John Redknapp, Jas. E. Ladd. Present membership about 200.

### Modern Brotherhood of America.

Mayflower Lodge No. 1658 was organized in 1905, and reorganized in the spring of 1910. Following is the list of original charter members:

Edmund Green, Florence W. Green, Jesse C. Doan, Acie J. Gilleo, Fred H. Read, Bessie E. Read, Mark E. Hathaway, Jesse L. Walker, Mary L. Walker, Hannah M. Upham.

At the reorganization the following appear as charter members:

Leon E. Gilleo, Wilbur F. Markham, Fannie Markham, Chas. L. Markham, Clarence W. Metzger, Lydia M. Metzger, Sibyl M. Doan, Edna Ruth Foster, Samuel F. Foster, Vina B. Hathaway, Myrtle Katharyn Wood, Jacob A. Garber, Lizzie Wood, Henry L. Doan, Augusta E. Doan, Florence E. Passinger, Leslie E. Passinger, Nellie E. Peters, John B. Peters, Rutherford B. McCutcheon, Ora J. Roberts.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Seaver Bros.' is the oldest business firm in the village, having moved over from Old Pompeii when the new town was yet young. The firm is composed of John S. and Isaac S. Seaver. Their fine double-store of brick was built in place of their store building destroyed by fire April 6, 1900. They carry a general stock and do a large business.

Markham & Ballard (Wilbur F. Markham and his son-in-law, Fred Ballard) are doing a general mercantile business in their new brick double-store erected in 1912, east of, and adjoining the Bank of Pompeii. Mr.

Markham moved his business from Sickels to Pompeii and purchased the stock of F. P. Hoffman in 1909, since which time he has done a prosperous business, with constantly increasing patronage.

H. C. Fraker, general hardware, implements, vehicles, etc., in his own brick block; in business nine years, successor to D. K. Barrus & Co. Sells the Ford automobile.

J. D. Gilleo deals in drugs, wall paper, school supplies, etc., in his own brick block. Has been 25 years in trade.

Peters & Wood (J. B. Peters, C. E. Wood), deal in general hardware, implements, fencing, cream separators, etc. About six years in business, successors to Doan Bros.; in H. L. Doan's building.

Ira C. Hawley manufactures and deals in harness and horse sundries. Also doctors autos and bicycles; in his own block, west side State Street.

The Pompeii Elevator has George L. Jessup as proprietor. Has been 15 or 20 years in the business. Handles everything usually dealt in by establishments of like character.

Jay Grubaugh is the village blacksmith, doing business in his own building, with an experience of seven years in Pompeii.

A. E. Salter started his bakery and lunch room in the spring of 1913, and is pleasing the public. In W. F. Markham's building, Main Street, west.

L. E. Passinger is proprietor of a horse and auto livery business in his own building, Main Stret, west. Doing business here seven years.

Winget's meat market has J. O. Kinney as manager; Main Street, west.

L. V. Helms is the proprietor of a two-chair barber shop, successor to C. W. Metzger; in W. B. Foster's brick block, west side of State Street.

Henry Doan and wife serve the public with a first-class restaurant, east side State Street.

M. E. Hathaway is the station agent; been here 13 years; also express agent.

Chas. Keiser added a feed mill to his wagon-repairing shop in the spring of 1911. The following summer he installed a dynamo, put up some wires and commenced furnishing electric lights. He is patronized by most of the business places, and he reports a growing business.

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Pompeii experienced a very disconcerting shock on the morning of March 2, 1908; a shock that with a slight variation of circumstances might easily have been a terrible disaster, but as it was no one was seriously injured. Referring to the boiler explosion in the saw mill of George English, located in the eastern part of the village. At about 10 o'clock on that morning the boiler exploded with a terrific report, and with a force and with a result that left the mill a tangled and splintered mass of ruins. Eight men, including the owner, were in and around the mill but only one was injured and he not dangerously. Even the engineer escaped injury, having just gone outside to aid in loading some logs. His assertion that the boiler contained plenty of water, left the cause of the explosion a mystery. And it is just as much of a mystery how the destruction of the mill could be so complete without killing or seriously maiming some of the many people in the mill or in close proximity to it. The mill was not rebuilt.

# VILLAGE OF RIVERDALE.

Riverdale is a hustling, unincorporated village located on the Pere Marquette Railroad at the point where the railroad intersects Pine River in the southwest corner of Seville Township. In a more general way its location is described as being near the northwest corner of the county, one-half mile east of the Montcalm and Gratiot county line, and five and a half miles south of the Isabella and Gratiot county line. The village was founded in 1874 by Arthur G. Newton, of St. Louis, son of James F. Newton, a leading citizen and proprietor of an important addition to St. Louis. The prospect of the early construction of a railroad west from St. Louis and Alma, was the inspiring motive for the founding of a hamlet in that particular spot; an appropriate distance from Alma for the establishment of an important railroad station.

Settlement had been made in an early day by the Strayers about a mile south of the Riverdale site, over in Sumner Township, as narrated elsewhere, but on account of certain unfavorable conditions, real or fancied, settlement had been largely delayed in southwestern Seville. In the year



MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH.

1860, William Bradley, coming from New York, bought 3,100 acres in the southwest corner of Seville. He did not occupy it at the time, but in 1869 his son, Napoleon B. Bradley, came on and erected quite a pretentious frame house on the tract, at a location now in the suburbs of Riverdale on the north. He drew the lumber for the house from Pewamo, Ionia County. William A. Bradley, another son came in 1870 and settled on the tract, and is still a resident there. Both brothers have been prominent citizens.

Arthur G. Newton's original plat of Riverdale was made July 15, 1875, and embraced that part of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 31, Seville, lying between Pine River on the east and the quarter line on the west, and extending from the state road on the south to the quarter line on the north. In February, 1881, John B. Adams had an addition platted on the north of the original plat, extending north to the railroad and east to the river. In October, 1897, G. S. Ward, for the banking firm of Wm. S. Turck & Co., Alma, platted a tract lying north and west of the business section of the village. In November, 1902, Wm. A. Bradley platted west from Main Street to Maple and extending from the quarter line on the south to the railroad on the north. This, with the Adams' addition, embraces the present business section.

The embryo municipality was named "Riverside," but the name was changed to "Riverdale" on the establishment of a postoffice in March, 1876. The reason for the change was the fact that there was already a Riverside postoffice in the state. Mr. Newton erected a store building and launched out into the usual activities of a hustling promoter of an important town as yet mostly in his imagination. He opened up trade as a dealer in general merchandise. His brother-in-law, George L. Patch, opened a hardware store, and Al Patch established a drug store. Other business enterprises were started, including a saloon by Gilbert A. Waldorf. A man named Ruloff built a hotel in the Newton section, and about this time the railroad station was established. Then in 1876 came John B. Adams and bought out Mr. Newton's store and started a store near the railroad station, about where the bank is now located, on land bought of W. A. Bradley. Mr. Adams soon afterward built the hotel; destroyed by fire May 31, 1913. Other business enterprises were established in that locality, and the Newton section was thus superseded as a business center.

About the time Mr. Newton commenced his operations, Thomas Rogers built a steam saw mill. Then came Chauncey B. Whitney and built the dam, grist mill and saw mill just south of Riverdale. He afterward sold his possessions to Jabez Hawkins, and Hawkins sold to W. A. Edmonson. The business was later operated by W. B. Lathrop & Co., for several years, and then by W. D. Kimball. The flouring mill was burned in February, 1900. The mill property is now owned by Hon. J. W. Robinson of Alma.

So the town is now nearly 40 years old. Under different conditions doubtless it might have been a much larger and a much more important town than it is. Under still different conditions it might have been a failure. As it is, it is readily conceded to be a good little burg, with all of the requisite elements to insure permanence and continued prosperity. An important railroad station, it furnishes an excellent market for all of the varied products of a fine farming country, and is a trade center that offers inducements equal to any in the county, size and location considered.

## NEWSPAPERS.

Riverdale has a good local newspaper, with J. L. Nichols at the helm as publisher. Mr. Nichols established the Riverdale Promoter in July, 1911, and is publishing a first-class country weekly; and it seems to be appreciated and well patronized.

The village had experiences with newspapers before the appearance of Mr. Nichols in the field. In 1887 the Corner Local was moved here from Elm Hall, and here it died during the same year. In 1897 there appeared a few issues of the Gratiot County Enterprise; an off-shoot of the Alma Record. It didn't last long. In November, 1898, the Riverdale Star appeared; but it suffered a total eclipse in the following February. Then nothing more along that line till the Promoter appeared.

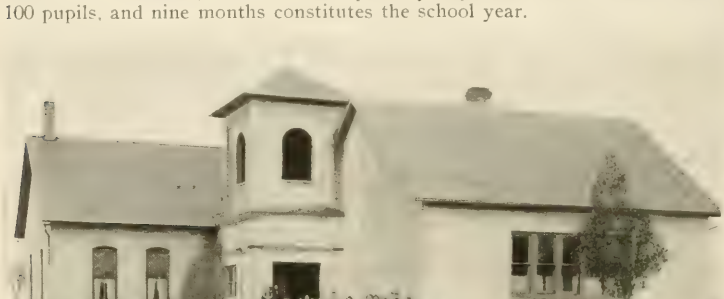
## POSTMASTERS.

Riverdale's postmaster at the present time is John G. Young, a jeweler who is located in his own cement-block building, 24 by 50 feet in size, with an annex 10 by 14 feet. There is one rural route running from Riverdale, with Cornelius D. Van Alstine as carrier. Mr. Young was appointed postmaster July 30, 1910. But it may be well, now and here, to give the full

list of Riverdale's postmasters from first to last. The first fortunate man to enjoy the government's favor as postmaster was the founder of the town —Arthur G. Newton, who got his appointment March 10, 1876. Then followed—Belden B. Tuttle, January 12, 1877; Newton W. Brown, September 4, 1877; John B. Adams, November 11, 1878; Frederick Hudson, November 23, 1886; William D. Strong, April 1, 1889; Sylvanus Mathewson, May 16, 1893; William A. Bradley, July 2, 1897; John G. Young, July 30, 1910.

## RIVERDALE SCHOOLS.

Riverdale maintains a school comparing favorably with towns of its size. It was graded in July, 1904, since which time it has carried its pupils through 10 grades. There are three departments and three teachers—Elmer Keith, principal; Mary L. Wynne, teacher of the intermediate department, and Helen Williams, teacher of the primary department. There are about 100 pupils, and nine months constitutes the school year.



RIVERDALE'S SCHOOL BUILDING.

The Board of Education consists of five members, at this time, (December, 1913), made up as follows: S. D. Parks, president; Dr. E. M. Highfield, secretary; Jack Moblo, treasurer; Earl Houck, L. A. Carmer.

The school building is of brick and seems to be of suitable size, and properly arranged to meet the needs of the district. It was started in 1899, the original building being arranged with two rooms. In 1908 an addition was built, thus providing for three departments. The total cost was about $4,000. The school is suitably equipped with the ordinary aids to education, such as a microscope, a piano, a library, etc.

## BANK OF RIVERDALE.

The bank was established in the fall of 1905, commencing business November 7th. It was a private bank and had for its first board of directors —A. B. Darragh, president; T. J. Blair, vice-president; F. W. Blair, B. A. Church, N. W. Struble. F. H. Rowland was appointed cashier. May 10,

1909, the bank was incorporated under the banking laws of the state. The bank is capitalized at $20,000. At the close of the year 1913 it reported deposits of $94,388.99, and total resources of $117,461.64.

Under the management of Cashier A. J. Williams the bank appears to be doing a prosperous and growing business, and is an institution of great importance and of much convenience to Riverdale and a large scope of country surrounding.

## M. E. CHURCH.

Riverdale's first Methodist Episcopal class was organized in the fall of 1887 by Rev. John Hills who came over from Edmore for the purpose. The following is a list of the early members, as complete as it is possible to make it now, from the meager records left: Rhinard Schnepp, Mrs. Alice (Ellsworth) Horton, Mrs. Lee Shaffer, Mrs. George Saunders, Mrs. Eva Harrington, Mrs. Delon Fleming, Mrs. C. E. Going, Mrs. Ed. Minor, Mr. and Mrs. Halstead.

The first pastor after the formation of the class by Mr. Hills, was Rev. W. H. Hughes and he was followed by Rev. F. L. Niles who remained three years. In his second year—1891—the church building, still in the service, was erected. The following named pastors have served the church since Rev. Niles' pastorate: Wm. J. Swift, E. E. Wood, Wm. A. Robinson, Herbert A. Wylie, Hubert T. Gilpin, Robert F. Carnell, E. G. Pelley, A. F. Hart, A. N. North, Clare Albert Whaley, Geo. Lester Traver. Rev. Albert W. Baker is the present pastor. In addition to his duties at Riverdale he ministers to the societies at Elwell, Elm Hall and Sumner Center. The Epworth League, the Ladies' Aid and the Sunday School at each of those places help to keep the pastor busy. The Riverdale society has a membership of about 70.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### I. O. O. F.

The lodge was organized at Elm Hall December 11, 1877, and named North Star Lodge No. 306, I. O. O. F. Later the headquarters were removed to Riverdale. The charter members were—Morris S. Nichols, Ira B. Ellsworth, Julius Sabin, Geo. J. Butcher, Joseph Pingle, M. Douglas, Benj. Butcher.

Present officers: N. G.—J. L. Nichols; V. G.—Roy Davenport; R. S.—Clarence Martin; F. S.—Fred Chapman; Treas.—S. D. Parks; Chap.—J. W. Mathews; Ward.—B. F. Schnepp; Con.—A. Black; R. S. N. G.—C. E. Going; L. S. N. G.—R. H. Leonard; R. S. V. G.—Claude Phelps: L. S. V. G.—Ed. Leonard; I. G.—Frank Schnepp; O. G.—Geo. Wiltshire.

### Rebeccas.

Riverdale Rebecca Lodge No. 165 was instituted March 25, 1908, with charter members as follows: Agnes Denges, Henry Denges, Wm. Rings, Marion B. Adams, John B. Adams.

Present officers: N. G.—Emma Lemon; V. G.—Minnie Osborn; Sec.—Evangeline Nichols; F. Sec.—Lizzie Welch; Treas.—John Jacques; Chap.—Catharine Jacques; Ward.—Anna Going; Con.—Mattie Parks.

### Maccabees.

K. O. T. M. M. Tent No. 380, was chartered February 14, 1891, with N. B. Bradley as Commander; Sam. McMullen, L. C.; W. D. Strong, R. K.; T. S. Tallon, F. K. Other officers were O. Capen, J. R. Shaffer, Tim. Kerwin, S. B. Herron, W. A. Bradley.

### Lady Maccabees.

Riverdale Hive No. 575, L. O. T. M. M. had first officers as follows: Katie Fleming, Isabella Moblo, Mary Bradley, Carrie Tallon, Katharine Mahoney, Alice Ellsworth.

Riverdale Camp No. 6820, M. W. A. was granted a charter September 24, 1901.

Dale Camp No. 6409, R. N. A. was chartered July 1, 1910.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Dr. E. M. Highfield is the resident physician; been here three years.

The Riverdale Hotel has J. W. Mathews as proprietor; a year here, formerly from Ithaca and Breckenridge.

The Riverdale Elevator has Walter E. Swope as manager.

A pickling establishment is one of the important business enterprises.

W. H. Owen dispenses drugs, medicines and sundries to the citizens of Riverdale and vicinity.

Thomas Morton and James Schnepp are the proprietors of the new livery barn and livery business; the new barn succeeding the one destroyed by fire May 31, 1913.

L. Houck & Son deal in hardware, implements, fencing, etc.

A. J. Looker is the village blacksmith; wood-worker also.

Earl Ryckman is the harness man; here two years. Repairs shoes between times.

H. G. Leonard & Son buy and sell poultry and eggs; also buy cream.

John G. Young operates as a jeweler; at his postoffice building.

R. E. Moblo & Co. are hardware and furniture dealers.

Henry Tucker, Wm. Horton and Chas. Green are proprietors of grocery stores.

Nunn & Locey, general merchandise, clothing.

A. W. Wyeth deals in produce. Many years in the business here.

F. C. Hyde deals in general merchandise.

Chas. Green is proprietor of Riverdale's restaurant.

Markham & Rice have been in business here about a year with a general line.

Hammond's Variety Store operates in bazaar goods.

Lewis Forquer, proprietor of barber shop; successor to Fred Walker.

# VILLAGE OF SUMNER.

The Village of Sumner is an unincorporated hamlet lying in the southwest corner of Sumner Township, about a mile from the west line of the county. It is on both sides of the section line between sections 29 and 32 of Sumner Township. Pine River sweeps down from the north, and, in an irregular half-circle takes in the village, and then, by a northeasterly course crosses the township, leaving it by the eastern border near the center of the eastern township line, and then onward in the same general course to Alma and St. Louis.

The face of the country about Sumner is somewhat uneven and rolling with a variety of soil, a sandy loam predominating; the style and quality of soil usually found where pine timber abounds. For the pine of western Sumner and Seville was the best in the county. Geo. S. Bell was credited with having been one of the first settlers in southwestern Sumner. Titus Stover also was one of the first. Mr. Bell took up 400 acres of land in that locality in 1854. He came from Geauga County, Ohio. He was born in



MAIN STREET, LOOKING WEST.

Chester, Massachusetts, July 30, 1812. When nine years old he moved with his father's family to Ohio by ox team. They were 28 days making the 700 miles.

A saw mill and a store started at the present site of Sumner, first took the name of Belltown, from Geo. S. Bell, the principal landowner in that section. The store was kept by Titus Stover; so the place was also given the name of Stoverville, by the patrons of the store. The saw mill was owned and operated by Titus Stover and Geo. Stratton. The village plat was laid out in 1868 by Geo. and Wm. Stratton, Thos. Harvey, Lawson S. Ferris and Wm. Pugsley, and was given the name of Estella. S. S. Hastings was the surveyor and the plat was recorded October 13, 1868, by Theodore Nelson, register of deeds. The plat embraced about 83 acres.

Estella got along without a postoffice until the fall of 1869. Morris W. Tucker was appointed first postmaster, October 28, 1869, and the postoffice was named Sumner. So the village endured the inconvenience of having one name and its postoffice another. This continued until the year 1887,

when the board of supervisors, at their October session changed the name of the village plat to Sumner, in accordance with a petition of citizens asking for the change.

## POSTMASTERS.

Following M. W. Tucker as postmaster, came Miss Myra Crispell, Sept. 1, 1874; Mills Mecumber, Oct. 18, 1875; Abram West, April 9, 1877; Mills Mecumber, May 17, 1878; Owen Flanders, May 27, 1878; Sam. Bigelow, Oct. 7, 1878; Edward L. Drake, May 11, 1880; Sam. Bigelow, Nov. 20, 1885; Chas. A. Button, Nov. 24, 1888; Henry A. Clow, July 13, 1893; Chas. A. Button, June 27, 1897; Horatio N. Stearns, Oct. 7, 1911. Two rural routes radiate from Sumner, operated by Chas. Booth and Elmon Evey, respectively.

## SCHOOLS.

Sumner's schools are a credit to the town. The school building is a fine structure, much better than is usually found in a small town. Ten grades are taught and two teachers are employed: At the present time Alger M. Clark is principal and Alice Seaman is assistant. The school board is made up as follows: Moderator—Thos. Lang; Treasurer — Arthur Pugsley; Director — C. M. Grow; other members—C. J. Teed, Wm. Fowler.



SUMNER'S SCHOOL BUILDING.

## BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Sumner can boast of as good a flouring mill as can be found in this part of the state. Arthur E. Fowler is the owner and operator; nearly ten years at the business here.

The Free Methodists have regular services. The Church is served with that at Elm Hall, Rev. Glenn W. Bodine, pastor.

The Church of Christ has services each alternate Sunday, Elder Mudge of Alma officiating.

The Adventists have a society, but are destitute of a permanent pastor at the present time, Rev. I. J. Woodard acting as a supply.

F. J. Graham is the resident physician. His ministrations to the physical ailments of Sumner and vicinity have covered a period of close to twenty years.

A. J. Mulford is the popular landlord of Sumner's hotel; always mindful of the comfort and well-being of his guests.

Loyal Woodard is the presiding genius at the blacksmith shop.

Dealers in general merchandise are Mrs. Finch, H. A. Clow, I. F. Tucker, S. Cleverdon and others

A Tent of K. O. T. M. M. has officers as follows: Com.—W. N. Baldwin; Lt. Com.—Wm. G. Phillips; R. K.—Alfred L. Stearns; F .K.—H. N. Stearns.

A Hive of L. O. T. M. M. is favored with officers as follows: Com.—Maggie Townsend; Lt. Com.—Bertha Cleverdon; R. K.—Jennie Woodard; F. K.—Hazel Klees.

The Lodge of M. W. of A. has the following as present officers: Consul—Chas. L. Booth; Clerk—E. J. Evey; Advisor—H. O. Church; Treas.—L. M. Forquer.

The interests of the Royal Neighbors are looked after by the following officers: Oracle—Sarah E. Pelton; Vice-Oracle—Mrs. Minnie Booth; Recorder—Mrs. Anna Rempp; Receiver—Mrs. Minnie Duffield.



# VILLAGE OF WHEELER.

## Its History From Early Times.

Wheeler Village — unincorporated — is located in the Township of Wheeler, less than a mile south and a half mile west of the center of the township. It is a station on the Pere Marquette Railroad, and as such it is a little burg of considerable importance. Within its borders and its suburbs it has a population of about 300 people, and it is equipped with such mercantile concerns and industrial institutions as are usual and necessary in towns of its size. It is a trading center and market for a good farming community surrounding, its stores of various kinds, its bank, hotel, grain elevator, blacksmith and other shops being apparently well patronized and in a flourishing and prosperous condition. The village has reached this creditable condition through considerable tribulation, in the earlier days, being handicapped by its wilderness surroundings, the nature of which made the progress of improvements discouragingly slow. Its bigger sister—Breckenridge—only two miles to the westward, also served as a hindrance to rapid



WASHINGTON STREET, LOOKING SOUTH.

development and growth; and this latter drawback still has its influence in keeping the village from any boom condition that it might otherwise hope for and aspire to.

The first start toward the founding of the Village of Wheeler seems to have been made in the year 1869 by Albert P. Foland, of St. Louis, who opened a general store for the sale of such common and necessary supplies as were called for in a pioneer community. His store was located on the State Road a quarter of a mile south of the present railroad station and the center of business as now established. Mr. Foland had come to St. Louis in the early '60s, and with his brother, Theodore H. Foland, had been engaged in mercantile trade there for several years. When he located in Wheeler the plank had not yet been laid on the Saginaw and St. Louis plank road, but that happy event came soon afterward. Then in 1872 when the railroad was put through, the line passed about 80 rods to the northward of the plank road. The advent of the railroad called for a station for the shipment of staves, hoops, logs and square timber. Mr. Foland moved his store over to the neighborhood of the station, and thus was formed the nucleus of the present Village of Wheeler.

Barney Swope—still living in the suburbs of Wheeler—Tom. Murphy and A. P. Foland—the last two mentioned long since dead—were largely instrumental in inducing the railroad company to establish the Wheeler station. Geo. W. and Chas. Hatfield and Wm. Fenton had previously established a saw mill on section 16. When the station was located at Wheeler they moved their mill there, where they operated it for a time. Geo. W. Hatfield and Mrs. Wm. Fenton are still residents of Wheeler; the others connected with the mill are dead. Andrew Johnson built a grist mill about 1875, but after doing business a few years the mill was removed to Salt River, now Shepherd, Isabella County.

The land where Wheeler stands was first owned by John Hawkins who took it from the government. At his death it went to his daughter Phebe, who was married to a man named Zenas Meeker. He died a soldier, and Phebe afterward married a man named Willett. Later she lost all her landed possessions through sharp practice of her husband's relatives, it was said.

The village is located on comparatively high ground. Not high, but comparatively high, and the soil being of a sandy nature the roads are generally in good condition in the immediate vicinity. Large quantities of sugar beets are raised in the surrounding country, and as there are three weighing stations for as many factories, the beet industry shows up conspicuously during the fall season, the town being fairly submerged and inundated with that succulent and sacharine vegetable, and certainly it is alive with the scores of farmers and their teams, coming and going, in the work of marketing the valuable crop. The interests of the St. Louis factory are looked after in this vicinity by John J. Miller, of St. Louis, as field manager. Alma's factory interests here are under the management of C. J. Shepard, and the Owosso factory is represented by Orin H. Bailey, whose headquarters are at Breckenridge.

Wheeler's original plat was surveyed by S. S. Hastings, for Charles J. and Mary M. Allen, June 26, 1876. The tract extended from the railroad north to Chestnut Street. A tract extending from the railroad south to Garfield Street was platted by Henry C. Breckenridge, and was recorded May 10, 1880 by Register J. H. Seaver. Thomas Murphy platted a small tract as an addition, north of the railroad and west of Washington Street; recorded July 9, 1880.

## WHEELER POSTOFFICE.

The Wheeler postoffice was established May 28, 1869, the appointment of Daniel D. Brooks as first postmaster bearing that date. Then came Albert P. Foland, February 10, 1870; Newel Smith, November 13, 1885; John Schmidt, April 11, 1889; Adam Johnstone, July 11, 1893; John W. Smith, July 19, 1897; Julia A. Ellsworth, June 14, 1907; Jay W. Ellsworth, (acting), May 19, 1913.

John W. Smith, who was postmaster ten years was succeeded by his sister, Mrs. Julia A. Ellsworth. Mr. Smith died April 28, 1913, and Mrs. Ellsworth died May 18, 1913. Her son Jay who had been her assistant, was retained in the office as acting postmaster.

There are three rural routes running from Wheeler postoffice. Route No. 1, has Bert Wilson for carrier; No. 2, Howard Lancor; No. 3, Smith Clark.

## WHEELER VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

Wheeler may consistently boast of its public schools. Speaking not only of the schools as an educational force and medium, but of the fine new school building as well. There can be but few—perhaps not any—better or more convenient school buildings in any small village in the state. The old school building which was of wood, two stories in height and built in 1884, was outgrown, in the minds of the people at least, in 1910, and was discarded for a new one. The old building is now owned and occupied by the Ancient Order of Gleaners. The school was graded in 1884, when the old building was first occupied.



WHEELER'S SCHOOL BUILDING.

The new school building is of brick, and is of an unique though tasty design. This is quite clearly shown in the illustration. The finish is especially neat and appropriate. As the building is but one story in height the three departments are all in ground floor rooms; a decided advantage over the two-story structure for small schools. The building was erected, finished and seated at a cost of $3,700.

The teaching force at the present time is composed of Jesse Maxham, principal; Hazel Way and Ethel Klein, teachers. There are ten grades, and nine months a year are taught. W. F. Bradford is director.

## THE BANK OF WHEELER.

The Bank of Wheeler, (unincorporated), located in its own fine cement-block building, and in the midst of some of the very best farming country in the state, was established in the year 1906. Its interests are looked after by a board of directors composed as follows: James B. Crawford, Adam Johnstone, L. Waggoner, H. M. Boneman, James. P. Gibbs, W. O. Watson, Alf. F. Crawford, John Mitchell, Jr., Thos. Crawford, Kenneth Mitchell, Mrs. C. Peterman.

The active management of the bank is in the hands of the following officers: President, Adam Johnstone; Vice-President, John Mitchell, Jr.; Cashier, Henry C. Mead. At the foundng of the bank in 1906, Hugh L. Torbert was elected cashier, serving efficiently in that position until September, 1911, when he resigned to accept a position in a Detroit bank. The present cashier was then appointed to the position, and he is fully meeting the expectations of his friends and the patrons of the bank as a competent and courteous official.

The Bank of Wheeler has for its aim the accommodation and welfare of Wheeler and the surrounding farming community. The bank's management is in the hands of successful business men and farmers who have had

years of practical banking experience. The depositors and borrowers are mainly farmers; all loans are on short time and in small amounts, and are secured by first real estate mortgages on Gratiot County farms, or by endorsement of good, substantial farmers of unquestioned responsibility. Not a dollar is loaned to any corporation, stockholder, director or officer of the bank.

The Bank of Wheeler has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth from its organization, increasing its business over 40 per cent. in the last two years. With a responsibility of $100,000, it offers to its patrons a safe, conservative and substantial banking medium. It pays the highest current rates of interest on savings deposits, and on loans its rates are reasonable. The marvelous growth and prosperity of the bank seem to be ample proof of the confidence reposed in it by its many patrons.

## WHEELER M. E. CHURCH.

Wheeler Methodists commenced operations in an early day. A class was first organized at the Tubbs school house. In 1860 a man named Jonathan Finch took up land for a home, and being somewhat addicted to the preaching habit held services at the school house mentioned and at private houses. His class of pioneers was composed as follows: Hamilton Allen and wife Phebe, Edson Packard and wife Eunice, Nathan Morse and wife, Stephen Wood and wife, John Yager and wife Elizabeth, George Cady and wife, David Milligan and wife, Bernard Fox and wife. A little later Rev. Stephen Dodge, of St. Louis, helped the cause along by coming over and conducting services. Along in 1864-65 Rev. Webb officiated occasionally, followed by Rev. E. M. Plumb and Rev. T. J. Hill who were stationed at St. Louis.

Following Rev. T. J. Hill, ministers have served the church as follows: John K. Stark, A. W. House, Rev. Montrose, V. P. Welch, Rev. McEwen, Rev. Boyington, Oliver Perry, Fred Simmons, Thos. Young, A. O. Carmer, Jas. Foote, B. J. Youngs, another Simmons, J. S. Valentine, John Hayward, J. E. Slater, Geo. Carter, B. J. Youngs. The last-mentioned is pastor at the present time and he is ministering to his flock in a very acceptable manner.

The church building was erected in 1885 and was dedicated February 3, 1886, free from debt. Presiding Elder Jas. Hamilton conducted the dedicatory services, assisted by Rev. Geo. Donaldson, of St. Louis. The cost of the structure was about $1,300.

## FRATERNAL ORDERS.

### K. O. T. M. M.

Wheeler Tent No. 369, Knights of the Modern Maccabees, was first organized August 5, 1890, but it did not long continue in active business. It was reorganized October 1, 1895, and since that time has shown a reasonable degree of life and usefulness.

At the time of its reorganization it was officered as follows:

Past Com.—Barney Swope; Com.—Michael J. Ryan; Lt. Com.—Wm. Montgomery; R. K.—Walter Swope; F. K.—W. F. Bradford; Prel.—E. A. Anderson; Phy.—W. B. Clark; Ser.—D. W. Hall; M. of A.—Frank Goodenough; 1st M. of G.—Frank Welling; 2nd M. of G.—Geo. Young; Sent.—Finley Goodenough; Pick.—M. W. Bradford.

The offices at the present time are filled as follows:

Past Com.—Frank Welling; Com.—Adam Johnstone; Lt. Com.—Minor M. Davenport; Sec. and Treas.—George Kipp; Chap.—J. E. Gillis; Phy.—Dr. E. L. Street; Serg.—Clarence Welling; 1st M. of G.—Wm. Montgomery; 2nd M. of G.—Albert Allen; M. at A.—W. F. Smith; Sent.—Clyde Youry; Pick.—Leslie Hewitt.

### Ancient Order of Gleaners.

Wheeler Arbor No. 783, Ancient Order of Gleaners was organized August 10, 1903, and the following officers were installed:

Ch. G.—Adam Johnstone; Vice Ch. G.—John Sherwood; Chap.—John Christman; Sec-Treas.—Smith Clark; Conductor—Geo. Cooper; Conductress—Dolo Hackett; I. G.—Daniel Brown; O. G.—Arthur Hills.

Present officers: Ch. G.—Frank Swope; Vice Ch. G.—Lyle Gray; Chap.—Ethel Watson; Sec. and Treas.—Mrs. Eva L. Barnes; Conductor—Myland Youngs; Conductress—Mrs. Dora Lippert; Lecturer—Mrs. Jennie Swope; I. G.—Smith Clark; O. G.—E. J. Longcor. The present membership is 114.

## PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Adam Johnstone, general dealer—dry goods, groceries, shoes, hats and caps. In his own two-story building; Maccabee hall above. Has been in the business 25 years. Employs two clerks. Has two valuable farms to rest up on.

Wm. Kipp, drugs, medicines, school supplies, sundries. Owns his building and many other items of property. Twenty-two years in the business at Wheeler. Geo. Kipp occupies front space for his jewelry business.

Willard C. Folkert, general merchandiser. In his own cement building, and in business several years. Is township clerk.

Jay Ellsworth, bakery and confectionery business; postoffice in the rear. Manages Bell telephone exchange.

C. I. Rich, general hardware. In brick building owned by Jay Ellsworth. Has been 11 years established in the business.

Gazette Grocery Co.—E. J. Gazette and son-in-law Jack Dietzel. In the business three years; buy poultry, eggs, etc. Own their buildings.

Meat market, Alex. Stewart of Breckenridge, proprietor; Wm. Stewart, manager. In E. J. Gazette's building.

C. B. Bush, grocer and general produce dealer. Does business in his own buildings. Owns three other business buildings and three dwellings. Three years in the business.

Wheeler Hardware Co.—D. N. Wilson, W. F. Bradford. Three years in business, and since August, 1912, in their own brick building. General hardware and sundries—farm implements, fencing, etc.

L. D. Allen, groceries and notions. Serves ice-cream in season. Buys poultry, etc. Has Union telephone exchange. Seven years in business; owns his buildings.

Fred mill, C. E. Bonesteel, proprietor. Doing business 18 years, busy most of the time. Owns his buildings, and runs by gas engine power.

Wheeler Hotel, operated by Geo. Cooper, landlord. Rates $1.50.

Wheeler Elevator Co., operates in grain, hay, beans, coal, wood, cement, etc. Manager, Wm. F. Bradford.

Cheese Factory; in operation two years, John Miner, proprietor. Supplies local trade and ships to various markets. Building owned by C. B. Bush.

Lumber Yard, A. Cook, proprietor. Owns his buildings and deals in all kinds of supplies in his line.

General blacksmithing by Geo. F. Howard. Horseshoeing a specialty. In business three years; in C. B. Bush's building. Repair work of all kinds.

C. H. Bradford, proprietor of the only barber shop. In building owned by Wm. Kipp; 18 years experience.

A. L. Condon, all kinds of blacksmith work, wagon repair work, etc. Lamphere building.

L. A. Gygert is the affable station agent at the Pere Marquette depot.

Landlord Geo. Cooper of the Wheeler hotel is also proprietor of the livery, and of the Wheeler dray line.



## SMALL HAMLETS, FORMERLY WITH POSTOFFICES.

### SICKELS.

This is a little burg in Hamilton Township, and is located eight miles east and one mile south of Ithaca, at the corners of sections 4, 5, 8 and 9 of Hamilton. The place was first dreamed out by Judge William Sickels in December, 1880. He had purchased a large tract of land there, and the idea of a country village in that place struck him favorably. So he had 15 acres platted along in January, 1882, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county. The plat was afterward increased to about 33 acres. When the matter was fairly started, others became interested, Sheldon Wight taking an active part in establishing a business center. He opened a store for the sale of general merchandise. George Little started a blacksmith shop at about as early a period as there was anything doing, and he seems to have never repented, as he is still in business at the old stand.



SICKELS, LOOKING EAST.

In the summer of 1883 Mr. Sickels erected a grist mill, John McDonald the first miller. Afterward he sold it to Mr. Lockwood, and he sold it later on to Mr. Secor, who, about the year 1896 removed it to Midland County. The mill is said to have been a great convenience, but could not be made to pay.

The store has at the present time—and for the past six years has had—Burr Betts as its proprietor. At some times there have been two stores. W. F. Markham was located here several years, removing to Pompeii two or three years ago.

From the start Sickels had a postoffice. Prior to that, the people of the vicinity were accommodated by Bad River postoffice, later on by Edgewood postoffice, the successor to Bad River. Mrs. Emma C. Sickels,

wife of William Sickels, the father of the village, was appointed as the first postmaster, her appointment bearing date February 8, 1881. Her successors were—Jasper C. Sickels, appointed September 20, 1882; George B. Weaver, August 16, 1886; Carroll S. Betts, June 23, 1887; William Sickels, May 25, 1889; William F. Ready, June 19, 1890; Mason Wight, July 9, 1891; Peter Cunningham, May 15, 1893; E. Malvin Gibson, May 20, 1897; Robert J. Dillsworth, February 24, 1898; Charles Wight, January 19, 1903. Since December 14, 1904, the people of Sickels are served from Ithaca postoffice, route No. 3.

Sickels has a cheese factory, with W. H. Earls of Lansing, proprietor. R. Ledoes is the cheese-maker and local manager. The building is owned by Burr Betts.

An institution of much importance in that vicinity is the tile factory of C. D. Peet, located a mile south of Sickels Village. It has been in operation several years. Mr. Peet has owned and operated it only about three years. The products of the factory are high-class and very popular.



M. E. CHURCH—SCHOOL HOUSE.

The M. E. Church society have a very good church building with regular services supplied from Ashley.

The Free Methodists had a church society and building. The building still stands, but the society is reduced to the vanishing point.

The Gleaners Lodge No. 166 was organized about the year 1897. It is flourishing, with about 100 members.

A Lodge of Odd Fellows was organized in the early '80s and flourished many years. Dissensions brought about suspension of the lodge. Many of the members now belong at Edgewood.

The school is of the common district school order. Formerly and for several years there were two departments, with two teachers, but latterly one teacher fills the bill. Geo. Little is the school director.

## NEW HAVEN CENTER.

As its name indicates, the "corners" so named is located in the center of New Haven Township. A long-established general store constitutes the main business feature of the place. A blacksmith shop constitutes the only other business asset; and both are great conveniences to a large scope of country surrounding. A postoffice was maintained here from an early day until the rural carrying system was established.

New Haven Center's first postmaster was Joseph Wiles, Jr., who received his appointment September 26, 1863. His successors are recorded in the following order: Moses H. White, January 19, 1864; Dexter Woodward, October 29, 1869; George W. Hedding, July 15, 1879; Reuben Botsford, December 9, 1880; William H. Everest, July 28, 1894; Carrie B. Thornton, October 5, 1903. Discontined December 14, 1904. Mail from Ithaca, route 1.

John A. Delling is owner and proprietor of the store, and in the space of about four years has grown from a poor boy to a man of means and prominence. And all by industry, perseverance and square dealing. That



NEW HAVEN CENTER, FROM THE EAST.

seems to be the universal feeling of the community, freely expressed. He succeeded Frank McNitt in the business along in 1909. He now owns the property, carries a large stock, has greatly improved his building, a large, two-story structure, with living rooms above, has built a fine new barn, and also owns the blacksmithing property. George Ward is the active artist at the forge at the present time. It is proper, and a pleasure, to add that Mr. Delling has an able and loyal assistant in all his work in the person of Mrs. Lulah Delling, his wife. Mr. Delling was elected township treasurer in 1913.

The town hall is located here. It is a large, two-story frame building. The rear part and the upper story are owned and occupied by the Odd Fellow, a good strong lodge of the order being located here. The district school house is a near-by feature of the landscape quite picturesque, the face of the country being quite rolling and far from monotonous.

Garfield Lodge No. 411 I. O. O. F. is in a flourishing condition, having a membership of 118, with present officers as follows: N. G.—R. M.

Hurd; V. G.—Peter Wermuth; R. C.—Chas. Heisler; F. S.—Perry Blanchard; Treas.—Lee Townsend; Past Grand—John A. Delling. The lodge was organized in 1892.

Alice Rebecca Lodge No. 187 is a popular auxiliary to the I. O. O. F. organization. Its interests are looked after by the following set of officers: N. G.—Mrs. Clara Gallagher; V. G.—Mrs. Mary McLaren; Past N. G.—Mrs. Lulah Delling; R. S.—Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard; F. S.—Mrs. Mabel Ward; Treas.—Mrs. Lulah Delling.

The Gleaners also have an organization here.

The view discloses a glimpse of the Center from the east, the school house being the most conspicuous detail, while the store and Odd Fellows' Hall show up their front and rear respectively, over the brow of the hill. The Stone Church shows in the distance.



THE STONE CHURCH.

The Stone Church is a very pretty building, made of cobble stone. It belongs to the church of God denomination. Rev. S. S. Teed, of Carson City, ministers to the needs of the church.

## OLA.

Ola is a little station on the Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon Railroad running east and west through the southern tier of townships in Gratiot County. The road is now a division of the Grand Trunk. Ola is located on section 9, of Washington Township, four and a half miles west of Ashley and two miles east of Pompeii. It dates its existence from 1887, when the railroad was completed. Passenger trains stop only on signal, as its distance of only two miles from Pompeii precludes any plausibility in the idea of considering it a regular station. A small tract was platted December 17, 1888, by Alvin Shaver, proprietor, and placed on record in Ithaca. The record describes the plat as composed of the north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of section 9, containing 40 acres, more or less. The railroad constitutes the northern boundary of the plat.

Ola had a postoffice as one of its conveniences for several years, but this had to retire before the onward sweep of the rural carrier system. Alvin Shaver was the first postmaster, appointed May 26, 1887. Then came—Fred E. Smith, March 26, 1890; John B. Schofield, February 28, 1894; Samuel Leddick, November 25, 1895; Clark Kinney, January 8, 1896; Napoleon B. Bowker, September 17, 1896; Frank McNitt, May 4, 1899;

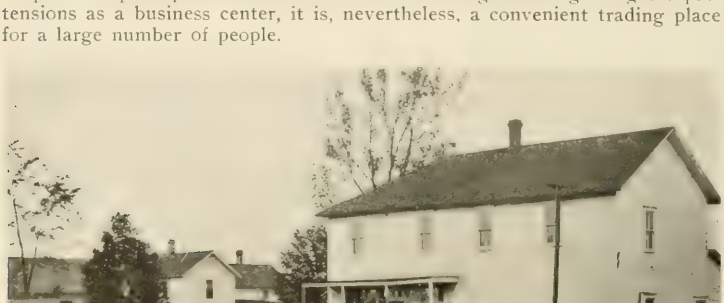
William H. Smith, May 22, 1900; Frank McNitt, January 2, 1903. Discontinued December 31, 1904, and mail thereafter furnished from Pompeii. The place has always had a store for the sale of general merchandise. This is now conducted by D. B. Curtis who has been thus engaged here for the past two years. The building is owned by Whitfield De Bar, of Ashley. Mr. Curtis is successor to F. C. Lawrence.

A cheese factory is located here, Peter Wolf & Son (Asa Wolf) proprietors. It is an independent concern, and has an enviable reputation for turning out a superior article.

A blacksmith shop, with W. H. Shepard as proprietor, is the other business institution of the place. As an agricultural section, the surrounding country is all that could be desired.

## EDGEWOOD.

Edgewood is another little four-corners with a store and a blacksmith shop as its principal business institutions. Though making no great pretensions as a business center, it is, nevertheless, a convenient trading place for a large number of people.



EDGEWOOD STORE.

The place is located on the line between Hamilton and Lafayette Townships, nine miles directly east of Ithaca, and, of course, is three miles from the Saginaw County line. The store, which is on the Lafayette side of the line, now has George Wagner as its proprietor. He succeeded Sisson & Tarr in November, 1912. Philander Sisson and Charles A. Tarr had been engaged in mercantile trade there for many years. Mr. Wagner, who was a farmer, lost a foot by an accident a year or two ago, and took up merchandising as being better for him, in his crippled condition, than the strenuous life of a farmer. He is ably assisted by his energetic and capable wife.

The blacksmith shop is in charge of Lawrence Mitchell as proprietor.

Edgewood gets its mail from Ithaca, since the rural free delivery system went into effect December 14, 1904. Previous to that, for about 30 years. Edgewood was a rural postoffice, having developed in 1874 from Bad River postoffice, which was established December 23, 1867, in Hamilton Township, with William Barton as postmaster. January 26, 1874, the name was changed to Edgewood, and Henry C. Mead was appointed post-

master. Others came along in succession as follows: Harvey D. Curtis, December 16, 1874; Reuben Wight, November 8, 1875; Israel Cole, February 7, 1881; Frank H. Pierce, September 7, 1885; Philander H. Sisson, May 5, 1886; Charles A. Tarr, May 27, 1890; Calvin H. Pierce, August 10, 1894; Charles A. Tarr, March 31, 1899. The office was discontinued December 14, 1904, as stated, mail coming by way of Ithaca, route No. 4.

The Odd Fellows have a flourishing lodge, being Edgewood Lodge No. 257, organized December 20, 1888. The charter members were C. S. Betts, John P. Richmond, P. H. Sisson, Benj. F. Austin, S. M. Cole, Seth J. Curtis and James Cornell. The present officers are: N. G.—Arthur Gibbs; V. G. —O. W. Warner; Past G.—Albert Davis; Sec.—Tom. Smith; Treas.—Elmer Emery.

Forest Rebecca Degree Lodge No. 146 was organized May 15, 1895, with charter members as follows: Ollie E. Richmond, D. S. Muffly, Wm. Cornell, Melvin A. Emery, C. S. Betts, James Cornell, Elon P. Potter and F. H. Pitts.

Encampment No. 165 was organized July 15, 1907. Charter members were as follows: E. H. Arnold, Rolla I. Peet, Odell Peet, H. C. Devereaux, Thomas Bouch and J. T. Enos.

## SETHTON.

Sethton's position on the map may be described as on the north and south center line of New Haven Township, and one mile north of the North Shade Township line. So it is but two miles from New Haven Center, the other little burg that helps to supply necessary merchandise to the citizens of New Haven Township. Sethton has a general store with G. J. Sibley as proprietor. He has been there about two years, and is successor to W. J. Richards.

A blacksmith shop is operated by Daniel Stevens. Lawrence Willett may be called the proprietor of the hamlet, as he owns the business buildings. The Methodists have a very good church building, with services held quite regularly. The district school house is located on the corner opposite the church; a cement block building of recent construction. A fine agricultural country stretches away on every side; some of the very best lands in the county.



SETHTON'S M. E. CHURCH.

Like hundreds of other little hamlets in the country, Sethton lost its postoffice when rural carriers made their appearance; now the mail comes by carrier from Middleton.

When Sethton appeared on the map as a neighborhood trading point, so to speak, it needed a postoffice. Seth Gardner was the first appointee—June 11, 1882. Succeeding to the honor came James McClelland, December

18, 1882. Then, October 6, 1885, the office was discontinued, but on August 3, 1887, it was re-established with Orlando E. Rickers at the helm. Then followed George I. Hall, August 15, 1890; John A. Jackson, May 12, 1892; Ralzie W. Griffin, April 12, 1900; Engle De Young, January 13, 1904. Discontinued for good December 14, 1904.

## BRIDGEVILLE.

This small burg is in Washington Township on the south side of the Maple at the point where the river is spanned by the state road bridge, 11 miles directly south of Ithaca, and within a mile of the south county line. The town was started in the early '60s with some aspirations, and was for several years quite an important and convenient stopping place for travelers on their trips to and from the north woods.

John Hicks, of St. Johns, had property interests there and in 1864 had some of his land platted — that is to say, the west fractional half of the southwest fractional quarter of section 30, Washington Township. The town never attained large proportions, and in late years business has become so reduced that one store constitutes the sole business institution of the place; H. D. Lewis, proprietor.

Bridgeville was given a postoffice August 10, 1865. On that date William P. Bolds received the appointment of postmaster. His successors were Edward Y. Kelley, February 8, 1869; James Sturgis, January 15, 1872; Edward Y. Kelley, December 29, 1879; Isaac P. Stanley, December 22, 1886. Discontinued January 28, 1896, mail to go to Pompeii.

## BEEBE.

The history of the Beebe postoffice dates from March 24, 1884, and runs through a period of 20 years. Lewis M. Ritchie was appointed on the date mentioned, and in the course of time was succeeded as follows:



BEEBE, LOOKING SOUTH.

Thomas B. Wiles, September 30, 1886; Spencer D. Monroe, February 21, 1889; Jonathan Gidley, July 30, 1890; Melvern Sanders, March 5, 1892; Frederick Newton, December 7, 1894; Melvern Sanders, July 16, 1896; Robert Gamble, May 20, 1897; J. A. Brader, September 25, 1902; George Duerr, Jr., October 12, 1903. Discontinued December 14, 1904. Mail is furnished from Ithaca, route No. 5.

Beebe was named for Henry L. Beebe, a resident there, and a Gratiot County teacher many years. The place is often called Emerson Center, a name that clearly indicates the location of the burg. A store was started there in the early '80s by Mr. Beebe, who soon sold out to L. M. Richie who was the first postmaster. A store has ever since been conducted here, and sometimes two. Melvern Sanders is the present proprietor. A blacksmith shop is conducted by Will Snyder. The M. E. Church is connected with the North Star circuit and has Rev. Carl Seipp as pastor.



BEEBE M. E. CHURCH.

These few lines relative to the little hamlet may plausibly be brought to a close by the truthful remark that it is surrounded by what many consider the very best farming lands in Michigan; lands that were heavily timbered, but as level and rich as the best prairie lands to be found in any state.

## NEWARK.

Newark Store is located on the east and west center line of Newark Township and within a half mile of the west township line. A country store has been maintained at that point from time immemorial, as one might say. Newark postoffice was also a fixture there, or in that vicinity, for many years, but was legislated out of business when the rural route system was inaugurated. The locality is now served from Ithaca, by carrier on route 1. The Newark postoffice came into being August 28, 1857, by the appointment of John H. Shaeffer as postmaster. The office was discontinued May 21, 1860, and re-established June 18, 1861, with Abram M. Butterfield as postmaster. The following then came on in their order: Ebenezer W. Kellogg, December 8, 1863; Oscar C. Bates, December 11, 1876; George E. Blain, March 28, 1879; John H. Shaeffer, September 13, 1880; Bingley Russell, February 6, 1882; Albert D. Perkins, September 16, 1884; Samuel E. Sower, January 14, 1892; John G. Iutzi, October 30, 1894; Frank H. Rice, May 22, 1897. Discontinued April 30, 1902.

The present proprietor of Newark store is S. P. Jones, and he has been on the job since 1903, successor to I. E. Chapman, a well-known citizen, formerly of Seville, who died in Newark in 1903. Mr. Jones carries a good-sized stock of general merchandise, and is ably assisted in his work by his energetic wife. The store is located eight miles from Ithaca and four and a half miles directly north of Middleton, in the midst of one of the very best agricultural sections of the county.

## RATHBONE.



RATHBONE, LOOKING SOUTH.

The postoffice of Rathbone, was established at the center of Lafayette, October 14, 1891, with Eugene M. Becker postmaster. He was followed by Charles W. Tillotson, April 17, 1894; Lewis E. Zacharias, July 29, 1897; Eugene M. Becker, September 7, 1899; William B. Richardson, March 26, 1901. Discontinued December 14, 1904. Now served by rural carrier from Breckenridge.



RATHBONE M. E. CHURCH.

Two stores have been maintained at Rathbone for many years; a great convenience to a large scope of country, containing some of the best farming lands in the county. One of the stores is conducted by the Rathbone Stock Company — Jesse O. Pettit and Azor Burch, managed by Mr. Pettit. The other establishment is operated by Fred Patterson as proprietor. A blacksmith shop is presided over by Perry Pettit.

The M. E. Church has Rev. B. J. Youngs as pastor; headquarters at Wheeler.

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## BRICE.

Brice had an existence as a postoffice about 22 years. The rural carrier system crowded it off the map December 14, 1904. Brice as now known is a cross-roads store and blacksmith shop in the eastern part of North Shade, four miles southwest from Middleton. Its first postmaster was



BRICE STORE.

Justus B. Gardner, appointed June 16, 1882. Then came Richard W. Brice, March 2, 1895; James H. Fockler, March 10, 1900; Charles H. Gardner, April 23, 1900. It was closed out December 14, 1904, and mail ordered sent to Middleton.

The fine half-tone, from a photo taken in 1911, shows the store and residence of the proprietor, James Henry Fockler; also Mr. and Mrs. Fockler and Towser; meaning the dog.

## OTHER EXTINCT POSTOFFICES.

### SUMMERTON P. O.

Summerton postoffice was located at the northeast corner of Seville Township, at the Isabella county line. Bradley E. Johnson was appointed postmaster July 27, 1870. He was followed by James Fockler, December 8, 1873, and by Walter S. Fowler, October 27, 1875. Discontinued May 18, 1876, and re-established April 18, 1882, with Cyrus E. Larkin as postmaster. Then came Joseph W. O'Harra, September 20, 1882; Jennie O'Harra, July 24, 1885; Joseph W. O'Harra, November 11, 1887; Charles A. Vredenburg, September 28, 1898; Simon W. Cline, November 20, 1900. Discontinued April 7, 1902.

### LAFAYETTE P. O.

Lafayette (or Fayette) postoffice was established in the southwestern part of Lafayette Township, with Eber M. Monroe as postmaster, September 18, 1857. It was discontinued April 14, 1860, but was re-established September 22, 1860, with David T. Huston as postmaster. Officials following were Elijah Curtis, January 31, 1861; George W. Brooks, May 23, 1861; Elijah Curtis, July 20, 1861; James L. Foote, April 29, 1865; George Richardson, January 15, 1867; James L. Foote, February 19, 1872; Charles C. Foote, December 18, 1872; Wesley Knickerbocker, January 6, 1875; Rollin W. Maxam, October 20, 1881; James Darcus, September 14, 1886; Rollin W. Maxam, May 4, 1888; Anselia J. Tenney, April 2, 1889. Discontinued March 13, 1896; mail to go to Rathbone. Re-established April 23, 1896, with Rosa Benson as postmaster. Discontinued April 30, 1902. Mail now from Breckenridge.

### STELLA P. O.

Stella postoffice was early on the map; located in southeastern North Star, with Addison Hayden as first postmaster, appointed March 2, 1858. Discontinued April 14, 1860, and re-established January 24, 1861, with John H. Stedman as postmaster. His successors: Addison Hayden, January 19, 1864; William L. Ball, November 10, 1871; Alanson Jeffery, April 19, 1880; N. Nichols, April 18, 1881; William H. Stedman, March 4, 1884; James E. Bush, April 3, 1888. Discontinued August 14, 1890; mails to Ashley.

### SPRING BROOK P. O.

Spring Brook postoffice was one of the first in the county, being located in central Fulton Township, William L. Sutherland first postmaster, appointed November 16, 1855. He was succeeded as follows: Ashbel W. Herrick, December 8, 1863; Charles Kellogg, January 5, 1867; George C. Bassett, November 12, 1868; Israel W. Hawse, March 2, 1871; Samuel Sheller, April 22, 1879; John B. Resseguie, June 29, 1880. Discontinued March 9, 1888; mail to Bridgeville.

## SEVILLE P. O.

Seville postoffice was established at a little station of the same name on the C. S. & C. Railroad (now the Pere Marquette), on section 34, Seville Township. William G. Faulkner was the first and last postmaster, appointed October 20, 1875. Elwell, a mile or so away proved too strong a competitor, and the Seville postoffice was discontinued January 8, 1884; mail to Elwell.

## RING P. O.

Ring postoffice was located in eastern Wheeler, and had Jabez Phelps as first postmaster, appointed May 3, 1882. He was followed by Eben R. Gould, May 7, 1883; John Basor, September 24, 1883; Jabez Phelps, again, October 4, 1883. Discontinued October 30, 1883; mail to Wheeler.

## PARKINSON P. O.

Parkinson postoffice was located a mile north of Forest Hill, at the residence of Jehu E. Parkinson, on the Ann Arbor Railroad, and Jehu E. was appointed the first postmaster, March 9, 1887. September 30th, following, he was succeeded by his son, Henry J. Parkinson. July 18, 1889, it was discontinued. Then, April 4, 1890, it was re-established, with William N. Leonard as postmaster. He was succeeded August 19, 1891, by William L. Bowers. The office was finally discontinued for good, January 17, 1895; mail to Forest Hill. The office existed about eight years, mainly as a rival to Forest Hill; probably never really needed.

## NORTH WHEELER P. O.

North Wheeler postoffice lasted about ten years, and accommodated a certain number of people of Midland County as well as Gratiot, being on the line between the two. Lawrence J. Hoyt was the first appointee, dating his incumbency of the office from March 6, 1894. Charles Woodcock was appointed November 21, 1902. The rural system closed the office May 14, 1904; served from Breckenridge.

## EUGENE P. O.

A four-corners store located five miles west of Ithaca, on the Arcada side of the line, was headquarters for a postoffice for about eight years, commencing April 25, 1894, when Eugene M. Terpening, proprietor of the store, was made postmaster. The postoffice was named Eugene. John A. Brown succeeded Mr. Terpening, December 15, 1898. March 14, 1902, the office was discontinued, and the locality is now served by carrier from Alma.

## GALLOWAY P. O.

Galloway postoffice was originally a Gratiot County institution, having been instituted January 25, 1896, on section 24, Lafayette, on the county line between Gratiot and Saginaw Counties. Andrew Schurr was the first

postmaster. Frank L. Blackburn succeeded him October 31, 1898. Still later, in the same year, the postmaster moved over the line into Saginaw County, and took the office with him. He was succeeded January 5, 1901, by Theodore P. Adams, and he gave way March 26, 1902, to Oliver D. Miller. Discontinued October 31, 1902, and the vicinity now served by carrier from Merrill.

## LANGPORT P. O.

Langport postoffice was a country postoffice established in the northeast corner of Lafayette Township March 1, 1899, with Frederick G. Biddlecom as postmaster. It was short lived, going out of business October 31, 1902, to make more room for the rural route men. Gets its mail now from Merrill, Saginaw County.

## HASTY P. O.

Hasty postoffice was established in southeastern Hamilton June 7, 1878, to accommodate the lumbering people, at that time doing a large business there. Ezra A. Cole was the first postmaster, followed by Charles M. House, November 29, 1880; Henry Winslow, June 26, 1882; Evan M. Potter, December 18, 1882; Lewis C. Chamberlain, February 19, 1891. The office was discontinued November 3, 1891; mail to go to Elsie.

## NORTH SHADE P. O.

A postoffice named North Shade was established in northwestern North Shade, August 3, 1854, with Joseph Comstock as postmaster. He was followed by Joseph Roop, March 8, 1856; Joseph Comstock again, January 18, 1858; Robert M. Abbott, January 23, 1863; John T. Irish, February 21, 1866; Hiram Sherman, June 5, 1866. The office was changed to Carson City, Montcalm County, August 3, 1868.

## BEAVER CREEK P. O.

Beaver Creek was a rural postoffice established in the northwest part of Seville Township on a creek bearing that name running from Half-Moon Lake on section 5 into Pine River in the southern part of section 18. David C. Lanphere was the first postmaster, appointed December 3, 1860. Following him came William E. Swain, February 3, 1863; John W. Dunn, February 27, 1866; Frederick Dunn, February 21, 1868; Joseph Shanks, April 14, 1873; Jesse L. Pelton, May 13, 1875. Discontinued June 23, 1875.

## LEON P. O.

Leon postoffice was located in eastern Elba, and was established there more particularly to accommodate the lumbering interests there at the time. Horatio G. Tyler was appointed postmaster April 14, 1879, and was

followed by Levi Marriott December 18, 1882. Discontinued February 8, 1883; mail to Elsie. Re-established August 3, 1883, with Mrs. Ira Marriott as postmaster. Discontinued February 18, 1887; mail to Ashley.

## MONTICELLO P. O.

Monticello postoffice was located somewhere in New Haven Township. Henry P. Clark, who was the second supervisor, was appointed postmaster November 2, 1857; Joseph Finkle, December 31, 1858; Moses H. White, February 14, 1863. Discontinued March 23, 1863.

## OCINA P. O.

Ocina postoffice was located in southern New Haven, and had Abraham Fredenburgh as its first postmaster, appointed March 8, 1881. Isaac Jason succeeded him August 19, 1881, and the office was discontinued September 7, 1881. All done within six months' time. It might be called a forerunner of the office at Sethton, which was established the next summer, and not far away.

## GARDENVILLE P. O.

Gardenville was a short-lived postoffice of western New Haven, lasting from March 25, 1895, when Robert McFarland was appointed postmaster, till December 31, 1902, when it was discontinued. Arad E. Lindsay succeeded Mr. McFarland April 18, 1898.

## LUNA P. O.

Probably the shortest lived postoffice on record was a little office with the little name "Luna", down in Washington Township. The office lasted from March 2, 1858, when William V. Carothers was appointed postmaster, until June 22, 1858, when it was discontinued.

## ALDRICH P. O.

Andrew Schurr was appointed postmaster at a postoffice called Aldrich, in Lafayette Township. The date of his appointment was June 29, 1899. Discontinued April 21, 1900; mail to Rathbone.

# GRATIOT COUNTY SCHOOLS.

## Evolution of Present System—Pioneer Tribulations.

There may be no good reason for believing that the schools of Gratiot County are any better than the schools of most other counties in the state. But that they are as good as the best any Gratiotite may safely contend. Like most other institutions they have grown and developed from small beginnings. Those small beginnings have been referred to variously in what has gone before, in this volume—first school houses of logs here and there, in various localities; first teaches in the townships and in the villages, etc. The schools of the several hamlets, villages and cities have been treated of quite fully in connection with those communities and municipalities, and especially so in the case of the three big towns—Alma, Ithaca and St. Louis. So, if nothing more were said on the question it could hardly be charged that the matter had been slighted. But I have some further memoranda and pointers relative to early school matters that I am sure will be appreciated by those especially interested in the county's educational progress in the past 40 or 50 years.

Condensing some facts relative to school system legislation: Up to the year 1867 the primary school law made each township a law unto itself relative to local school matters; that is, under the general supervision of the state. By the statute of 1867 the office of county superintendent of schools was created, and that spring Giles T. Brown, of Ithaca, was chosen first county superintendent for Gratiot County. He was re-elected in '69 without opposition. In 1871 there were four candidates, Rev. Dillis D. Hamilton, of Pompeii, being elected. In the spring of 1873 Mr. Brown was elected for another term. The legislature of 1875 abolished the office of county superintendent of schools and returned to the township unit system, providing for the election each spring of a township superintendent of schools. This law continued in force till 1881 when a new law provided for a county board of school examiners to be chosen by the chairmen of the boards of school inspectors of the townships, meeting in convention for that purpose. This law, with slight modification, held good until 1891 when a new statute required the board of supervisors, at its June session, to appoint a county school commissioner, and two school examiners, the commissioner to be the executive head of the system and a member of the board of school examiners. Thereafter, commencing with the spring election of 1893, a commissioner of schools to be elected by the people, the term to be for two years. At the June session of 1891 the supervisors elected Orin G. Tuttle as the first commissioner, J. N. McCall and Fred Fullerton being appointed examiners for terms of two years and one year respectively. This system—a board of school examiners consisting of two members appointed by the supervisors, and the commissioner elected by the people as the executive head of the system—is still in vogue. The term of the examiners is two years; that of the commissioner is four years; changed from two years in 1901, to take effect in 1903.

Orin G. Tuttle served 10 years as head of the schools—two years as secretary under the old system and eight years as commissioner, being re-elected in 1893, '95 and '97. In 1899 Retta Peet was elected and served one term. In 1901 Chas. F. Pike was elected and served 10 years, being succeeded in 1911 by Howard A. Potter, present incumbent.

In contemplating past events and conditions it is not uncommon to hear the expression, "It might have been worse." The expression would be truthful but hardly appropriate if applied to school progress and achievement in Gratiot County during the past nearly 60 years. "It could hardly have been better," would much better express the facts, and would be none to strong in approval.

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### Some Conditions 43 Years Ago.

In response to a resolution of the board of supervisors at the January session of 1870, Giles T. Brown, superintendent of schools for the county, reported as follows, as to districts and teachers and as to the general status of school matters:

"There were reported to me last autumn 94 school districts, several not reporting. Owing to the frequent change of districts and the formation of new ones, I am unable to tell the exact number. There are 137 teachers now holding certificates — 12 of the first grade, 54 of the second and 71 of the third. The majority of our teachers now pass a very good text-book examination; but they are very deficient in general information. They read too little of that which gives them either historical or practical knowledge. I am continually reminding them that, considering the high wages they get at present they can well afford to knit and embroider less and read and study more; for many of them may be puzzled by a simple, practical question from a child eight years old.

"Our library books are not generally read. I have written, and am now writing, to the township clerks of the county to learn the interest felt in the libraries. Several school houses have been erected, without any regard to ventilation, and none are supplied with school apparatus, etc., etc.

Conditions plainly stated, and not flattering to the teachers. As showing the earnestness of Mr. Brown, however, nothing could be added.

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### A Little More Encouraging.

A year later, that is to say, at the session of the supervisors held in January, 1871, Superintendent of Schools Giles T. Brown, reported in part as follows:

"The whole number of school districts reporting to me for the year 1870 was 98. I have made 140 visits during the year. Have granted 119 certificates — first grade, 5; second grade, 20; third grade, 92. I have held two meetings of the Teachers' Association, which I had previously organized, and was at great expense to make these meetings interesting and profitable to the teachers. There were about 50 teachers present at each meeting. I gave my time and attention largely to the teachers, and although they are young and inexperienced, I look with a great deal of satisfaction upon the faithfulness with which they, as a general thing, strive to discharge their duties. As we have no public institution where teachers can resort to prepare for their work in addition to licensing them to teach and watching their schools after they are licensed, the labor also of preparing them for teaching falls very heavily upon me. I have for this latter purpose conducted a private institute or teachers' class for 10 weeks during the year. In order to add to the interest and profit of the last term, I employed, at good wages, and at my own expense, a first-class teacher to assist me. I am at present engaged in visiting schools; have made a good commencement for the

winter, and hope to reach every school in the county as early in the term as possible, and close my term of office in the spring with an institute as well attended and as profitable as lies in my power to make it."

### Difficulties Along the Way in 1873.

In the spring of 1871 Mr. Brown was succeeded as superintendent by Rev. D. D. Hamilton. There is every reason to believe — and from personal observation I know its truth — that school interests did not lag under the administration of Mr. Hamilton. Coming into the work again in 1873, Mr. Brown, in his report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in October of that year, gave an interesting view and review of school matters as they existed in the county at that time. Some phases of the situation were not very alluring, but when it is considered that what then existed in the county along educational lines was the development of less than 20 years, with practically nothing upon which to base a start, the situation was perhaps no more discouraging than ought to have been expected. The sprinkling of dry humor in Mr. Brown's description of things, is not the least attractive feature of this extract from his report:

"On the first of May, last, after a respite of two years during which the office of superintendent of schools was worthily filled by another person, I again assumed the labors of the conuty superintendency. I found educational matters about as I left them, with but few exceptions. But I missed the earnest faces of a large number of the most enthusiastic and self-sacrificing of my old teachers, and found in their places a younger and less experienced class. Of many of them it may be said that, whatever other disadvantages they may labor under, their age has not yet diminished their vigor. But they are all willing and anxious to improve every opportunity, and make the most of their limited advantages to prepare for their work. And it is almost discouraging to think that a majority of them will scarcely more than be prepared and qualified for their work before some new field of labor will open to those of one sex, and a new sphere of life to those of the other sex; and we must again go through the slow and toilsome process of talking, lecturing, drilling and educating another class up to a proper fitness for the important work of the teacher.

"Superintendents of older and wealthier counties can hardly comprehend how difficult the labor, how arduous and continuous the struggle to keep up a supply of qualified teachers in a county not possessing the advantages of union schools where teachers may complete their preparations; and especially in a new county, where most of the young people are pecuniarily unable to go abroad to obtain an education. * * *

"As a substitute, though not an equivalent for normal training, we hold semi-annually, spring and fall, a five-weeks normal institute. When I commenced these institutes in 1867 it was not with the design of continuing them any length of time; but the necessities of the case have compelled their continuance, until they have now become quite a permanent institution, teachers and people expecting their semi-annual recurrence as a matter of course. And among the superintendent's official qualifications, his ability to conduct these institutes successfully is not considered to be the least. But our prospects in this respect are brightening, as we hereafter will have three graded schools in as many different localities—St. Louis, Alma and Ithaca—with competent men in charge of them as principals; which will give teachers from the rural districts opportunities that they have never before enjoyed.

"We have a County Teachers' Association, which, with much labor and difficulty, I organized in 1867, with no other help than what could be given by a few interested teachers, nearly all of whom were totally inexperienced in the exercises of such an institution. And we are now well repaid by seeing it prosperous, and holding semi-annual meetings which are very interesting and instructive.

"To show that the people are not parsimonious, and that we are advancing in some respects at least, I might refer to the item in my report of 1867, in regard to school houses. I then reported 61 log and 24 frame school houses; a total of 85. We now have 68 frame and 28 log school houses; which shows some advancement in that direction. And this improvement is more than the figures themselves are able fully to show, for our school houses are almost without exception, large, neat and conveniently arranged. * * * But I am sorry to be compelled to add that most of them are unfenced, and, except in a few cases where Nature, a century ago more or less, anticipated their wants, they are entirely destitute of shade trees. And even the trees that Nature has provided hold a very uncertain tenure to the soil, and instead of being thinned out, trimmed and left to be an ornament to the school grounds and a blessing to the community, will probably soon disappear before the sharp ax and strong arm of some enterprising (?) school officer, whose only idea of improvement is the demolishment of the forest. We have held, in years past, so close and severe a contest with the 'woods' that we have grown to act as if every man had been sworn, in boyhood, upon his father's knee, to hold an eternal hatred of that part of the vegetable world known as trees. * * *

"The compulsory school law has made no perceptible increase in the attendance at our schools. There have been no prosecutions made under that law, and no attention paid to it excepting the publication of the required notices; and I doubt if, in all cases, even that has been done. In the rural districts the three-term plan has not been generally adopted; but the prevailing opinion among teachers and people is fast becoming favorable to it. In the villages the school years are divided into three terms.

"In about two-thirds of the schools the text-books are uniform, or nearly so. There has been no effort made to secure a uniformity within the last three or four years. No subject seems so distasteful to our people, or raises their opposition quicker, than the one of text-books, when the slightest change is suggested or mentioned. I believe the legislature might relieve us in this respect. I know of no other reliable source to which we may look for help.

"The schools are not generally furnished with aids to instruction. About one-tenth of them have outline maps and charts. About one teacher in ten subscribes for one of the home educational periodicals. School boards generally have not supplied temselves nor the schools with the needed record books.

"The supervisors have not yet met as a board since my election, consequently I am unable to say what their allowance of time and pay will be. I believe the allowance for the past year has been 200 days at $3 per day; which is rather more than enough to pay traveling expenses; and considering that the credit system prevails here to a great extent, the superintendent is able to live and support his family quite comfortably. But our supervisors are business men, and when their attention is properly directed to the matter I have no doubt that they will, without hesitation, make an allowance nearer commensurate with the dignity of the county, and adequate to the interests involved."

It is gratifying to know that the board of supervisors at their October session increased the time that the superintendent might devote to the interests of the schools, to 250 days at a salary of $4 a day. "Which," in the language of Mr. Brown, "considered as an action favoring the cause of education, it is perfectly characteristic, not only of the supervisors, but of the people of the county generally."

The Gratiot County Teachers' Association, founded by Giles T. Brown in 1867, is still in existence, and has been all these years, and still is, a flourishing institution, and one that has done much to enhance general educational interests in the county and has also been of great value to the teaching fraternity. About 90 regular semi-annual meetings have been held to date; and if interest and enthusiasm have ever shown a tendency to lag or wane, the fact has not yet been made public. It has always been a commendable, efficient and praiseworthy educational factor in the county.

The following is practically a complete list of county school examiners since the office was created in 1881: F. L. Bristol, N. A. Richards, I. N. Cowdrey, G. T. Brown, H. R. Pattengill, O. M. Everden, O. G. Tuttle, Fred Fullerton, T. J. Hoxie, M. W. Coon, J. N. McCall, Will M. Coon, C. F. Pike, J. M. Toxie, M. E. Hull, E. E. Fell, W. E. Swope, Clark Hull, Howard A. Potter, Hallie J. Rose, Frank E. Ellsworth. The present board is composed of Howard A. Potter, commissioner; F. E. Ellsworth, M. E. Hull, examiners.

There are 132 school districts in the county, 135 school houses and 215 school rooms. There are about 8,500 children between the ages of five and 20 years. Number of men teachers employed, about 45, at wages averaging $64.67 per month. Number of women teachers employed, about 195, at wages averaging $45.52 per month.

## REFERRING TO HON. H. R. PATTENGILL.

Mr. Pattengill, now and for the past quarter of a century a resident of Lansing, is justly reckoned one of Michigan's leading educators. Many Gratiot County people put him in a class by himself and call him the leading educator of this state or of any other state. Here's where he got his start as an educator. Fresh from the University of Michigan he came to St. Louis in 1874, taking the position of superintendent of the schools of that town, remaining there two years and then taking a similar position at Ithaca, where he did business as superintendent eight years. Since leaving Gratiot "Pat" has attained eminence along educational (and political) lines. Position, popularity and the intervening twenty-nine years, however, have not dimmed to any appreciable extent, the affectionate regard of the people of Gratiot for the county's favorite adopted son.

If the shortness of "Pat's" communication requires an apology, the reader will have to go to him for it.

"Dear Friend W. D. T.—You ask me for a few reminiscences touching the early educational development of Gratiot County, for insertion in your forthcoming history of the county. I am pleased that you recognize school interests as a prime factor in the development of our country, but at first I thought that I had not been early enough in Gratiot to contribute much on so important a subject. A little reflection, however, brought to mind

the fact that in 1874, when I cast in my lot with the Gratiot pioneers, there were but two high schools in the eastern half of Michigan, north of Ithaca. St. Louis had but just tried the experiment of combining two fractional districts to form a union school, and employed four teachers to educate her youth. Alma had two teachers and Ithaca two and one-half. The last days of the old county superintendency of schools were just fading away, and I went before County Superintendent Giles T. Brown to get my certificate.

"The Gratiot County Teacher's Association was even at that early day a well-established factor in the county's educational advancement, and the writer counts his regular attendance at the live meetings of that organization one of the influences that led him to take up the vocation of teaching as a life work. In the early days of the association Newell Leonard and Elisha McCall, well-known members of the Gratiot County bar, and former teachers as well, could always be depended on to see that discussions were never permitted to lag for want of participants; and these two forensic enthusiasts, never, by any accident, landed on the same side of a question.

"It will ever be a cause of gratification to me that I was led to make my way, after graduating from our state university, to the new, progressive, developing, pioneer County of Gratiot, with its wealth of natural resources and its worthy citizenship. To have even a small share in directing the educational forces, and teaching so large a percentage of its youth for a few years, was and is a source of satisfaction and pleasure. The friendships thus formed are among the choicest joys of my life.

"People recognized the value of education, and many sacrifices were made to give worthy youth an opportunity to acquire at least a start. Even in that early time of limited means the Ithaca school district had established a pretty fair library, and scrupulously set aside $50 each year to enlarge it.

"School exhibits at county fairs are now quite common, but nearly two score years ago Gratiot County made provision for such exhibits, and seemed greatly to enjoy them. Geographical, arithmetical and singing exercises were given by the several classes and schools before large and delighted crowds of people in, or adjacent to, Floral Hall. Games of foot-ball by the boys of the school were very attractive features to the practical, hard-headed, hard-working, but fun-loving Gratiot settlers. One boy—Charles Price, now a banker of the county seat—broke his collar bone in a foot-ball contest on the fair ground; but no one thought of ruling out the game on account of it.

"So far as I have been able to ascertain, the Ithaca school was the first one in the United States to purchase a fine, large, government bunting flag, erect a flag-staff on the school house, and run up the flag on historic and noted days, as determined and explained by committees chosen each week from the history classes.

"Artistic pictures are now very common decorations of school houses; but thirty-two years ago the old school house in Gratiot's county seat had its walls decorated by two large steel engravings costing $15 each. One was "Washington taking leave of his Generals," and the other was "Webster addressing the United States Senate." Never a day of school passed when some youth was not studying one or the other of those pictures, and identifying the famous Americans there portrayed.

"It is not usual for a small school to be supplied with a skeleton with which to aid pupils in the study of anatomy. Ithaca school had one. It was dug up by the larger boys, the bones boiled and cleaned, and, though

not articulated, served a good purpose. It was the skeleton of a man who had, in the very early days, murdered his daughter and her girl friend, and then committed suicide. His body was buried on the old poor farm, about one-half mile south of the Village of Ithaca. Dr. C. W. Marvin, then school director, located the unmarked grave after the body had been buried fully fifteen years. The Doctor's bump of location was so good that the diggers struck the right spot with the first shaft sent down. The skeleton, which was in a good state of preservation, was carefully unearthed and placed in position on the coffin lid. Quite a cortege of citizens followed the remains which soon reposed in state on a lawn in the village, until cleaned up and put in the school room where for some years the bones probably did more real good than they ever did when acting as framework for the animate form.

"But flag, pictures and bones went up in smoke with the burning of the school house in 1883; and the loss of these things caused more genuine sorrow than did the loss of the school house.

"Gratiot has progressed amazingly in wealth and population. Agriculturally she has come to be one of the best counties of the state. She has ever kept in mind, however, the fundamental value of a good education, and now sustains several excellent high schools, and sends many of her youth to a good and growing college within her own borders.

"May we never lose this appreciation of the supreme value of an all-around education that shall make us efficient, honest, sympathetic and patriotic citizens. Cast in the metal of Ithaca's high school bell away back in 1884, is a stanza, the sentiment of which should ever go ringing forth on the mellow tones of the bell:

'With merry sound to Gratiot's youth,
I ring for learning, right and truth;
Let all who hear my cheery chime,
Beware the ills of misspent time.'"

Henry R. Pattengill.

Lansing, Mich., Jan., 1913.

### Biographical Sketch.

Henry Romaine Pattengill, of Lansing, Mich., former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and for many years one of the state's most prominent and popular educators, was for about ten years, in his early manhood, a resident of Gratiot County, and was closely identified with its educational interests. He was born at Mt. Vision, Otsego County, N. Y., January 4, 1852, son of Lemuel C. and Mary G. (Gregory) Pattengill, the former born in New Lisbon, Otsego County, N. Y., June 3, 1812, the latter born at the same place February 14, 1814.

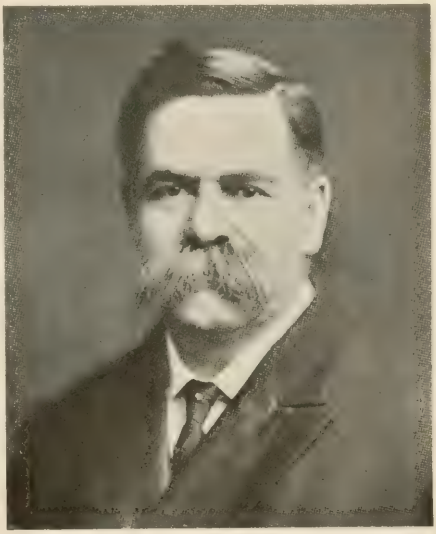
Henry R. Pattengill removed with his parents to Litchfield, Hillsdale County, Mich., in the fall of 1865 and attended the graded schools of that town. Afterward he took a preparatory collegiate course at Hudson, following which he entered the Literary Department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated with the class of 1874. The same year he entered into a contract with the board of education of St. Louis, this county, as superintendent of the schools of that village. Here he remained two years, giving excellent satisfaction as the head of the schools and as a teacher, as well as attaining a high place in the esteem of the entire community as an all-around,

hustling, energetic and progressive citizen. At the end of two years the scene of his activities was changed to Ithaca, where he remained at the head of the schools of that village eight years.

Without in any way disparaging the merits or standing of the many other excellent teachers that have been identified with the schools of Gratiot County from first to last, it is but just to say that Mr. Pattengill led them all in popularity and efficiency, in the estimation of a vast majority of the people of the county. His unfailing jollity, enthusiasm, industry and activity, added to his thorough efficiency, had a telling effect in promoting, strengthening and popularizing all means and measures educational in the county, as well as enthusing and stimulating the educational spirit of all classes, not only in his immediate locality, but throughout the entire county.

Though more than a quarter of a century has passed since his removal from the county, the annual re-union of "Pats Pupils", always attended by "Pat" himself, are still reckoned among the popular festal occasions, and are always attended by a crowd of the old pupils, and in late years by their children and by their children's children, even to the third generation.

Mr. Pattengill was married in 1887, to Miss Elizabeth Sharpsteen, a Gratiot County teacher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Sharpsteen, of Bethany Township, this county. Children have been born to their union as follows: Edith Lille, born in Ithaca, married to Austin Trafton Brant, of Boston; Victor Romaine, born in Lansing, married to Edwina Prudden, is engaged in insurance and real estate business in Lansing; Margaret Irene, Kindergarten teacher; Craig Lemuel, a student in the U. of M.



HON. HENRY R. PATTENGILL.

While a resident of Gratiot County, Mr. Pattengill, aside from his activities along educational lines, took an interest in all local matters. He was elected president of Ithaca Village in 1881, and was re-elected in 1882. In 1884 he was the Republican candidate for representative in the state legislation, but that was a "fusion" year, and he was defeated by Henry A. Weiss, Democrat. The fact that Mr. Pattengill was likely to remove from the county within a few months and was then making plans to that end, furnished an additional reason for his candidacy proving unsuccessful.

Mr. Pattingill took up his residence in Lansing in the summer of 1885. In the same year he founded an educational magazine called "Moderator Topics," of which he still is editor. From 1886 to 1890 he was Professor of Rhetoric at the Michigan Agricultural College. In 1892 he was elected State

Superintendent of Public Instruction, and was re-elected in 1894. He is a member of the State Board of Library Commissioners, and secretary of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. His time and talents as an educator are in great demand and the calls for his services as a lecturer and in conducting Teachers' Institutes take him not only into all parts of this state, but also into many neighboring states.

### Re-union of "Pat" and His Pupils.

When Prof. H. R. Pattengill left Gratiot County in 1884, after ten years spent as head of the St. Louis and Ithaca schools, he left a multitude of friends among the people of the county in general; and as to the children and young people, especially those with whom he had been associated in his school work, they were his loyal and admiring friends, to the last individual pupil. So as the years passed, someone, it matters not who it was, conceived the idea of a Pattengill re-union. Action followed closely on the heels of suggestion, and the first re-union of "Pats" pupils was held at the residence of Jotham Allen, of Emerson, October 5, 1889, and the function has been a popular and enjoyable annual event from that time to the present. Mr. Pattengill is always present and generally accompanied by his wife and some of their children. The honor of entertaining the crowd is passed around from year to year among the old pupils. As time passes the enthusiasm shows no falling off; and the attendance, numerically, is well kept up by the annual addition of a "snarl" of children and grandchildren to take the place of the deceased or those otherwise unavoidably absent. Thus the function is self-sustaining, so to speak, and may never come to an end. The meeting for 1913 was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Van Deventer, of Emerson.

The first officers of the association, elected at the first re-union were: President—Jas. P. Gibbs; Secretary and Treasurer—Louis J. Marvin; Executive Committee—Nettie Brown (now Sutliff), Bell (Depeel) Brown, Anna Phillips (now Heslin), Jotham Allen, Bert Johnson. Louis J. Marvin has been elected secretary-treasurer, annually, to the present time.

## Y. M. C. A. OF GRATIOT COUNTY.

The following brief, but quite comprehensive outline of the organization, object and practical working of this new institution for Gratiot County, was kindly furnished by persons familiar with the matter:

Among the organizations of Gratiot County of modern growth, the Young Men's Christian Association is distinctive as expressing the trend of thought and aspiration of our citizenship.

The organization is the outgrowth of a local club which had its inception in the mind of Dr. M. G. Skinner, of Ithaca, whose Sunday school class of young men had held regular weekly meetings in the old National Bank rooms, Jeffrey block, Ithaca, during the winter of 1911-12. Funds sufficient to hire a secretary under conditions and plans similar to the city organizations had been raised, hall and suitable equipment practically secured, when state officials of the Y. M. C. A. were invited to Ithaca, and conferences were held resulting in the adoption of the county unit system.

The plan of organization is purely voluntary in its nature. The organization and control of the institution is in the hands of a county committee, the members of which are elected annually, each local branch, by vote of contributors to the fund, electing a certain number of committee men. The committee men of the county sit together as an executive board to define the plans of work, promote extension and exercise a general supervisory control over the organization and its work. The actuary of the committee is the county secretary who gives his entire time to the work, he being the only one connected with the organization receiving any salary or compensation for his services.

The secretary carries on his work by the organization of groups of boys and young men, from eight to twenty in number, who themselves organize with officers and a leader to carry into effect their aims and the purposes of the organization, controled and advised by the secretary.

The present county plan in rural work, is a step forward from the old city plan, heretofore undertaken in country places, which had a central building or meeting place with its incident great expense and the pernicious tendency to make the building a lounging place for idle boys to congregate, and play their boyhood days away. The present plan emphasizes individual, group and community thrift and energy, and teaches the boy to give something to his fellows and the community, instead of looking to the community for benefactions. It teaches boys to be virile, dependable entities. To take their places and do their parts in work and in play.

The secret of success of the county system—and this is eminently so in Gratiot County—is a good secretary. The entry of F. Ray Baylis upon this field one year ago as county secretary and the present prospect of retaining him upon the job, means much to the future of Gratiot County in the building of a fabric of upward development of character and manhood.

## GRATIOT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The doctors of Gratiot have for many years had a fraternal association with the name with which this paragraph is headed. The membership includes all or nearly all of the physicians of the county, and regular meetings are held periodically. The last meeting was held at the Wright House, Alma, December 19, 1913. Officers elected at that meeting are—Pres.—Dr. I. N. Manfort, Ithaca; Vice-Pres.—Dr. E. H. Foust, Ithaca; Sec. and Treas. Dr. E. M. Highfield, Riverdale.

## MAPLE RIVER OVERFLOW—FINAL ABATEMENT.

Maple River which was such a barrier to the early settlement of Gratiot County, continued a drawback to the people's peace of mind, and was the cause of much litigation and much expense for many years; to be more exact, for a period of more than 45 years. The rocky obstructions to the river's course at Maple Rapids, just over in Clinton County, which held the waters back, thus inundating the low flats adjacent to the stream for miles back through Fulton, Washington and Elba Townships, were the original cause of the trouble. Then came the construction of the dam for power purposes. Every vertical foot of the dam added hundreds of acres to the flooded lands of the townships mentioned. Thus the submerged Maple River

flats of southern Gratiot early became a source of worry and trouble not only to the settlers and townships directly interested, but also to the board of supervisors which was expected to fight the settlers' battles and see that justice was done. As early as March, 1856, the supervisors took verbal action against the dam as a public nuisance, "inasmuch as it caused the river to overflow and inundate a large tract of land in Gratiot County contrary to law, and greatly to damage the same and seriously to endanger and injure the health of those residents of this county living adjacent thereto." Thus early was the subject tackled; and there was no let-up excepting for brief intervals, until the dam was removed, the shoals at Maple Rapids much reduced or lowered by excavating, the channel dredged where it was needed, and many crooks straightened, and the water thus lowered some six feet, to its proper level and several thousand acres of land reclaimed.

The state legislature was four times induced to make appropriations of state swamp lands in aid of the work, and the state board of health and the drain authorities of both counties at various times took a hand at correcting the evil; and the result sought was finally reached. But it took from 1856 to 1903 to bring the matter to its present satisfactory condition, to say nothing of the great expense incurred by litigation and in the actual work involved in the different phases and processes required to reach the desired result. This brief synopsis is believed to be sufficient for the information of the mass of the people; and a history of the matter in all its details would hardly be appropriate in this work.

## THE SCRIVEN DITCH MATTER, IN BRIEF.

With suits, appeals, mandamuses, orders to show cause and other legal torments, the Scriven Ditch controversy lasted the people of Gratiot County about a quarter of a century, coming to an end along in 1897. A brief summary of the case, only can be given here. The term or name, "Scriven Ditch", refers to the big ditch that drains what was known as the big swamp lying west, northwest and southwest of Ithaca, in the Townships of Newark and Arcada. A branch draining a portion of the swamp extending into the Township of New Haven was included in the title. As told elsewhere in this volume, the greater part of the swamp is drained to the southward by way of Pine Creek and on into Maple River. A small portion goes to the north into Pine River.

Minor R. Frink, of Clinton County, constructed this ditch in 1871 and '72, under contract with the county. The ditch and branch had an aggregate length of some 12 miles, and was of large dimensions. In payment he was to receive six sections of swamp land appropriated by the state, the balance to be paid by assessment on the property benefitted, as is the usual method. After the ditch was constructed, John Scriven, of St. Johns, obtained possession of the orders issued to Frink, by purchase, and also the right to select the six sections of land.

The assessment was made, after which Scriven selected his six sections of land along the line of the ditch, lands that had been assessed their due proportion for benefits received from the construction of the drain. He refused to pay this tax assessed against his lands, and brought suit in the Gratiot circuit court to have the tax set aside, and got his decree to that effect.

Thus was begun the litigation which lasted till 1897. Scriven held the county's drain orders for the full amount of the assessed tax, but as

the taxes against his own lands amounted to about $2,000, which tax the court relieved him from paying, the question of how to collect that surplus $2,000 became the paramount issue with him. So, in order to get the matter into the federal courts he transferred his orders to one Eliza W. Brownell, of New York, who brought suit in the U. S. Courts against the county, and failed to sustain her case. Afterward the orders turned up in the hands of one Henry M. Aylesworth, of New York, who brought another action against the county. The result was again a victory for the county, as a county, but the court ordered a tax spread against the lands benefitted, not including the Scriven sections. But those people, the owners of the lands, had already paid their just share and objected to being re-assessed; and the board of supervisors, reluctant to push the matter, came near being hauled up for contempt of court in not spreading the tax as ordered. Thus the matter dragged along, the case being kept from reaching a final determination by the persistent and never-tiring efforts of the attorneys on both sides, until both sides, becoming disgusted with the long-drawn-out litigation with its enormous expenses, were ready to compromise. The original claim, together with the costs, had increased to about $7,000. The compromise called for the payment of $2,500 by the county. The amount was made up by the interested residents along the line of the improvement, without the formality and trouble of an official assessment.

And so the Scriven Ditch case came to an end after having tormented the people about 25 years, and after the expenditure of thousands of dollars in attorney fees and costs. The attorneys on one side or the other of the case, coming to mind at this time were Chas. J. Willett, B. H. Sawyer, Kelly S. Searl, W. A. Leet, W. E. Winton, Geo. P. Stone, and perhaps others.

And in the meantime the old ditch has had other though similar ways of interesting the people. In 1896, when A. J. Brown was drain commissioner, over $16,000 was expended to increase its usefulness. And in 1913 about as much more was laid out for its benefit by Commissioner Redman. It is doing a good work; but it is an expensive luxury; and also it seems to be a necessary evil.

## FIRST HIGHWAYS IN GRATIOT.

The Fulton archives contain some interesting records relative to the laying out of some highways in that township by the highway commissioners of Essex, Clinton County, before Fulton was named and while it was an appendage of Essex. The first road laid out in Gratiot County was laid out by the Essex officials in the spring of 1850, and recorded May 7th of that year by D. F. McPherson, township clerk of Essex. The highway is described thus: Commencing at the quarter post on the north side of section 6, (Essex), running north to quarter post on section line between sections 30 and 19, in township 9 north, range 3 west, (Fulton). The commissioners were Hiram Benedict, Sr., and A. S. Baker; surveyor, Alonzo H. Richmond. That highway is the two-mile stretch running north and south through the center of sections 31 and 30, Fulton.

The Essex officials established several other highways in Gratiot, the last one being described as follows: Commencing at the quarter post on the north side of section 20, town 10 north, range 3 west, (Newark) running south on quarter line to center of said section. This is signed by Edwin D. Webster and David Blank as highway commissioners, and is dated August

17, 1855. Recorded in Essex by Henry E. Lyon, deputy township clerk. The highway described is the half mile from Beck's corners south to the center of the section. Fulton was organized and named the following fall—1855—and commenced business independent of outside help.

## THE PEPPERMINT INDUSTRY.

Certain Gratiot County farmers are engaged in an agricultural industry quite uncommon to farmers of Michigan as a regular branch of their business. Referring to the cultivation of peppermint for the essential oil it yields. New Haven Township leads in the industry; and in fact that township has a monopoly of the business. The soil required is a sandy loam or muck, such as prevails in tracts that in the earlier days were nothing more or less than swamps. New Haven had quite an area of that style of land; unpromising in appearance and utility till drained, cleared and properly subdued. So prepared and so utilized it has become of more value than many sections that gave greater promise. The first experiments were inaugurated about 1900. Now there are several hundred acres devoted to peppermint, with probably half a hundred farmers engaged in the business, and enjoying very satisfactory returns. Uriah Brillhart was the pioneer in the industry in New Haven.

The business has also got a foothold in Elba and is proving remunerative on some of the low lands of that township. The late A. E. Barstow, of Ithaca, was the pioneer in the business there, on his farm south of Ashley, embarking in the venture in the year 1906. Returns are quoted at from $50 to $100 per acre; which figures rival those of the sugar beet industry.

## THOROUGHBRED HORSE EXHIBITIONS.

Within the past decade Gratiot farmers and stock breeders have become especially interested in the subject of stock improvement. For the purposes of this paragraph special reference is made to the improvement in horses. Much activity along the line of breeding better draft horses has developed, and great progress has been made in that regard. Horse shows have become frequent in all of the larger towns, (cities and villages), such meetings calling together great numbers of the finest animals in the county, and large crowds of people either personally interested or as spectators and enthusiastic admirers. These meetings, being as they are additional to the stock shows at the annual fairs, have proven so popular and advantageous to the agriculturists of the county, it seems a safe prediction that they have become a regular and permanent function in the county.

## THE POULTRY FANCIERS.

Gratiot County has had some exceedingly high-class poultry shows within the past eight or ten years. The three big towns and some of the smaller ones have taken great interest in the matter and have "pulled off" some exhibitions in that line rivaling the poultry exhibits of the larger fairs. The

poultry department of our county fair has withstood the depressing and damaging results of indifference better than any other department, the exhibits each year being a source of pride and satisfaction to the officials, to the exhibitors and to the sight-seeing community. The poultry fanciers of the county seem to have imbibed the poultry-breeding spirit, so to speak, and are doing their share toward the advancement and improvement of conditions, methods and results, in this fascinating and profitable industry.

## EXCURSIONS AND PICNICS.

The early settlers of Gratiot came mainly from the State of Ohio and from the southern counties of Michigan. Of course southern Michigan and northern Ohio drew the bulk of their original settlers from the States of New York and Pennsylvania. So a great many Gratiot people of the present generations trace their ancestry through a few decades back to Pennsylvania and New York, and still farther to the New England States.

But I started in to mention the annual affair known as the "Ohio Excursion." Owing to the fact that so large a proportion of Gratiot pioneers came from Ohio, more than 30 years ago—that is to say, in the fall of 1882—the project of an annual excursion to Ohio was originated and put into execution. Along in October of every year, after due notice, the Ann Arbor Railroad runs its excursions, giving cheap rates to Toledo, and to other points in northern Ohio. Of course many from the southern part of Michigan take advantage of the occasion to visit their old homes in that section. So the Ohio excursion was popular from the start, and is still looked forward to with great interest.

For reasons similar to those which brought into existence the Ohio Excursion, the "Ohio Picnic" has become what might be termed a fixed festival for Gratiot County. The initial picnic was held August 10, 1887. In recent years the festival has been held in connection with the annual meetings of the Pioneer Society; a combination which furnishes a popular holiday for a large number of people, old and young.

The Illinois people—so many of whom have in recent years become residents here—have caught the infection, so to speak, and now for three years have had their "Illinois Picnic"; and doubtless it is permanently established as an annual affair, profitable and enjoyable to scores of people who, in a sense, may be said to be far from their native heath and among comparative strangers, though surely among friends.

The annual Sunday school excursion given by the Gratiot County Sunday School Association may well be mentioned while dealing with recreation matters. This is something that interests the entire county, and right heartily and right numerously do the people, young and old, embrace the opportunity afforded for a cheap railroad trip and a day's vacation with congenial friends and neighbors; not forgetting the alluring picnic dinner mayhap on the shores of Lake Michigan or in Toledo's fine parks on the Maumee.

## POPULATION OF TOWNSHIPS, CITIES, VILLAGES.

The census of 1910 gave Gratiot County a population of 28,820. This was a slight falling off from the number in 1900, but was a gain over the figures of 1890. The figures for 1910 are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| City of Alma | 2,757 |
| City of St. Louis | 1,940 |
| Village of Ithaca | 1,876 |
| Village of Ashley | 513 |
| Village of Breckenridge | 505 |
| Village of Perrinton | 288 |
| Township of Arcada | 1,087 |
| Bethany | 1,477 |
| Elba, not including Ashley | 1,190 |
| Emerson | 1,348 |
| Fulton, not including Perrinton | 1,418 |
| Hamilton | 855 |
| Ithaca, not including Village | 136 |
| Lafayette | 1,357 |
| Newark | 1,112 |
| New Haven | 1,206 |
| North Shade | 1,240 |
| North Star | 1,524 |
| Pine River | 1,342 |
| Seville | 1,389 |
| Sumner | 1,384 |
| Washington | 1,322 |
| Wheeler, not including Breckenridge | 1,464 |
| Total in County | 28,820 |
| Elba Township, including Ashley | 1,703 |
| Fulton, including Perrinton | 1,706 |
| Ithaca, including Ithaca Village | 1,876 |
| Wheeler, including Breckenridge | 2,059 |

# THE GRANGE IN GRATIOT COUNTY.

## Its Organization and General Standing.

I am indebted to Frank G. Palmer, of North Star, for many of the facts contained in the following concise history of the Grange in Gratiot County. Mr. Palmer, one of the foremost Grangers of the county from the organization of the order to the present time, will be readily taken as an authority in the matter; and though he disclaims anything like perfection in what he here presents, he says it is the best he could do. Having had a lot of experience in gathering data of different kinds for these pages, I quite fully realize what he has had to contend with in getting his facts, covering a period of nearly forty years, and I therefore forgive him for all short-comings, and hope that patrons of this work may do likewise. And if there is one who thinks he can do better he might try it.

In mentioning Mr. Palmer's connection with Patrons of Husbandry in the county, it seems appropriate to further mention that his reputation and his activities in Grange matters are state-wide, he having been connected officially with the state organization for many years, as a member of the executive committee. Also as secretary-treasurer of the Grange Fire Insurance Company of Gratiot County.

Mr. Palmer's recollections, records and researches have evolved Gratiot County Grange facts as follows:

The order, Patrons of Husbandry, better known as the Grange, was first instituted in Gratiot County in the early spring of 1874, the first Grange organized being Wright Grange No. 307 of Pine River Township. The order spread rapidly over the county until nearly every township had a flourishing organization, and some of them had two.

Mr. Palmer's mention of the fact that the first Grange in Gratiot County was organized in the spring of 1874, gave me a pointer, which, being followed up, revealed the fact that in the first week in March, 1874, the first Grange was organized at Alma, with membership and officers from Pine River and Arcada, and at least one officer located over in Sumner Township. Presumably this organization became Wright Grange No. 307, as mentioned by Mr. Palmer. The officers elected at this first attempt were the following: Master—Daniel R. Sullivan; Overseer—Alex. N. Wiley. Steward—Garwood E. Kress; Ass't Steward—Hamilton Prichard; Lecturer—Thomas Pamborough; Chap.—M. T. Rice; Sec.—Darius Reid; Gate Keeper—Corydon Rogers; Ceres—Mrs. Aaron Sloan; Pomona—Mrs. Alex. N. Wiley; Flora—Mrs. Isaac H. Church; Lady Ass't Steward—Mrs. Garwood E. Kress.

On the 16th of April, 1874, a Grange was organized at Bridgeville, with officers as follows: Master—William Long; Overseer—Cornelius Campbell; Lecturer—Chas. S. Douglas; Steward—Andrew Clark; Ass't Steward—Fred Rathburn; Chap.—N. W. Finch; Treas.—Chas. Gardner; Sec.—Nathaniel Walker; Gate Keeper—Edward Downer; Ceres—Mrs. Mary Long; Pomona—Mrs. S. E. Bogardus; Flora—Mrs. N. W. Finch; Lady Ass't Steward—Fannie M. Douglas.

The central idea and object of those early Granges was financial gain through co-operative effort; but the farmers, being unused to business methods, and accustomed to depend largely upon their individual efforts, were poorly equipped for commercial enterprises along co-operative lines.

Several stores were started in the county, but all proved failures, the members became disheartened, and the Granges went down one by one until Liberty Grange, of North Star, was the only one left.

The result of these early efforts, however, was the awakening of the farmers to the possibilities of co-operation, not only along financial lines, but in educational and social matters as well, and the result may still be seen in every community where a Grange flourished, in the greater interest taken in the educational, social and political life of the county. Several of the dormant Granges were revived, and several new ones were organized, until now there are thirteen working Granges in the county, and two or three others that will probably soon be reorganized.

### Pomona Grange.

Gratiot Pomona Grange No. 36, which is a county organization composed of members of the several subordinate Granges in the county, was organized November 2, 1887, at the hall of Wright Grange, in Pine River Township, by Gov. Cyrus G. Luce, Master of the State Grange. There were forty-three charter members, representing Wright Grange of Pine River Township, Pioneer Grange of Sumner, Lafayette and Emerson Granges of Emerson, and Liberty Grange of North Star. All of these subordinate Granges were among the first organized in the county, and were revived prior to the organization of the Pomona Grange. It is a curious fact that Wright and Pioneer Granges have since become dormant, and that Lafayette and Emerson Granges soon became dormant and has so remained, while Liberty Grange, composed, seemingly, of the same class of people, has remained strong and active from the very beginning.

The first officers of Gratiot Pomona Grange were: Master—Luther J. Dean; Overseer—Theron A. Johnson; Lecturer—Wm. J. Moffett; Steward—Justus N. Guthrie; Ass't Steward—Elmer N. Post; Chaplain—Anna Lyon; Treasurer—Frank G. Palmer; Secretary—Elbridge Franklin; Gate Keeper—L. V. Crosby; Pomona—Beatrice Pratt; Flora—Eudora J. Thompson; Ceres—Elizabeth Post; Lady Ass't Steward—Libbie Dean.

Of the forty-three charter members the only ones who still keep up an active membership are Geo. McDaid and F. G. Palmer, both members of Liberty Grange.

The present officers are: Master—Luther Carter; Overseer—Peter Klees; Lecturer—Mrs. Retta Lee; Steward—Mortimer C. Lake; Ass't Steward—Arthur Howland; Chaplain—Mrs. Wm. Hutchinson; Treasurer—Dan. L. Sharrar; Secretary—Mrs. F. G. Palmer; Pomona—Mrs. Nellie Murwin; Flora—Miss Minnie Wetherell; Ceres—Mrs. A. A. Searles; Gate Keeper—Geo. McDaid; Lady Ass't Steward—Miss Daphne McDaid. The present membership is 120.

### Subordinate Granges.

Following is a list, with brief sketch of the subordinate Granges in the county, giving the name, number, date of organization, first four principal officers at organization, present officers, and other interesting items of information. Full data could not be secured in all cases.

**Liberty Grange,** No. 391, located at North Star, was organized April 15, 1874, by Richard Moore, of St. Johns. There were fifty-five charter members, several of whom withdrew in a short time. Wm. M. Barstow was elected the first Master, but withdrew and Geo. Smith took the chair. The first Overseer was Alanson J. Brown; Lecturer, Adelbert E. Barstow; Secretary, Luther J. Dean. The charter members were Chas. D. Bryant and wife,

Wm. F. Brown and wife, A. E. Barstow and wife, Mortimer Belding and wife, A. W. Belding and wife, W. D. Curtis and wife, Jackson Cortright and wife, Geo. Smith and wife, F. H. Howes and wife, Philo Hurd and wife, Sanford Hull and wife, H. M. swift and wife, Matthew Toles and wife, Alex. McDaid and wife, Henry Swift and wife, Robert Gladstone and wife, Sam. L. Litle and wife, Willett Reynolds and wife, John E. Mills and wife, David Hull and wife, L. J. Dean and wife, A. J. Brown and wife, Ambrose Brown and wife, Mrs. Lydia McBride, Mrs. Matilda Barstow, Wilbur C. Bryant, S. D. Belding, Wm. C. Smith, Miss Sophia Smith, Mrs. Sarah Gabrion, and Wm. M. Barstow and wife.

Of these charter members F. H. Howes and Mrs. W. D. Curtis are the only ones now belonging to the Grange. Geo. McDaid and F. G. Palmer, who joined in 1875, and W. H. Bovee, who joined in 1876, are still active members.

Present officers: Master — F. G. Palmer; Overseer — W. H. Bovee; Lecturer—Estella Franklin; Steward—T. R. Strong; Ass't Steward—Lewis Howes; Chap. — Daphne McDaid; Treas. — L. A. Howes; Sec. — U. S. Barnaby, North Star P. O.; Gate Keeper—Charles Haas; Pomona—Coral Mertens; Flora—Grace Miner; Ceres—Lura McDaid; Lady Ass't Steward —Clementine Brown; Organist—Alice Howes. Membership, 169.

**Arcada Grange,** No. 500, located in Arcada Township, was re-organized after a period of dormancy, October 16, 1889, by Jason Woodman, State Lecturer, at the residence of D. L. Sharrar, with twenty-six members, four of whom were members of the old organization. Isaac Russell was elected the first Master. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Keefer, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Grover, D. L. Sharrar, Melvin Sharrar and Mrs. Clarence S. Clark were among the charter members, and are the only charter members still holding membership in the organization.

Present officers: Master—C. H. Smith; Overseer—Carl Titus; Lecturer —Roy Keefer; Steward—Emory Casler; Ass't Steward—Geo. Fink; Chap. —Bertha Hubbell; Treas. — Rollin Wood; Sec. — Florence Wood; Gate Keeper—Allan Hubbell; Ceres—Doris Casler; Pomona—Loudra Godfrey; Flora—Ethel Smith; L. A. S.—Edna Kuhlman; Organist—Ethel Smith. Membership, 74.

**Ithaca Grange,** No. 787, was organized October 7, 1899, by S. P. Richardson, of Bethany Township. Henry L. Wood was elected first Master; I. N. Cowdrey, Overseer; Mrs. M. H. Crandell, Lecturer and Mrs. Jessie Lewis, Secretary. Some of the charter members were Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Van Deventer, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. J. Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Peet, Jotham Allen, Geo. Lake, Mrs. I. N. Cowdrey and Lillian Crandell.

Present officers: Master—C. A. Van Deventer; Lecturer—J. B. Miller; Sec'y—M. C. Lake, Ithaca, P. O. Present membership, 64.

**Monitor Grange,** No. 553, was organized December 22, 1874, at the school house in District No. 3, Wheeler Township, with thirty-six charter members. Newel Smith was elected first Master; J. W. Smith, Overseer; R. E. Goodenough, Lecturer; and Joseph Cross, Secretary. Mrs. J. W. Smith is the only charter member still in the organization. The Grange became dormant in 1879 and was re-organized October 18, 1895, with a membership of 21. The present membership is 66.

Present officers: Master—Bert T. Muscott; Lecturer—Clarence Muscott; Sec'y—Stanley Bailey, Breckenridge P. O.

**Newark Grange,** No. 514, located in Newark Township, was organized October 8, 1874, with 18 charter members. Rev. Dillis D. Hamilton was

chosen Master; Samuel Robinson, Lecturer; Dr. Chas. W. Howland, Secretary. Other charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Wood, Mr. and Mrs. John Shaffer, Mr. and Mrs. John Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Eyer, Mr. and Mrs. Harlow P. Sage, and Edward P. Parker. The Grange became dormant, but was re-organized in January, 1896, with 36 members, C. W. Kinney being chosen Master, and H. P. Sage Secretary. The present membership is 62.

Present officers are as follows: Master—Ralph Woods; Overseer—Jay Knowlton; Lecturer—Annie Woods; Steward—Guy Hibner; Ass't Steward—Arthur Knowlton; Treas.—W. S. Fell; Chap.—Ida Knowlton; Sec.—Ida M. Fell, Ithaca P. O.; Gate Keeper—J. W. Kinney; Ceres—Teressa Kellogg; Pomona—Mabel Lombard; Lady Ass't Steward—Mae Kellogg.

**Bethany Grange,** No. 508, was organized September 10, 1874, in School District No. 3, Bethany Township. Aaron M. Wheeler, Joseph R. Salisbury and Chas. Rooks were some of the active members. Like some of the others it went down but was re-organized in June, 1895, by State Lecturer Jason Woodman. S. P. Richardson was chosen Master, Thos. Richards Overseer, Newton Burns Lecturer and Wm. J. Baney Secretary. It now began work with 47 members, and for several years was one of the most active and influential Granges in the county. Owing to the death of some of its more active members and the removal of others, it became inactive for a time, but in the fall of 1911 it again became active, elected S. P. Richardson, Master, Wm. Bauer, Overseer, Mrs. Newton Burns, Lecturer, and Newton Burns, Secretary, took in a large class of young people, and is again upon the list of best Granges.

Present officers: Master—S. P. Richardson; Lect.—Mrs. Mary Burns; Sec'y—Newton Burns, St. Louis P. O.

**Sumner Grange,** No. 893, was organized February 23, 1901, with 82 charter members. The first Master was H. D. Seaman; Overseer, L. D. Howe; Lecturer, Miss Anna Harvey; Secretary, C. N. Black. There are 29 of the charter members still in good standing.

Present officers: Master — P. A. Klees; Overseer — H. O. Church; Lecturer—Mrs. Inez Klees; Steward—Joseph Henemyer; Ass't Steward—Ovid Seaman; Chap.—Mrs. Mollie Butler; Sec.—W. N. Baldwin; Gate Keeper — Robert Carr; Ceres — Mrs. Celia Mulford; Flora — Miss Essie Stearns; Pomona—Mrs. Lydia Evey; Lady Ass't Steward—Mrs. Maggie Church. Executive Committee—Chas. Black, W. A. Harrison, T. H. Butler. Finance Committee—H. O. Church, Thos. Lang, Essie Stearns. Membership, 103.

**Elm Hall Grange,** No. 912, was instituted May 11, 1901, at Elm Hall, but moved to Riverdale where its meetings are now held. H. O. Lyon was elected first Master; Chas. Elliott, Overseer; Lizzie Youngs, Lecturer, and J. Sabin, Secretary. Since changing to Riverdale this Grange has increased rapidly in membership, having nearly reached the 100 mark.

Present officers: Master—S. D. Parks; Overseer—Reuben King; Lecturer—Mrs. Minnie Osborn; Steward—Dewey Parks; Asst.—Homer Van Buskirk; Chap.—Mrs. M. Smith; Treas.—Mrs. Anna Parks; Sec.—Albert Sutton; Gate Keeper—Willie Parks; Ceres—Mrs. A. D. Raby; Pomona—Mrs. R. King; Flora—Pearl Smith; Lady Asst. Steward—Mrs. H. Van Buskirk.

**Star Grange,** No. 885, was organized in January, 1901, with 110 charter members. It is located in Arcada Township, five miles west and one mile north of Ithaca. The first Master was H. A. Fenner; Overseer, Henry Daymon; Secretary, Marie Taylor. Some of the charter members were

Sheridan Witherell, Wm. Crozier, Henry Fuller, Walter Clark, Wm. Hutchinson, Jake Merchant, John Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Archie McFaul, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield De Bar.

Delbert Hale is present Master; Chas. Curtis, Overseer; Mrs. Emma Hanford, Lecturer; John Baker, Secretary, Ithaca P. O.

**Rathbone Grange,** No. 760, located at Langport, Lafayette Township, was organized at Rathbone, in said township, March 31, 1899, and later was moved to its present location. The first Master was Sara Warner; Overseer, Eugene Becker; Lecturer, Mattie Merrihew; Secretary, Geo. Marshall. Some of the other charter members were J. L. Benjamin, Azor Burch, Roy David, A. J. Glinke, Lenora G. David, S. A. Spaulding, Mrs. Jennie Frost, Mrs. Sarah David, Mrs. Maggie Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. White.

Present officers: Master—Charles J. Clark; Overseer—Merrill Hoard; Lecturer—Mrs. Myrtle Hoard; Steward—Charles Fiscus; Asst. Steward—Floyd Hoard; Chap.—Mrs. Dan Snyder; Treas.—Dan Snyder; Sec.—Roy Jolly; Gate Keeper—Claude Eastman; Ceres—Norice Pruden; Pomona—Elva Orr; Flora—Alma Townsend; L. A. S.—Hazel Hoard; Organist—Ola Eastman. Membership, 69.

**Pompeii Grange,** No. 1212, was instituted in August, 1904, Jas. Ladd being the first Master; A. E. McKinney, Overseer; Mrs. Lancaster, Lecturer; Mrs. Maud Hutchinson, Secretary. Some of the other charter members were Albert Hutchinson, Beatrice Ladd, Jas. Lancaster, A. W. Loomis and wife, Chas. Wideman, Frank Brown, Floy Brown, Wm. Killam, Lottie Killam, G. M. Willoughby.

The officers for 1912 were O. J. Campbell, Master; Maude Walker, Overseer; Clara French, Lecturer; A. M. Douglas, Secretary. Unfortunately the hall belonging to Pompeii Grange was burned in 1911, since which time its meetings have been very irregular.

**Spring Brook Grange,** No. 927, located at Fulton Center, was organized September 17, 1901. Geo. Vallance was the first Master; Frank Andrews, Overseer; Chas. Loomis, Lecturer; Chas. Wininger, Secretary. Other charter members were the following: R. C. Dodge, W. H. Laycock and wife, O. N. Chaffin and wife, F. A. Lewis and wife, Mrs. Ella Andrews, Robert Stitt. The Grange has lately suspended; only temporarily it is hoped.

**North Wheeler Grange,** No. 1213, was organized in the summer of 1904, at North Wheeler, on the county line between Gratiot and Midland Counties. A large part of the membership being in Midland County, the location was moved over into that county. The Grange is still classed with Gratiot Granges, however. Geo. Snider is the present Master; Anna Patterson, Lecturer; Elery Pratt, Secretary, Wheeler P. O.

**Wright Grange,** No. 307, located at Forest Hill, and Ashley Grange, No. 1211, located at Ashley, have lately (1912) become dormant, but it is hoped that they may soon be revived.

Seven Granges own halls. They are Liberty, of North Star; Arcada; Monitor, of Wheeler Township; Newark; Bethany; Rathbone, of Lafayette; Spring Brook, of Fulton.

In conclusion: Perhaps no other factor has contributed more to the success of Gratiot County farmers than the Grange. Coming in the early '70s, when much of the county was in a primitive condition, when co-operation among farmers was unheard of, before farmers' institutes were hardly thought of, it taught the farmer that in union there is strength, and that through the free interchange of ideas lies the road to the improvement of the farmers' condition, both financially and mentally.

# RAILROADS IN GRATIOT.

## The County Might Be Worse Fixed.

Gratiot County has three railroads traversing her territory at the present time as follows: The Pere Marquette, the Ann Arbor and the Toledo, Saginaw and Muskegon.

### The Pere Marquette.

This railroad runs from Saginaw westward, passing through the north tier of the townships of Gratiot County, leaving the county one-half mile west of Riverdale, and then on to Vestaburg, Cedar Lake and Edmore. From Edmore north to Big Rapids, Petoskey and Mackinaw. From Edmore south to Stanton, Ionia, Grand Rapids and Chicago. From Edmore west to Lakeview, Howard City and Muskegon.

The section from Saginaw to St. Louis, was the first stretch of railroad to be built in the county. It was the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis R. R., and was built from 1870 to 1872, being completed to St. Louis in the last-mentioned year. The road superseded the plank road which was built from St. Louis to Saginaw in 1868. This railroad came as an inestimable boon to the people of the county, and only in a less degree to people north and west for many miles.

The next section westward from St. Louis, of what is now the Pere Marquette, was built from St. Louis to Edmore in 1875, by Capt. E. L. Craw, of Fruitport, Mich. The road was part of a great railroad scheme of that energetic but visionary gentleman, which was to run from Fruitport and Grand Haven across the state to St. Clair, Mich. It had the name of The Chicago, Saginaw & Canada R. R. At Edmore the road connected with the Detroit, Lansing & Northern. In 1876 the C. S. & C. (Chicago, Saginaw & Canada), went into the hands of a receiver, and was soon thereafter leased by Col. John A. Elwell, of New York, who came on immediately and took possession, taking up his residence in St. Louis. He operated it till 1883, in the meantime extending the road westward as far as Lakeview. In 1883 the road was sold to the Detroit, Lansing & Northern, which road had already acquired the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis section. A few years later the D. L. & N. became a part of the great Pere Marquette system, and has so continued to the present time. The road has been extended westward to Howard City; and it has made additions and connections between Edmore and Grand Rapids, by means of which it has for several years used its own track the entire distance from Saginaw to Grand Rapids. It is one of the first-class roads of the state, and gives Gratiot County unsurpassed railroad facilities to the east and west, and, by its connections, to all parts of the country.

The stations on the Pere Marquette in Gratiot County, counting from east to west, in their regular order are Wheeler, Breckenridge, St. Louis, Alma, Elwell and Riverdale. At Alma the road crosses the Ann Arbor.

### The Ann Arbor.

The Ann Arbor Railroad crosses Gratiot County in a north and south direction, broadly speaking. Specifically, reckoning from the south, it enters the county about on the line between sections 34 and 35, Elba Township,

taking a northerly course, but bearing to the westward nearly 14 miles in its 24-mile stretch across the county, leaving the county on the north line of section four, Pine River Township.

The Ann Arbor Railroad was completed from Owosso to St. Louis in 1884. In the early '70s the project of a railroad to be known as the Toledo, Ann Arbor & Northwestern was agitated and discussed. The road was to take in Owosso, thence in a northwesterly direction through Gratiot County, with Big Rapids as its next principal objective point. The entire scheme did not materialize, but a section was built and operated from Toledo as far north as South Lyon, in the southwest corner of Oakland County. The extension project lay dormant until 1883, when it was revived and taken up by the Ashleys of Toledo—ex-Gov. Ashley and his sons—and pushed along with much energy and perseverance. The road was called the Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan. It reached Ithaca June 3, 1884, and on June 27 the laying of rails was completed to St. Louis. Each village celebrated appropriately, entertaining large delegations from Toledo, Owosso and other points.

St. Louis and Alma are so located, relatively, that the question of touching both towns was a difficult one to solve by the railroad authorities. And the subject was one of great interest to the two towns, as may well be presumed. St. Louis seemed to be solid from the fact that the track had actually been laid into the town. Alma people were fearful that the road would proceed from St. Louis direct to Mt. Pleasant, and leave Alma three miles off the line. So, while the matter rested and was in doubt, and while the railroad officials and promoters were blowing hot and blowing cold, as the saying goes, with the hope of pleasing both towns and getting the biggest possible inducements from each, the people of Alma took active measures to bring things their way. They conceived the idea of building a railroad of their own direct from Alma to Mt. Pleasant. Action followed swiftly on the heels of the suggestion, and the "Lansing, Alma & Mt. Pleasant" railroad company was organized. The board of directors was composed as follows: A. W. Wright, Wm. S. Turck, James Gargett, Geo. D. Barton, of Alma; I. N. Shepherd, of Shepherd; Wm. N. Brown and John A. Harris, of Mt. Pleasant. The construction of the road north from Alma was begun without delay and vigorously prosecuted. The move was a wise one. The Ann Arbor Railroad saw the disadvantage of having parallel, competing roads; negotiations followed, resulting in their "taking over" the L. A. M. P. road and making it a part of their line northward, by putting in a connecting link between St. Louis and Alma. Probably the road was in the secret all the way through. But it made an awkward connection, requiring a right-angle turn to the westward at St. Louis, and another to the northward at Alma.

The extra expense in time, and in wear and tear, gave the road an excuse for straightening its track through from Ithaca to Alma direct, and abandoning St. Louis altogether; and that is what was done later on. In 1895 the Ann Arbor road, by building about a mile and a half of road three miles north of Ithaca formed a connection with the "stub road" running from Ithaca to Alma, and trains were run through direct, leaving St. Louis off the main line. Afterward, in the spring of 1897 the abandonment was made complete by the taking up of the tracks leading into St. Louis from the south, and the connecting link between St. Louis and Alma.

The "stub road," mentioned above, was a spur running from the D. L. & N. at Alma to Ithaca, built by local capital and enterprise. The company was organized March 31, 1882, with Nathan Church, of Ithcaa, president; R. Smith, Ithaca, secretary; Wm. S. Turck, Alma, treasurer. The board of directors consisted of A. W. Wright, of Saginaw (at that time); D. R.

Sullivan and Wm. S. Turck, of Alma; N. Church, J. H. Seaver, Wilbur Nelson and R. Smith, of Ithaca. The work of constructing the road was pushed along with commendable energy and speed, and in the following December the iron was laid. The first freight over the line was carried December 28, 1882—machinery for W. F. Thompson's butter tub factory, at Ithaca. This was Ithaca's first railroad and was a great convenience. H. B. Orbison was the first station agent. The "stub" road was run in connection with the Saginaw Valley & St. Louis road, later called the Detroit, Lansing & Northern and now a division of the Pere Marquette.

At the time the Ann Arbor road cut St. Louis from its calculations—1897—it acquired, by purchase, this stub road, and made it a part of the main line, abandoning and taking up the section of its road between Ithaca and where it joined the stub, three or four miles north of Ithaca.

It may be proper to chronicle the fact here that St. Louis people, very naturally, did not take kindly to the removal of the Ann Arbor road from their town. They had paid a goodly sum—somewhere between $20,000 and $25,000—as a bonus to secure the road. Their first move was for an injunction to prevent the company from pulling the road out of their town. The road won, the injunction being denied. They then went into the courts to compel the company to refund the money paid by St. Louis people as a bonus. A jury in the circuit court rendered a verdict giving the St. Louis people all that the proof showed had been paid—$17,446. The railroad carried the case to the State Supreme Court, but while the suit was pending a compromise was effected, by the terms of which the road paid the St. Louis people the sum of $10,000; and the litigation was stopped. The money was divided pro rata among the original, individual subscribers, as determined by the proofs.

The law firm of Searl & Kress were attorneys for the city, while the interests of the railroad were looked after by T. W. Whitney and Benton Hanchett.

The name of the road was changed in September, 1895, from the "Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Mich.," to the "Ann Arbor." The business of the road has steadily and rapidly increased from the very first, until it hs attained immense proportions, and the road is now justly ranked among the most important in the state.

In the summer of 1911 motor cars were added to the equipment, for passenger service, two cars being run each way daily, stopping at all stations and at many cross-roads. They have proved a great convenience, particularly for local travel.

During the summer season no less than six passenger trains are now run daily, each way, besides a great variety of specials and excursion trains; and all with the heaviest engines and finest coaches, parlor cars and diners to be found on any road in the country.

The stations in Gratiot County, beginning at the south line are Bannister, Ashley, North Star, Ithaca, Alma, Forest Hill. The road crosses the Pere Marquette at Alma; and for that reason that place is rightfully considered the most important railroad town in the county. The T. S. & M., a division of the Grand Trunk, traversing the south part of the county east and west, forms a junction with the Ann Arbor at Ashley; which fact adds much to the importance of that town as a railroad station and as a business center.

### The Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon.

This railroad crosses the county east and west through the southern tier of townships. The line extends from Muskegon, on Lake Michigan, east-

ward through Muskegon, Kent, Montcalm and Gratiot Counties. Strictly speaking it can hardly be said to cross Gratiot County, as it forms a junction with the Ann Arbor at Ashley, five and a half miles west of the east line of the county, from which place to Owosso the road uses the tracks of the Ann Arbor Railroad.

The road was built in the years 1886 and '87, the first train to cross the county and reach Carson City, a half mile west of the county line, going through September 24, 1887. The road has been for many years operated, (perhaps owned) by the Grand Trunk people. There has been much talk at different times, about extending the road from Ashley to Saginaw, and it seems a fair presumption that such will be the outcome within a few years at most.

While the T. S. & M. can hardly be considered of as much importance to the county at large as either of the other two roads, it is, nevertheless, of much importance to the people of the south part of the county, and is a convenience that they could ill afford to do without, giving them as it does, good markets of easy access, for their crops and stock; also easy and quick transportation both east and west, and, by way of the Ann Arbor, to the north and south as well.

Commencing at Ashley and reckoning westward, the other stations within the county are Ola, Pompeii, Perrinton and Middleton. Carson City, a larger town than any of those mentioned, is a half mile over the line in Montcalm County and is naturally the trading point and market for many Gratiot people, in the Townships of North Shade and New Haven.

### Many Dead Projects.

The foregoing are the roads that have materialized in Gratiot County up to this date. Many other railroad projects have sprung up from time to time only to be cut down by adverse circumstances. What was called the Lowell Hall road, projected to run from Grand Rapids to Bay City, was one of the most promising. It had its short life along in the early '70s. It lived long enough to inspire a lot of grading in Gratiot County, the remains of which are still plainly visible a little south of the Newton hill, St. Louis; also some stretches of grading through Bethany township, and probably in other townships.

Another that promised much at about the same time that the Lowell Hall project was dying in its infancy, was a line to run from Coldwater northwest through Marshall and on north, cutting into Gratiot County near the west line and striking the Villages of Estella (Sumner), and Elm Hall, and then on as fancy or the local financial inducements might dictate. A large portion of this line was graded, and the project had so much merit, or hypnotic influence perhaps, that, though it seemed to come to its end early, it has been revived many times since, sometimes showing symptons that gave great encouragement to the people along its proposed route.

Several electric roads have been seriously considered, which, if all had been constructed, would have cut up the county like unto a huge checker board. But up to this present date none of them have ever been started. There was one of them that seemed almost a certainty for several years. It was called the "Lansing, St. Johns & St. Louis." The name indicates the route it was to take. The road was finally built from Lansing to St. Johns, where it stuck, and still sticks.

This road would have been of great convenience to the people of Gratiot County, as it would have traversed the county north and south about through

the center, thus serving many people locally, and at the same time would have given a direct outlet to St. Johns and Lansing, and by connections to other points not now so readily reached.

A guess that such a road will eventually be constructed, and perhaps at a time not far distant, would not seem to be a wild and baseless prediction. At least such is the view of the writer; and as it takes up but little space and therefore costs but little it is freely jotted down, for future reference.

## GRATIOT COUNTY'S COURT HOUSE.

### Why and When It Came to Pass; and How.

Gratiot County has one of the finest buildings of the kind in the state in which to transact its business; a building of which no citizen of the county ought to be ashamed; a building of which no one is ashamed. And to say that its imposing appearance and its commodious appointments excite the admiration of all—citizens of the county, strangers and sojourners, alike—is but stating the bare fact, without exaggeration or embellishment. The cost of the structure exceeded the expectations of its projectors and was a cause for regret at the time; but if there is a citizen of the county at the present time who regrets that the building was erected ,even at the price it cost, there is no data at this writing, by which he can be locaed or by which his name can be ascertained. Regrets that once may have existed have long since been wiped out, together with the cost of the structure, and the entire county is enjoying the possession and use of an ideal county building.

The location also is ideal. It is practically at the exact center of the Village of Ithaca; and Ithaca, as you all know, is at the exact "geographical center" of the county. "As you all know"—for were not the changes rung on that phrase in season and out of season from the first gathering of the supervisors in 1856 till the vote on bonding for the construction of the present court house was canvassed, and that beautiful 1747 majority was found in favor of the bonding; and consequently by the same token, in favor of the "geographical center" of the county! Without consulting the dictionary, it is fairly clear that the center of a thing or of a space is a point equally distant from all portions of the outside. What location, then could be more "ideal" from the standpoint of the county at large!

In its relation to the Village of Ithaca the location is equally "ideal." The court house square lies adjacent to the business section of the village. So, while it is within easy and impartial reach from all parts of the village, it is just nicely outside of the business hustle and bustle. And the ground itself is "ideal"; gently sloping from the center, to the streets on the north, east, west, and south; and well covered with fine maples and elms, successors to the giants that covered that site within the memory of the mere handful of the real pioneers who are still with us.

The foresight of John Jeffrey in reserving this location for the "county site", and the good sense of the supervisors in "nailing" it in 1856 and in

affirming the action in 1860, are matters to be commended by the people of the county, and will be commended by the great majority of them as long as Gratiot County needs a county seat.

The old court house built by Wm. C. Beckwith along in 1871-2 was a noble building for its time, and did excellent service for the county for about 30 years. But the time came when the county needed more commodious quarters in which to transact its business—for the county officers, for the circuit court, and, what was perhaps of the greatest importance, better, larger and safer vaults for the safe-keeping of its valuable records.

To Judge George P. Stone belongs much of the credit for initiating the agitation and movement for taking up the question of a new court house at that particular time, his most convincing argument being the inadequate protection to the valuable records of the county, afforded by the primitive and limited safeguards connected with the old court house. On that issue there could be but one unprejudiced and unselfish view when once the people's attention was thoroughly aroused.

The question of a new court house, occasionally spoken of for some years, began to be earnestly discussed along in the summer and fall of 1899. Of course, the only way to build a court house to meet the demands of the times and conditions, was by way of bonding the county for the necessary amount, the bonds to be paid at leisure. In order to bond, it was first necessary to get the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the supervisors, to have the question submitted to a vote of the electors of the county. Then, a majority vote of the electors in the affirmative, would fix the matter. It was thought that about $40,000 would be the proper amount to put into a building suitable to meet the demands of the county.

The board of supervisors met in annual session October 9, 1899. The townships and wards were represented as follows: Arcada—Chas. L. Delavan; Bethany—Henry Bodfish; Elba—Wm. A. Emery; Emerson—Jonathan Gidley; Fulton—Frank E. Durfee, chairman; Hamilton—Elon P. Potter; Ithaca—Frank P. Merrell; Lafayette—John S. Doyle; Newark—Frank L. Pressley; New Haven—Clifton J. Chambers; North Shade—John McCuaig; North Star—Jackson M. Williams; Pine River—Gordis Smith; Seville—Wm. T. Pitt; Sumner—Wm. L. Hutchinson; Washington—Addison Fraker; Wheeler—John H. Parrish; St. Louis, 1st ward—Stephen Ostrander; 2nd ward—Thos. G. Duff; 3rd ward—Jere. Marks; 4th ward—Robert C. Martin.

To show that politics cut no figure in this court house matter, it may not be out of place to say that this board of 1899 was Democratic, 13 to 8. The board of 1900 was Democratic, 12 to 9. That of 1901 was Republican, 11 to 10.

On Tuesday, October 10, the second day of the session, Supervisor Delavan presented the following communication from the Village of Alma by its president, S. W. Tinker:

"To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Gratiot, Mich.:

Dear Sirs—The undersigned municipal corporation would most respectfully ask and petition your honorable body to appoint a time and place, when and where a representative body of citizens of this village may meet you to present a proposition looking toward the removal of the county seat to this village, and the construction therein, or contiguous thereto, of the necessary and suitable buildings for such purpose.



**SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY OFFICERS, OCTOBER, 1899:**—No. 1, J. H. Parrish, Wh. 2, G. Smith, P. R.; 3, J. M. Williams, N. Star; 4, W. L. Hutchinson, Sum.; 5, E. L. Pressley, New.; 6, W. A. Emery, Elba; 7, L. H. Hayt, Sup't P.; 8, E. P. Potter, Ham.; 9, C. J. Chambers, N. H.; 10, Ad. Parker, Wash.; 11, A. P. Lane, Co. Clk.; 12, J. McCuaig, N. Sh.; 13, J. S. Doyle, Lal.; 14, T. G. Duff, St. L.; 15, F. E. Durfee, Fnl. Ch.; 16, R. C. Martin, St. L.; 17, C. L. Delavan, Ar.; 18, F. P. Merrell, Ith.; 19, W. T. Pitt, Sev.; 20, F. M. Vandercook, Reg. D.; 21, J. Marks, St. L.; 22, N. J. McCullough, Sh.; 23, S. Ostrander, St. L.; 24, H. Bodfish, Beth.; 25, J. Gidley, Em.; 26, A. McCall, P. Atty.; 27, D. L. Sharrar, Treas.

"It is unnecessary at this time to further elaborate upon the matter; suffice it to say that the proposition we will submit will be what we regard as a generous one, and well worthy of your careful consideration.

"Respectfully submitted, The Village of Alma, by S. W. Tinker, President, for and in behalf and at the request of said village.

Dated, Alma, Mich., Oct. 8, 1869."

Chairman Durfee named Friday, October 13th, at 10 o'clock a. m., as the time for hearing the proposition from the citizens of Alma. On the date set a large delegation of Alma's leading citizens went before the board of supervisors and presented a proposition in writing, to the effect that in consideration of the removal of the county seat to Alma, the people of Alma would contribute a suitable site, "within the corporate limits of said village, east of Pine River and north of Superior Street," and would "deposit in the county treasury $40,000 to be used in the construction of a court house within said village as aforesaid." The proposition was signed by nine of Alma's most prominent citizens.

The proposition was ably advocated by W. A. Bahlke acting as spokesman for the Alma delegation. Judge Geo. P. Stone, of Ithaca, being present, spoke logically and convincingly in favor of leaving the couny seat where it had been for more than 40 years and where it rightfully belonged. M. R. Salter, of Ithaca, presented statistics to show the extra expense that would be put upon the people at large for extra travel, and also the greatly increased traveling fees for officers, jurors, witnesses, etc., in the conduct of official business. Prosecuting Attorney Archie McCall demurely suggested that the Alma offer was in the nature of a bribe and consequently was a crime.

After some discussion of the matter by the board, a motion to receive the proposition and spread it upon the records was voted down by 11 to 9. The next day, however, the board, feeling that it was discourteous to Alma and its people to refuse to even receive a proposition from them, voted unanimously to "receive and place on file," the said proposition.

So the issue was presented—a fine court house at Alma costing $40,000, free to the people, or a fine court house at Ithaca, at a cost of $40,00 to the people. It was hard to tell what the supervisors would do in such a case; for, although a majority had shown a certain degree of aversion to the Alma proposition, it was by no means certain that, in the face of this proposition, there could be secured a two-thirds vote in favor of bonding. No official action was taken until October 20th, but in the meantime there was no dearth of talk. And the Village of Ithaca aroused up and began to take notice. A lot of its leading citizens got their heads together and hatched out a project that might help to determine the result. It was discovered that the Union School District needed more room for its rapidly increasing list of pupils; and furthermore, it was discovered that if the county had no further use for the old court house, it would be just the thing for the district, and a valuable possession for which the district would pay the sum of $6,000. So this proposition was revealed to the supervisors, to be considered at whatever valuation it was thought to be worth.

The proposition from the people of Alma was characterized by some of those whose interests were in Ithaca, as a species of bribery; and the suggestion had its effect, too. But the proposition from the people of Ithaca was for the purchase of a building of no further use to the county, and which the Union School District of Ithaca was perfectly willing to pay $6,000 for; a legitimate deal and not even a suggestion of bribery. Perish the thought!

The sequel showed, however, that the value of the old building had been overestimated somewhat, for it was never used for school purposes, but was finally sold for about $200, if memory is not at fault. This guaranty of $6,000 for the old court house left but $34,000 to be raised by bonding.

### New Court House a Necessity.

The matter was brought to a head before the board of supervisors October 20th, by a set of resolutions introduced by Supervisor F. P. Merrell of Ithaca, as follows:

"Whereas, It fully appears that the present condition of our court house, and the offices and vaults therein, is such that the records and property of the county are constantly exposed to destruction by fire, and are otherwise totally inadequate to meet the necessities of the business of the county, and

"Whereas, The records of the county are of almost incalculable value to the county, and their destruction would inevitably entail hundreds of thousands of dollars loss and expense to the people of the county, and

"Whereas, The condition of our present court house is such that by reason of its greatly inadequate size and defective construction, any attempt to remedy the present hazardous condition by repairing, must necessarily result in a great waste of public money, and

"Whereas, For such reasons the necessity for the construction of a new court house for the preservation of our records is absolute, pressing and immediate, therefore

"Resolved, First, That this board do hereby determine that a new court house building is a public necessity for the safe and careful preservation of the public records of the county, and for the proper and commodious transaction of its business.

"Second, That the amount of money necessary to be raised for that purpose is $34,000.

"Third, That the sum be raised by loan for a period of five years.

"Fourth, That the clerk of this board is required to give due notice of an election to be held in the several election precincts of this county, on Tuesday, the 28th day of November, 1899, at which time there shall be submitted to such electors in the manner prescribed by law, the proposition of issuing the bonds of this county, payable five years after date, for the amount of $34,000, for the creating of a fund with which to construct a court house."

Mr. Pitt moved that the resolutions be laid on the table until the next session. Lost by a vote of 11 to 10.

The first section was then read by the chairman—F. E. Durfee, of Fulton—and was adopted by a vote of 12 to 9. Yeas—Gidley, Durfee, Potter, Merrell, Doyle, Pressley, Chambers, McQuaig, Williams, Fraker, Parrish, Marks—12. Nays—Delavan, Bodfish, Emery, Smith, Pitt, Hutchinson, Ostrander, Duff, Martin—9.

The second section was then adopted by a vote of 13 to 8, and the third section by a vote of 12 to 9.

The fourth section, that ordering the election and fixing the time, was amended, on motion of Supervisor Chambers so as to make the date for the election April 2, 1900, instead of November 28, 1899, and was then adopted by a vote of 19 to 2 as follows:

Yeas—Bodfish, Emery, Gidley, Durfee, Potter, Merrell, Doyle, Pressley, Chambers, McQuaig, Smith, Williams, Pitt, Hutchinson, Fraker, Parrish, Ostrander, Duff, Marks—19. Nays—Delavan, Martin—2.

This last vote—the critical one, which actually submitted the question to a vote of the electors—showed a graceful bowing to the will of the majority; and thereafter all the members lent loyal aid in making the undertaking a grand success.

So the matter was fairly before the electors of the county for their decision; and they had nearly six months in which to make up their minds, and with plenty of people willing to aid them in making up their minds. During the winter a vigorous campaign in favor of the bonding proposition was inaugurated and carried on, and, as a matter of course the people of Ithaca were not backward in their efforts to help the good work along. Among other arguments it was shown clearly that with the county seat at Alma the additional distance to be traveled would average three miles for every man, woman and child in the county; and it was figured that this would represent an extra expense of at least $3,400 every year. Whether this was exactly correct or not, it doubtless aided in impressing upon the minds of the people that there was no place like the "geographical center." As time passed on, and the date for the election drew near, the indications seemed plain and positive that the sentiment of the voters was largely favorable to the proposition, and growing every day.

On March 10th, about three weeks before the election, County Clerk Lane received a communication from those citizens of Alma who had made the proposition of the previous October session, of giving a bonus for the removal of the county seat to Alma, withdrawing their proposition, and asking that the written document be returned to them, stating as their reason for so doing a "desire to harmonize what appears to be conflicting interests, and in no way to interfere with the untrammeled expression of the elections; and for the purpose of bringing the quetison of bonding the county for funds to erect the proposed new court house at Ithaca before the people strictly on its merits."

This unselfish and graceful procedure on the part of Alma's citizens, simplified conditions very materially, eliminating as it did, what to some people has a great attraction — the possibility of getting something for nothing.

An Ithaca newspaper in its issue immediately following the election, summed up the matter—the contest and the reasons for the result arrived at by the votes—in this reasonable and concise way: "Of course Ithaca has felt more keenly interested in the matter than any other locality, this interest being sharpened by the proposition presented by Alma, to procure the removal of the county seat to that village. As the time approached, however, when the question was to be settled by a vote, and the people at large more fully realized what the removal to one side of the county would mean in added expense, and in added inconvenience to the majority, the feeling against the idea of removal, and in favor of a new building, so as to preclude all probability of future agitation, became more and more pronounced, till there seemed to be no doubt in the minds of those 'keeping tab,' that the result would be a handsome majority favorable to the measure."

A special meeting of the board of supervisors convened April 19, 1900, to canvass the court house vote. The townships and wards were represented as follows: Arcada—Chas. L. Delavan; Bethany—W. J. Miller; Elba—W. A. Emery; Emerson—John L. Smith; Fulton—Fred Read; Hamilton—E. P. Potter; Ithaca—F. P. Merrell; Lafayette—Chas. C. Foote; Newark—F. L. Pressley; New Haven—C. J. Chambers; North Shade—Roy Cushman; North Star—J. M. Williams; Pine River—Gordis Smith; Seville—W. T. Pitt; Sumner—W. L. Hutchinson; Washington—Ad. Fraker;

Wheeler—J. H. Parrish; St. Louis, 1st ward—S. Ostrander; 2nd ward—T. G. Duff; 3rd ward—Jere. Marks; 4th ward—R. C. Martin. Frank L. Pressley of Newark was made chairman, 18 to 2.

The committee to canvass the vote was composed of Supervisors Wm. T. Pitt, J. L. Smith, Roy Cushman, C. J. Chambers and E. P. Potter.

The result of the vote was found to be as follows:

| | For the Loan | Against the Loan | Majority For | Majority Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 140 | 554 | .. | 414 |
| Bethany | 126 | 188 | .. | 62 |
| Elba | 315 | 71 | 244 | .. |
| Emerson | 260 | 52 | 208 | .. |
| Fulton | 321 | 22 | 299 | .. |
| Hamilton | 201 | 11 | 190 | .. |
| Ithaca | 614 | 5 | 609 | .. |
| Lafayette | 269 | 47 | 222 | .. |
| Newark | 272 | 32 | 240 | .. |
| New Haven | 209 | 106 | 103 | .. |
| North Shade | 213 | 40 | 173 | .. |
| North Star | 363 | 15 | 348 | .. |
| Pine River | 31 | 205 | .. | 174 |
| Seville | 35 | 213 | .. | 178 |
| Sumner | 46 | 255 | .. | 209 |
| Washington | 211 | 18 | 193 | .. |
| Wheeler | 197 | 221 | .. | 24 |
| St. Louis— | | | | |
| 1st Ward | 59 | 52 | 7 | .. |
| 2nd Ward | 59 | 50 | 9 | .. |
| 3rd Ward | 64 | 86 | .. | 22 |
| 4th Ward | 53 | 68 | .. | 15 |
| Totals | 4,058 | 2,311 | 2,845<br>1,098 | 1,098 |
| Majority For the Loan | | | 1,747 | |

A bonding committee, consisting of Supervisors Gordis Smith, J. M. Williams and C. J. Chambers was appointed, which reported later, recommending that 34 bonds of $1,000 each be issued, to run five years from their date and to bear interest at four per cent., payable semi-annually. Adopted.

A building committee consisting of Jere. Marks, J. L. Smith and F. P. Merrell was appointed.

The chairman and clerk were instructed to advertise the sale of the bonds, and the building committee was instructed to advertise for plans and specifications, and then the board adjourned to June 4, 1900, at which time plans and specifications from more than a dozen architects were presented, those presented by Claire Allen of Jackson, Michigan, being accepted after careful examination by the board. The accepted plans showed a building 76 by 112 feet on the ground; 44 feet to the roof and 120 feet to the top of the tower. The building to be of stone with backing of brick; slate roof; oak and marble inside finish; steam heat; everything modern and of first-class material and workmanship.

The chairman and clerk reported the reception of 10 bids for the bonds, running from $34,111.25 to $34,909.60, the latter being from Spitzer & Co., of Toledo. This bid was accepted.



THEY BROKE GROUND FOR THE NEW BUILDING WITHIN A FEW FEET OF OLD COURT HOUSE OF 1870.

The building committee was continued, and was instructed to employ a superintendent of construction at $3 per day. They employed Jere. Marks, of St. Louis; a practical builder.

At a special meeting of the board held July 21, 1900, called to consider bids received for the construction of the court house, it was found that seven individuals and firms had made bids, running in amount from $39,249 by A. W. Mohnke, of Grand Rapids, to $58,973 by J. H. Thompson, of Bay City. By unanimous vote the bid of A. W. Mohnke was accepted, and a contract made, with $20,000 bonds given by the contractor for the performance of the work according to contract, all to be completed by August 1, 1901. Berea stone was selected for the building, to be finished with a smooth-rubbed surface.

### Broke Ground—Corner Stone Laid.

Contractor Mohnke got to work right away, ground being broken for the excavation, Tuesday, July 24, 1900. Quite an array of spectators were present to see the work commenced. As the work progressed with due expedition, the laying of the corner stone began to interest those in charge and the citizens of Ithaca. The matter was turned over to the Masonic order, and an invitation to take charge of the ceremonies was accepted by the officers of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Michigan.

Local Masonic committees were appointed as follows:

Executive Committee—H. C. Hill, J. W. Kernen, J. M. Everden, C. H. Chase.

Invitation Committee—C. G. Graham, E. J. Heath, C. M. Brown, W. S. Townsend.

Reception Committee—J. N. McCall, W. A. Leet, H. McCormack, W. Netzorg, H. E. Lewis, A. S. Barber, C. P. Yost, J. L. Potts, J. L. Sinclair, J. P. Gibbs.

Program Committee—C. D. Peet, W. M. Comstock, F. H. McKay, J. B. Crawford.

Finance Committee—K. S. Searl, J. T. Mathews, C. E. Webster, W. D. Iseman.

Decoration Committee—C. Will Hamilton, M. E. Heath, W. W. Comstock, H. B. Wells.

Music Committee—H. B. Orbison, Wm. Pullen, C. A. Price, Wm. Peck.

Refreshments Committee—O. H. Heath, W. K. Ludwig, J. H. Seaver, K. P. Peet.

Transportation Committee—E. W. Angell, C. G. Graham, Geo. Richardson, F. S. Brown.

Tuesday, September 18, 1900, was the date fixed upon for the ceremonies of laying the corner stone. Invitations were extended to all of the fraternal orders within the county, and to many Masonic lodges outside of the county, to be present and join in the ceremonies.

The day—September 18th—proved to be a perfect day and the people were out in great numbers. A special train of 11 coaches brought the Grand Lodge officers and the visiting Commanderies, the latter being the Commanderies from Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, St. Johns and Corunna, and each accompanied by a band. The Knights of Pythias, of Owosso, were also out in force with a band.

The Grand Officers of the Michigan Masons present were W. G. M. Lucien E. Wood, of Niles; Deputy G. M. Frank O. Gilbert, of Bay City; G. Chap. A. L. Stewart; G. Sec. Wm. H. McGregor, of Detroit; G. Treas.

B. F. Stratton, of Owosso; G. Tyler Sidney Pratt, of Owosso; G. Marshal Jas. McGregor, of Detroit; Sr. G. W. Neil McMillan, of Rockford; Jr. G. W. Arthur Hume; Sr. G. D. R. O. Crump, of Bay City; Jr. G. D. (acting) C. M. Brown, of Ithaca; G. S. (acting) C. H. Chase, of Ithaca, and R. H. Thoenen, of Munising.

The parade was the largest of the kind ever seen in Ithaca; perhaps the largest ever seen in the county. Formed on Center Street in the vicinity of the City Hall, the line of march was down Pine River Street to Newark; east on Newark to St. Johns; north on St. Johns to Center; west on Center to Jefferson; north on Jefferson to North; west on North to Maple; south on Maple to Center, and east on Center to Court House square. The parade was under the direction of Marshals N. Church, J. T. Mathews, N. J. McCullough and Roy Church.

The ceremonies at the court house were of the usual order and performed before a mass of people that filled the front of the Court House Square and the adjoining streets. The copper box containing the articles for the corner stone was about 12 by eight inches, and six inches deep. The following is a list of articles and documents enclosed:

Masonic Directory, giving the officers and members of the Masonic organizations of the county.

Catalogue of Ithaca public schools.

Circuit Court Calendar, April term, 1900.

Latest copies of Gratiot County newspapers—Gratiot County Journal, Ithaca; Gratiot County Herald, Ithaca; Gratiot County News, Ithaca; Alma Record; Alma Argus (now Journal); St. Louis Republican Leader; St. Louis Independent; Ashley World; Breckenridge Clarion.

Copy of resolution of the board of supervisors, 1856, establishing the county seat at Ithaca.

Copies of the Gratiot County News of November 10, 1899; January 19, 1900; May 18, 1900, and June 15, 1900, containing the proceedings of the board of supervisors providing for the building of the new court house.

Two five-cent pieces.

The address to the people was made by Rev. McDuff, of Flint, and was eloquent, interesting and instructive.

A silver trowel, suitably engraved, was presented to W. G. M. Lucien E. Wood by Village President John M. Everden in behalf of the Village of Ithaca.

The board of supervisors, at its October session, 1900, provided for a sinking fund with which to meet payment of the court house bonds when they became due.

At a special session of the supervisors April 25, 1901, F. M. Harrington was made a member of the court house building committee vice F. P. Merrell, resigned.

Work on the court house which naturally slackened up as cold weather came on and ceased altogether, was not resumed promptly on the opening of spring, 1901. It soon began to be understood that Contractor Mohnke had probably "bit off more than he could chew" when he took the job at the figures named in the contract. So the board authorized the building committee to procure counsel and see about it. A few men were employed, but the work progressed very unsatisfactorily.

At a session of the supervisors held early in August, a conference was held with Contractor Mohnke and Architect Allen. It was agreed to pay Mohnke something over $4,000 for extra work already done, a new contract was made and new bonds given; the work to be rushed along, and to be

completed by December. Still the work hung fire, and Mohnke was reported very sick at his home in Grand Rapids. His bondsmen came to Ithaca and it was agreed that the work should proceed under the direction of the building committee.

At the October session of the supervisors—1901—it was thought that the work might progress better with a new building committee, so a new committee was appointed, composed of E. P. Potter, of Hamilton, F. M. Harrington, of Ithaca, and E. J. Alverson, of Alma. The latter—a contractor and builder—was made superintendent of the work. The work progressed with reasonable dispatch. The supervisors, when funds ran low, replenished the fund by appropriations from the contingent fund of the county, and then replenished the contingent fund by increasing the tax levy to meet the requirements. If more bonds had been asked for, the request would doubtless have been voted down by the people. The board appropriated money as it was needed, or issued time orders and made the necessary calculations to meet them when due. So, as all were satisfied that the board was doing its best and was spending the county's money honestly and as economically as possible, no serious fault was found with methods.

Later, in the spring of 1903, suit was commenced against Abram B. Knowlson and Henry G. Krekel, of Grand Rapids, bondsmen for Contractor A. W. Mohnke, to recover the amount lost by the failure of the latter to fulfill his contract with the county, the amount being about $11,000. A few weeks later the bondsmen commenced a counter-suit against the county for damages, claiming that they were induced to give the bonds by false representations as to what it would cost to complete the job. By the proverbial "laws' delay" the matter ran along until the January session, 1904, when all the parties got together with their lawyers and it was agreed to drop both suits, each party to the suits to pay its own costs. So, after paying hundreds of dollars in attorney's fees the county seemed compelled to submit to a loss of about $11,000 on a contract that was supposed to have been fully protected by bonds. All of which shows not only that law is uncertain, but that even the employment of high-priced lawyers sometimes affords no positive guaranty against carelessness, looseness, foolishness and loss.

At this session of January, 1904, a special committee appointed to ascertain the entire cost of the court house, together with its fixtures and furnishings, reported that the cost of the building was $57,332.68. The cost of furnishings, fixtures, decorating, carpets, etc., with the salaries of the architect and the superintendent, footed up $16,770.55; a total of $74,103.23.

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### Court House Dedication.

The dedication of the new court house occurred Wednesday, September 10, 1902. The board of supervisors, at its session, July 28, 1902, fixed the date for the dedication and appointed a committee to make suitable arrangements. The committee was constituted as follows: Supervisors F. M. Harrington, of Ithaca; T. G. Duff, of St. Louis; C. L. Delavan, of Alma; E. P. Potter, of Hamilton, and W. H. Fox, of Bethany.

This committee met and appointed committees for the various departments of the enterprise as follows:

President of the Day—Judge Geo. P. Stone, of Ithaca; Vice-Presidents —Mayor C. H. Crandall, St. Louis; President Wm. A. Bahlke, Alma; President H. C. Barstow, Ithaca; President D. W. C. Tiffany, Ashley; President C. F. Hardy, Perrinton; Supervisors C. L. Delavan, Arcada; Wm. H. Fox,

Bethany; M. W. Coon, Elba; B. L. Case, Emerson; Henry Read, Fulton; E. P. Potter, Hamilton; F. M. Harrington, Ithaca; Chas. Federspiel, Lafayette; A. H. Maurer, Newark; C. J. Chambers, New Haven; R. W. Brice, North Shade; L. C. Clark, North Star; Gordis Smith, Pine River; W. T. Pitt, Seville; H. G. Bansil, Sumner; Fred E. Smith, Washington; A. Johnstone, Wheeler; L. B. Rumsey, T. G. Duff, J. Marks, R. E. Hughes, St. Louis. And the following ex-Supervisors: B. S. Nelson, S. Ostrander, R. C. Martin, Eli Oswold, W. F. Neesen, Newel Smith, St. Louis; Fred Read, Fulton; J. S. Doyle, C. C. Foote, Lafayette; J. M. Williams, North Star; W. L. Hutchinson, Sumner; Oliver McEnderfer, Addison Fraker, Washington; W. A. Emery, Elba; F. L. Pressley, Newark; Roy Cushman, North Shade; W. J. Miller, Bethany; J. L. Smith, Emerson.

Committee on Program—E. P. Potter, Hamilton; A. H. Lowry, St. Louis; Judge I. S. Seaver, Ithaca; D. L. Sharrar, Ithaca; Parker Merrill, St. Louis; C. F. Pike, Ithaca; John H. Parrish, Ithaca; Julius B. Kirby, Ithaca.

Committee on Speakers and Invitations—Judge Geo. P. Stone, Ithaca; John T. Matthews, Ithaca; J. B. Crawford, Ithaca; F. M. Harrington, Ithaca; C. L. Delavan, Alma; W. A. Bahlke, Alma; K. S. Searl, Ithaca; T. W. Whitney, St. Louis; Jas. K. Wright, St. Louis.

Committee on Grounds and Decorations—H. C. Barstow, J. W. Kernen, N. G. Sutliff, F. H. McKay, H. E. Lewis, Jonathan Gidley, R. E. Pettit, M. R. Salter, Hugh J. Packer, W. Netzorg, A. L. Hutchinson, all of Ithaca.

Reception Committee—Hon. A. B. Darragh, St. Louis; Hon. C. W. Giddings, St. Louis; Hon. H. M. High, Ovid; Hon. Silas Moody, Forest Hill; Hon. Dewitt Vought, Alma; Hon. Wilbur Nelson, Ithaca; Hon. G. T. Brown, Ithaca; Hon. Wm. S. Turck, Alma; W. A. Leet, Ithaca; Jas. G. Kress, Ithaca; J. B. Kirby, Ithaca; F. E. Durfee, Perrinton; W. E. Winton, Ithaca; B. H. Sawyer, Ithaca, and Editors J. N. McCall, F. W. Griswold, W. D. Tucker, Ithaca; Editors O. M. Everden, F. M. Vandercook, St. Louis; Editors C. F. Brown, I. J. Goodenow, Alma.

Committee on Music—F. M. Harrington, Ithaca; Bert Pulfrey, Alma; W. A. Smith, St. Louis; J. M. Everden, Ithaca; Louis Blair, Middleton.

Street Entertainment and Fireworks—A. McCall, H. J. Crawford, J. H. Watson, C. M. Brown, all of Ithaca.

The Gratiot County News, published at Ithaca in those days, had an account of the day's doings in its issue of the same week, which is so much better than anything that can be concocted at this time bearing on the case, it seems better—or at least easier—to quote the article nearly entire; and the ex-editor has kindly permitted its use:

"The much-anticipated day upon which Gratiot County would dedicate the new court house, is now a day of the past. Wednesday, September 10, 1902, was the day set, at which time the people from the four corners of the county and all the intermediate space were invited to come to Ithaca, indulge in a holiday, listen to addresses and music, see the games and sports, and especially to look over and admire the fine building wrought by the handiwork of man and paid for and owned by the whole people.

"Some of the details mentioned came to pass, but not all. Still, taken altogether there was no great or serious cause for complaint. The parade, what there was of it, filled the bill, the drills of the orders were fine, the music of the bands good, the addresses of a high order of excellence. The amusements were lacking. There was absolutely nothing to cause as much as a smile. The two stands left over from the Woodmen's day carnival expressly for the purpose, were decorated with bunting, but served no other



THE NEW COURT HOUSE—FRONT VIEW.



REAR VIEW, FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

necessary purpose throughout the day. They might have been called triumphal arches, if they had been arches, but otherwise they did not pay for their keep.

"The day was fine though somewhat windy and slighty cool. The crowd was a large one and was made up of people from every part of the county, but in numbers probably did not exceed one-half that of Woodmen's day—August 21st. The new building was thoroughly inspected, the corridors, offices, court room and other rooms all day echoing to the tramp of many feet; and the beautiful finishing, furnishings and decorations calling forth many expressions of approval and gratification.

"There were present brass bands from Owosso, and Alma, besides our own band, and there was no lack of good music. The orders present and in uniform were as follows: Knights of Pythias from Owosso; Knights of Pythias from Lansing; Cantons from Detroit and Flint; Ithaca Canton and Knights of Pythias. The drill contests for prizes were good. The first prize —$60—was awarded to the Detroit Canton. The second—$40—to Lansing K. of P. The third—$25—to the Flint Canton. Judges—Miles E. Heath and C. Will Hamilton, of Ithaca, and Col. Loomis, of Grand Rapids.

"The court house was well decorated with flags. The grounds were strung with wires upon which several hundred Chinese lanterns were hung in the morning, to be ready for the illumination at night. The brisk wind during the day, however, raised hob with the lanterns, and by night-fall nothing was left of them but a few scraps. Within the building the electric lights were turned on for the first time and they proved a great success. A large arc light was placed in the tower, and it sent forth its rays far and wide.

"The speaking was from a stand erected at the side of the street, in front of the court house, the audience occupying seats on the slope between the stand and the building. The exercises were opened with music by the Alma band. Then followed a prayer by Rev. R. M. Williams of the Ithaca Presbyterian Church. Judge Geo. P. Stone then made an address, giving a brief history of Gratiot County court houses up to the present time. He then introduced Hon. Frank A. Hooker, of Lansing, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Michigan, who delivered the main address, which was listened to with close attention by all who were able to hear it. It was pronounced a deep and logical address.

"Judge S. B. Daboll, of St. Johns, Judge T. F. Shepherd, of Bay City, and Wm E. Winton, of Ithaca, made short but interesting and appropriate remarks. An original poem, written especially for the occasion by Attorney Newell Leonard, of St. Louis, was read by that gentleman, and was much appreciated.

"Congressman A. B. Darragh, of St. Louis, was present, but having been in ill health for some time, and not yet fully recovered, was excused from speaking. Quite a number of the members of the Clinton County bar were present, including E. L. Walbridge and E. J. Moinett, former residents of Ithaca; also Judge Daboll, so many years judge of this circuit. Many of the Gratiot County bar were conspicuous by their absence."

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### Took Possession of New Quarters.

The county officers moved "out of the old and into the new" during the week following July 20, 1902—just two years from the date of breaking ground for the erection of the new building. A brief description of internal

arrangements of the new building was given in the Ithaca publication heretofore mentioned, in its issue of July 25, 1902—the same week in which the officers moved into their new quarters. Probably a better description might be written now, but it is so much easier to copy the old one, and as no confidences are violated by the appropriation of the article, it is here given; and thus the story of the building of the new court house is brought to an end:

"Out of the Old, into the New! Gratiot County's Magnificent New Building is in Possession of the Officers! They Moved in This Week!"

"People coming to Ithaca to do business with the county officers will please take notice that the boys have moved. They have gone into their new quarters. You can easily find the building. It is only about four feet from the old one; and in plain sight.

"Go right in at the front door, ascend the flight of iron steps, and there you are. Look around and up, and admire the beautiful work—frescoed walls and ceilings, the paneled wainscoting of polished oak, the tiled floor.

"If you want to see the County Clerk, turn to your left. He occupies the northeast corner rooms—four of them—with all the accessories for comfort and convenience.

"If it is the Register of Deeds you wish to see, explore the rooms to the south of the clerk, in the southeast corner of the building. There you will find him, ready to wait upon you, in his spacious and convenient rooms; and with all the records safely stored in the fire-proof vault.

"To the west of the Register of Deeds, occupying one medium sized room, you will find the County Drain Commissioner; mad because his quarters are so small. Later on he is to have a suite of rooms finished up in the basement for his use." [At the present time he is occupying his commodious rooms in the basement, while the County School Commissioner has his office in the aforesaid small room on the first floor.]

"Next west, occupying the southwest corner of the building the Judge of Probate holds forth, with a large audience room; and the little throne on the south side shows that it is also to be used for the court room, for the cases that are tried before him. His private office and the vault are on the west, the former in the extreme southwest corner.

"The County Treasurer occupies the northwest section, and has the finest outlook of any of them. He has all the conveniences of office, private office, vault and audience room. His strong box is in the vault, and you can't get to it any better nor easier than you could the old one in the old building. All of the offices are finely finished, all have all the conveniences of desks, tables, chairs, etc., all are lighted by electricity, and all have toilet rooms.

"Go up the spacious stairway to the second floor. Occupying the east end of the building is the Circuit Court room, large, finely and appropriately finished and decorated, fitted up with tables, chairs, book-racks, and last but not least, an elaborate throne for the Judge, flanked by annexes for the clerk on one side and the stenographer on the other, with a side issue for the jury. The space for the public is fitted with an inclined floor and seated with opera chairs of the latest pattern.

"The Supervisors' room is at the west end, and, though finely finished, is rather unpretentious in size and appearance.

"In the northwest corner are located the offices of the Prosecuting Attorney. In everything that makes for convenience and comfort, they are in line with all of the other offices.

"Ranged along the north and the south sides of the building, on the second floor are several rooms of various sizes—Judge's private office, private rooms for the prosecutor and the sheriff, jury rooms, attorney's consulting rooms and rooms for the Superintendents of the Poor. A toilet room for the public occupies space in the southwest corner of this floor.

"We have thus given a hasty and brief topographical outline, so to speak, of the two floors of the new building; a magnificent structure, probably the best of its kind in the state, outside of the cities of Detroit and Grand Rapids."

The newspaper article closes with the statement that, "The board of supervisors which meets next Monday will figure up the cost, and let a waiting public know the worst. It has cost more than the $34,000 provided for by the vote of the county, and the $6,000 donated by the people of Ithaca and vicinity."

As heretofore stated, the board's figuring made the cost of the building and its furnishings, $74,103.23.

## THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

### County Celebrated Semi-Centennial.

It seemed fitting and appropriate to celebrate the semi-centennial of the county's organization. It seems superfluous to say that 50 years of toil and arduous endeavor had wrought changes well worthy of commemoration. The year 1905 marked the proper date for such a celebration. It is of some interest to know who first suggested, at least in a public way, the desirability of such a celebration. Of course the matter may have been in the minds of different people at various times, but it is believed that the first suggestion of a public character, was made by Myron E. Hull, of St. Louis, for many years a teacher in Gratiot County schools, and also connected with the schools of the county in an official way for many years. The issue of the Gratiot County News of March 24, 1905, contained the following communication from Mr. Hull:

"Editor Gratiot County News: I would like to suggest to the readers of the News and to the people of the county, the idea of a grand celebration this year, 1905 being the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the county. This is an occasion which will not come again for fifty years, some of us will not be here at that time. So let us celebrate this year.

M. E. Hull,
St. Louis, Mich."

The fact that Myron was a year "off" in his date of the organization of the county, cuts no figure with suggestion in itself. Possibly he had in his mind the fact that the first election of county officers occurred in November, 1855. Notwithstanding that fact, the first meeting of the supervisors did not take place until January, 1856, and the county officers did not assume the duties of their offices until that time.

Commenting on Mr. Hull's communication approvingly, the editor of the News urged and invited further suggestions regarding the matter, emphasizing the fact that it was not only the passage of a period of 50 years,



AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 4, 1906.

but that there had been a wonderful development of the possibilities during that time, the county having been "transformed from a wilderness into a veritable land of milk and honey and sugar beets."

No official or concerted action was taken until the session of the board of supervisors in October, 1905, though the subject had been quite generally discussed. At the session mentioned, Supervisor Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville, introduced the following resolution which was adopted by the board:

"Resolved, by the board of supervisors now in session, that the chairman appoint a committee of three to confer with the officers of the Pioneer Society and the officers of the Village of Ithaca, and take the necessary steps to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the county; the said committee to report at the January session of this board."

The chairman appointed Supervisors Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville; O. G. Tuttle, of Ithaca, and R. W. Brice, of North Shade, as such committee. This committee met with the officers of the Pioneer Society, the Gratiot County Teachers' Association and President Jas. P. Gibbs, of Ithaca, and formed a celebration organization with officers as follows: President, Wm. E. Winton; Secretary, J. N. McCall; Treasurer, Jas. P. Gibbs. The supervisors of the various townships and wards were designated as vice-presidents. Committees were appointed—on program, W. E. Winton, J. N. McCall, C. F. Pike, W. T. Pitt; on finance, Jas. P. Gibbs, R. W. Brice, A. P. Cook, O. G. Tuttle. A special committee on Educational and Historical Exhibits was appointed—School Commissioner Pike, School Superintendents Watkins, of Ithaca; Ellsworth, of Alma; De Witt, of St. Louis, and Prof. Cook, of Alma College.

At the session of the board of supervisors held in January, 1906, the special committee of supervisors reported as to what had been done and recommended that the board appropriate $100 to aid in defraying the expenses of the celebration, and that the celebration be held at Ithaca on July 4th. All of which was accepted and adopted by the board; and the project was thus fully and successfully launched.

Under the agreement entered into some years previously between the three big villages of the county, it was Ithaca's turn to have the Fourth of July celebration; so, with this added attraction a particularly successful time was anticipated; and in this the people were not disappointed. The day was perfect for such an occasion, and the people were present from all parts of the county, filling up the "geographical center" as it never had been filled before, and as it never has been filled since, the most general estimate of the number of people present being 15,000. The principal address was made by Hon. H. R. Pattengill, of Lansing, who was for many years very closely indentified with Gratiot County and her interests; a gentleman always welcome in the county, and one always able to please and interest his audience. Hon. H. T. Barnaby, of Grand Rapids, himself one of the earliest pioneers of Gratiot, was present and made extended remarks highly enjoyed by all. Short addresses were made by others.

The day seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all, and no accident occurred to cast a shadow over the day's pleasures and festivities. C. M. Chaffin, of North Star, a pioneer of the early '50s, was present with his camera and caught as many pioneers and others as could comfortably get within the limits of his photographic lens. How many of them do you recognize?

# PROHIBITION AND LOCAL OPTION.

## The County's Record as to "Wet" and "Dry."

The State Legislature at its 1887 session submitted to the electors of the state, to be voted on at the April election of that year, an amendment to the state constitution forbidding the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors within the state. The amendment failed of adoption in the state. Gratiot County, however, gave the proposition a big majority, the vote standing 3,648 for the adoption of the amendment, to 1,607 against it—a majority of 2,041 in favor of state-wide prohibition.

At the same session of the legislature at which the prohibitory amendment was submitted, a local option law was passed, giving counties the right, by a majority vote of the electors, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquors within its borders. So, state-wide prohibition having failed, Gratiot County temperance people decided to try what they called the next best thing—local option. They commenced active operations in the fall of 1887, with the view of having the requisite petitions submitted to the board of supervsors at its session of January, 1888.

To start the matter, a mass meeting of prohibition sympathizers was called, to be held at the Court House at Ithaca, December 31, 1887. At the specified time there was a large attendance from all over the county. Hon. Chas. H. Morse, of New Haven, was made chairman, and Newell Leonard, of St. Louis, secretary, after the meeting had been called to order by Gilbert C. Smith, of Ithaca. After more or less speech-making and some controversy, the following resolution was adopted, with only two dissenting votes:

"Resolved, That the present local option law furnishes an opportunity for the suppression of the saloons in Gratiot County, which should be improved by all desiring that result, without reference to political affiliations."

Newell Leonard and Rev. J. E. Richards, both of St. Louis, argued against the adoption of the resolution on the ground, among other reasons, that the local option law was unconstitutional. And it might as well be stated right here, that the sequel showed that they were right, for the Supreme Court had a chance to pass upon it in May, 1888, and, by a decision of the full bench, declared unanimously that the law was in conflict with the constitution, and therefore void.

However, to return to the meeting, it was decided to go ahead and procure the necessary signatures, petitioning for the submission of the question. A central committee to look after the work was appointed, consisting of G. C. Smith, A. S. Barber and Wm. B. Scattergood.

A committee of three in every township was then appointed to circulate petitions in their respective townships, as follows:

Arcada—Darius Reid, J. L. Miller, Jas. P. King.
Bethany—Wesley J. Miller, S. S. Hastings, Wm. Woodmansee.
Elba—K. S. Searl, Eli Bailey, L. F. Randolph.
Emerson—Hugh Chisholm, Chas. T. Eno, J. N. Guthrie.
Fulton—Edward Downs, W. W. Dalgleish, M. W. Creaser.
Hamilton—Wm. Sickels, Silas Hill, Chas. A. Tarr.
Ithaca—C. A. Jacokes, D. M. Christie, A. S. Barber.
Lafayette—J. L. Foote, Alex. Chisholm, Horace Spear.
Newark—I. N. Cowdrey, Henry W. Kinsel, A. D. Perkins.

New Haven—S. C. Robinson, W. J. Pendell, H. C. Burlingame.
North Shade—Roman Fyler, R. W. Brice, Hiram Haring.
North Star—C. M. Chaffin, Laf. Sweatland, Luther J. Dean.
Pine River—H. N. Robinson, Silas Moody, J. W. Doane.
Seville—Wm. T. Pitt, Geo. W. Saunders, Jas. R. Errett.
Sumner—Thos. J. Blair, Henry A. Weiss, Samuel Story.
Washington—Henry Shaw, Elijah Bovee, S. N. French.
Wheeler—Milo Pomeroy, Barney Swope, Gilbert Keller.

The convention adjourned to meet again January 13, 1888, at which time it was found that the petitions were sufficient, and the board of supervisors ordered a special election to be held February 13, 1888, to vote on the proposition.

The board of county canvassers met at the Court House, Ithaca, February 14, 1888, to canvass the local option vote. The board was composed as follows one from each township, under the law then existing:

Arcada — Nathan N. Nevins; Bethany — F. D. Weller; Elba — L. F. Randolph; Emerson—Jesse Pepple; Fulton—A. W. Loomis; Hamilton—C. S. Betts; Ithaca—A. D. Pettit; Lafayette—Joseph Scudder; Newark—Henry J. Fell; New Haven—H. C. Burlingame; North Shade—Lewis B. Loomis; North Star—Geo. Smith; Pine River—Hiram U. Woodin; Seville—Wm. T. Pitt; Sumner—Burgess Hall; Washington—Fremont Bovee; Wheeler—John H. Parrish.

Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville, was made chairman, County Clerk M. R. Salter being secretary ex-officio. The vote by townships was found to be as follows:

| | For Local Option | Against Local Option | Majority |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 266 | 89 | 177 |
| Bethany | 237 | 71 | 166 |
| Elba | 111 | 35 | 76 |
| Emerson | 166 | 9 | 157 |
| Fulton | 192 | 17 | 175 |
| Hamilton | 63 | 6 | 57 |
| Ithaca | 232 | 39 | 193 |
| Lafayette | 51 | 27 | 24 |
| Newark | 180 | 26 | 154 |
| New Haven | 96 | 16 | 80 |
| North Shade | 140 | 4 | 136 |
| North Star | 243 | 22 | 221 |
| Pine River | 330 | 91 | 239 |
| Seville | 84 | 8 | 76 |
| Sumner | 138 | 9 | 129 |
| Washington | 114 | 10 | 104 |
| Wheeler | 104 | 16 | 88 |
| Total | 2,747 | 495 | 2,252 |

As stated above, the constitutionality of the local option law was passed upon by the Supreme Court in the following May, and it was down and out. The decision was based on the fact that the title of the bill called for "regulating" the liquor traffic, when in fact the bill was to "prohibit" the traffic, etc.

County prohibition having failed to prohibit the first time trying, to drink or not to drink, according to each individual's notion continued to be the rule until the winter of 1892, when the proposition was again put up

to the voters. In the meantime, however, the legislature of 1889 enacted another local option law to succeed the one knocked out by the Supreme Court. So, the preliminaries having been properly attended to, the board of supervisors convened in special session December 10, 1891, to consider the petitions and order the election.

A committee consisting of W. C. Pugsley, of Sumner, C. W. Martin, of Ithaca, and Stephen Ostrander, of St. Louis, was appointed to examine the petitions and report on their regularity and sufficiency. The number of votes at the preceding general election was 5,806, the law requiring the petition of at least one-fourth of that number on the petitions for a local option election. They found the names of 1,531 petitioners; more than the required one-fourth, and recommended that the question be submitted. This was concurred in, and the election ordered for January 25, 1892.

The vote ordering the election was as follows: Yeas—C. W. Martin, Ithaca; L. F. Randolph, Elba; Fremont Bovee, Washington; A. W. Barnes, North Star; G. Helms, Emerson; W. J. Miller, Bethany; C. W. Kinney, Newark; D. L. Sharrar, Arcada; Gordis Smith, Pine River; H. Haring, North Shade; G. Crouse, New Haven; W. C. Pugsley, Sumner; Geo. Brandel, Seville; S. Ostrander, St. Louis—14. Nays—E. P. Potter, Hamilton; J. Scudder, Lafayette; Jas. W. Payne, Fulton—3.

The board of supervisors convened February 1, 1892, for the purpose of canvassing the local option vote. Committees were appointed as follows: On election returns—Miller, Sharrar, Kinney. On tabulated statements of votes—Pugsley, Martin, Potter, Ostrander, Crouse. On resolutions—Oakes, Helms, Smith.

It was found that the question had been carried by a vote of 1,990 to 851, the vote in detail being as follows:

| | For Local Option | Against Local Option | Majority |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 160 | 115 | 45 |
| Bethany | 125 | 31 | 94 |
| Elba | 100 | 31 | 69 |
| Emerson | 129 | 33 | 96 |
| Fulton | 119 | 60 | 59 |
| Hamilton | 30 | 20 | 10 |
| Ithaca | 212 | 143 | 69 |
| Lafayette | 56 | 62 | 6 (adverse) |
| Newark | 104 | 21 | 83 |
| New Haven | 77 | 35 | 42 |
| North Shade | 78 | 7 | 71 |
| North Star | 190 | 46 | 144 |
| Pine River | 110 | 10 | 100 |
| Seville | 44 | 21 | 23 |
| Sumner | 85 | 30 | 55 |
| Washington | 61 | 38 | 23 |
| Wheeler | 101 | 39 | 62 |
| St. Louis— | | | |
| 1st Ward | 47 | 8 | 39 |
| 2nd Ward | 36 | 20 | 16 |
| 3rd Ward | 56 | 37 | 19 |
| 4th Ward | 70 | 44 | 26 |
| Totals | 1,990 | 851 | 1,139 |

The committee on resolutions reported an appropriate resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 17 to 1, Supervisor Scudder alone voting in the negative. Probably Mr. Scudder's negative vote may plausibly be accounted for by the fact that his township gave a majority against the measure. But there might be a question as to the reasonableness of such a reason. Would it not be equivalent to saying that the minority would not concede the right of the majority to rule? Puzzle: Was there any good reason for him to vote against the resolution when the subject matter of the resolution and the reason for its introduction had already been adopted by the people. Was it not his d u t y to vote for the resolution? Find the answer.

However, the practical workings of the local option law were not yet to be fully tried out in Gratiot. The "wets" began early to look for a way out of their trouble. D. T. Covert, landlord of the Retan House, Ithaca—now the Voigt House—by the aid of his attorneys, thought he could see a way to get around the requirements of the law, or rather a way to have the law set aside. So he applied to the county treasurer for a license and a big red card for his saloon, as in days gone by. On the refusal of the treasurer to accommodate him, he petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the treasurer to grant him his license, alleging that the local option law was not legally in force in the county.

It was October before the Supreme Court got around to consider the matter, and then, after a full hearing of the case, the judges unanimously consigned the alleged adoption of the law in Gratiot County to the scrap heap. A quotation from the decision of the court will make the matter clear:

"Section six of the local option act provides that when the board of supervisors shall determine that a sufficient number of electors have petitioned for an election, the board shall so declare, and shall then make an order calling the election and fixing the date when it shall be held; and this section then provides that 'such order shall be entered in full upon the journal of the proceedings of the board for that day, and the same shall be signed by the acting chairman and clerk of the board before final adjournment.'

"It is conceded that the provision referred to has not been complied with. The clerk, in his return says that the proceedings of the board in this matter and which were had on December 11th and 12th, 1891, were not even entered upon the journal until perhaps two or three weeks after final adjournment, and that the chairman of the board of supervisors did not sign the record until May 6, 1892, which was after the local option law was in force in the county, and after the proceedings in this case were commenced; and, in fact, as appears by the record, the chairman was out of office and had no authority under any of the provisions of this act, to perform a duty which the law required him to perform at the very time the proceedings were had, and before the final adjournment of the board. The facts as stated are not only undisputed but are admitted; so there is only presented to this court the one question of law, which is whether these unsigned and unauthenticated proceedings of the board of supervisors can be held to be a record, such as the law requires to be made in order to give effect to its provisions and put the local option law in operation within the limits of the county of Gratiot. We must answer in the negative. To hold otherwise would be to nullify the plainly expressed provisions of the statute referred to. It follows that a writ of mandamus must be granted."

Thus prohibition again came to an untimely end.

The question was again taken up in the fall of 1901. The requisite petitions were presented to the board of supervisors at its October session, and the order was given for an election to be held in April, 1902, at the time of holding the regular spring elections. The electors this time defeated the proposition at the polls by a majority of 566.

Following are the figures that record the change of heart in the several townships, as found by the county canvassers:

| | For Local Option | Against Local Option | Majority Against |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 311 | 397 | 86 |
| Bethany | 136 | 154 | 18 |
| Elba | 137 | 209 | 72 |
| Emerson | 134 | 149 | 15 |
| Fulton | 221 | 154 | For local option 67 |
| Hamilton | 89 | 86 | For local option 3 |
| Ithaca | 201 | 305 | 104 |
| Lafayette | 100 | 184 | 84 |
| Newark | 130 | 138 | 8 |
| New Haven | 133 | 142 | 9 |
| North Shade | 74 | 148 | 74 |
| North Star | 199 | 152 | For local option 47 |
| Pine River | 139 | 139 | .. .. |
| Seville | 70 | 139 | 69 |
| Sumner | 161 | 99 | For local option 62 |
| Washington | 124 | 91 | For local option 33 |
| Wheeler | 182 | 269 | 87 |
| St. Louis | 212 | 364 | 152 |
| | 2,753 | 3,319 | 566 |

This result was a marked change from that of the last vote—10 years previously—when the majority in favor of the proposition was 1,139.

Nothing further was done toward securing local option for Gratiot County until the fall of 1907, when petitions were again circulated, preparatory to taking a vote on the question. The petitions were presented to the board at its session of January, 1908, were found to be sufficient, and the election was ordered for April 6, 1908. A special session of the board of supervisors canvassed the returns April 13, 1908, finding the details as follows:

| | For Local Option | Against Local Option | Majority For | Majority Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arcada | 145 | 73 | 72 | .. |
| Bethany | 189 | 113 | 76 | .. |
| Elba | 201 | 181 | 20 | .. |
| Emerson | 189 | 89 | 100 | .. |
| Fulton | 258 | 155 | 103 | .. |
| Hamilton | 126 | 46 | 80 | .. |
| Ithaca | 317 | 256 | 61 | .. |
| Lafayette | 148 | 136 | 12 | .. |
| Newark | 145 | 84 | 61 | .. |
| New Haven | 181 | 119 | 62 | .. |
| North Shade | 125 | 93 | 32 | .. |

| | For Local Option | Against Local Option | Majority For | Majority Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Star | 215 | 117 | 98 | .. |
| Pine River | 183 | 100 | 83 | .. |
| Seville | 155 | 120 | 35 | .. |
| Sumner | 183 | 108 | 75 | .. |
| Washington | 195 | 65 | 130 | .. |
| Wheeler | 285 | 151 | 134 | .. |
| St. Louis— | | | | |
| 1st Ward | 59 | 43 | 16 | .. |
| 2nd Ward | 85 | 39 | 46 | .. |
| 3rd Ward | 82 | 59 | 23 | .. |
| 4th Ward | 78 | 98 | .. | 20 |
| Alma— | | | | |
| 1st Ward | 102 | 123 | .. | 21 |
| 2nd Ward | 83 | 56 | 27 | .. |
| 3rd Ward | 82 | 59 | 23 | .. |
| 4th Ward | 86 | 57 | 29 | .. |
| Totals | 3,897 | 2,543 | 1,357 | |

January 10, 1910. Local Option having been in force two years, those opposed to it petitioned for a re-submission of the question to the electors of the county. A committee to consider the petitions and determine as to their sufficiency was appointed, consisting of the following named supervisors: J. L. Smith, of Emerson; T. A. Ely, of Alma; Wm. T. Pitt, of Seville; Wm. L. Hutchinson, of Sumner, and F. J. Fritz, of St. Louis.

After due deliberation the committee reported unanimously as follows:

First. There are not the requisite number of petitioners upon legally authenticated petitions to authorize this board to submit the question to the electors of this county; and that the submission of the local option question has not been prayed for by the requisite number of electors.

Second. We, therefore, recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be denied.

Signed by the full committee.

The report and recommendation were adopted by the following vote: Yeas—Bradford, J. L. Smith, Himes, Hull, Moore, Traub, Brice, Pitt, Hutchinson, English, Owen, Sweet, Ely, P. M. Smith, Fritz, Wilson, Lowry—17. Nays—Peach, Scott, Whitman, Gibbs, Williams, G. Smith, Clark, Newton—8.

The fatal defects were in the affidavits accompanying the petitions filed with the County Clerk. The law provides that the affidavits shall state positively and specifically that the petitions have been posted in the various townships where the petitioners reside, at least ten days previous to the day of filing. Some of the affidavits so state, and as a matter of fact some of them really had not been posted ten days. The petitions thus defective were amply sufficient in number, when deducted, to reduce the number of legally qualified petitioners below the number required by law to justify calling the election. The committee, before coming to a conclusion and making its report, took counsel of Prosecuting Attorney John M. Everden, whose views coincided with theirs, and who advised them that they were justified in making a report adverse to the sufficiency of the petitions.

The "wets" took the matter to the courts, but the action of the board of supervisors was sustained all the way up.

The local option question may be "run to cover", so far as this volume is concerned, with one more paragraph. The paragraph is the more freely given because the substance of it partakes largely of the nature of a joke. The present local option law provides that petitions may only be acted on by the board of supervisors, at a regular meeting of that body. At the session of October, 1910, the report became current that it was the intention of the "wets" of the county to submit petitions for a re-submission of the question, to the board at its adjourned regular session in January, 1911. To prevent such action the "drys" on the board, calling to mind the provision of the law mentioned, decided to steal a march on the "wets" by adjourning s i n e d i e when it came to the final adjournment of the session, and thus make the January session a special meeting, at which no petitions for local option could be considered.

This program was carried out, but the "wets" on the board caught on to the scheme, and rallied their forces; but they lacked the votes to frustrate the game, the vote standing as follows: For adjourning sine die—Scott, Case, Himes, Hull, Jessup, Brice, Going, Hutchinson, English, Owen, Clark, Sweet, Ely, P. M. Smith—14. For adjourning to January—Bradford, Peach, Whitman, Gibbs, Ballinger, Williams, Gordis Smith, Ostrander, Newton, Wright, Andrus—11.

So the joke worked all right. But it may be questioned whether it was just the thing to do, to upset the customary procedure for the sake of preventing the electorate from exercising its right to express its wishes in the way provided by law. While not criticising the end attained, the means employed may be classed as a "snap game" or "gag rule."

## LEGISLATORS—STATE AND NATIONAL.

### Representatives in State Legislature.

The first mention of Gratiot County with reference to representation in the state legislature was in connection with the session of 1853 when it recorded that Robert E. Craven, of Duplain, Clinton County, represented the district then composed of Clinton and Gratiot Counties, having been elected in November, 1852. In 1850, David Clark, of Eagle, had been elected to represent Clinton County, but no mention is made of Gratiot County in that connection. It may be of some interest to many, to know that in the years 1845, '47 and '49, the representative from Clinton County was Samuel M. Scott, father of Dr. W. D. Scott and Sam. M. Scott, so well known in Gratiot. Probably by virtue of his office, Mr. Scott had some jurisdiction of the wilds of Gratiot County at the same time.

After Robert E. Craven came Timothy E. Pettit, of Essex, Clinton County, as representative for Clinton and Gratiot Counties, elected in 1854.

In 1856 came James Kipp, Rep., of Duplain, Clinton County, to serve the district as representative.

David I. Daniels, Dem., of Wacousta, followed in 1858.

Next came Gilbert E. Pratt, Rep., of Gratiot County, elected in 1860 to represent Gratiot and Clinton.

A re-districting in 1861 put Gratiot County into a new district composed of Gratiot, Midland, Gladwin and Roscommon, and in 1862 James Gargett, of Gratiot, was elected to represent the district.

In 1864 Luther Smith, Rep., of Gratiot, was elected in this four-county district. A re-arrangement by the legislature in 1865, made Gratiot a district by itself and so it has remained to this day. In the fall of 1866, Luther Smith was re-elected representative.

Horace T. Barnaby, Rep., of North Star, was elected in 1868 and '70.
Charles H. Morse, Rep., of New Haven, 1872 and '74.
William S. Turck, Rep., of Alma, 1876 and '78.
Wilbur Nelson, Rep., of Ithaca, 1880.
Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., of St. Louis, 1882.
Henry A. Weiss, Fusion, of Sumner, 1884.
Henry L. Wood, Rep., Pine River, 1886, '88 and '98.
Hugh Chisholm, Fusion, Lafayette, 1890.
Silas Moody, Rep., Pine River, 1892.
B. Frank McNall, Rep., Lafayette, 1894.
Dewitt Vought, Fusion, Alma, 1896.
John W. Holmes, Rep., Alma, 1900, '02 and '04.
Clifton J. Chambers, Rep., New Haven, 1906, '08 and '10.
Newel Smith, Rep., St. Louis, 1912.

### State Senators and Districts.

The first state senator in whom Gratiot County was interested after its organization was Stephen H. Warren, Rep., whose residence was Eureka Township, Montcalm County. He was elected in November, 1856, to represent the 30th senatorial district, of which Gratiot was a component part. His Democratic opponent was Wilber Fisher.

In 1858 and 1860 the district was represented by Osmond Tower, Rep., of Ionia, Gratiot still constituting a part of the 30th district. Alex. F. Bell was his opponent in 1858; Frederick Hall in 1860.

At the November election, 1862, the state had been re-districted, and Gratiot appeared as a member of the 28th district. Westbrook Devine, Rep., of Greenville, was the successful candidate at that election, with John Tann as his Democratic competitor. At the election of 1864, Devine was re-elected, John B. Hutchins getting the democratic vote.

At the election of November, 1866, Gratiot County is found in the 26th district. David H. Jerome, Rep., of Saginaw, was elected senator. He had already served two terms as senator from the 27th district. In 1880 he was elected governor, serving one term. Dr. John R. Cheesman, Dem., of St. Louis, was his unsuccessful opponent in his campaign for senator, in 1866.

Alfred B. Wood, Rep., of East Saginaw, was the successful candidate for state senator in 1868, Gratiot still forming a part of the 26th district. He was re-elected in 1870, John Jeffrey, Dem., of Ithaca, running as his opponent.

At the fall election of 1872, Gen. Ralph Ely, Rep., of Alma, was elected senator of the 26th, John L. Evans, Dem., of St. Louis, being his competitor for the honor. The district—still the 26th—had been re-organized, and now consisted of the Counties of Gratiot, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Iosco, Alcona, Roscommon, Alpena, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Montmorency, Gladwin and Presque Isle.

The 26th senatorial district was represented in 1875, by Isaac A. Fancher, Rep., of Mt. Pleasant, by virtue of his election in the fall of 1874. His opponent in the election was Edson Packard, Dem., of Gratiot.

A re-districting in 1875, placed Gratiot in the 28th district, with the Counties of Isabella, Midland, Clare, Gladwin and Roscommon as its associates. The election of 1876 resulted in the choice of Chas. H. Morse, Rep., of Gratiot, his opponent being Cornelius Bennett, Dem., of Isabella County.

James W. Cochrane, Rep., of Midland, was elected senator in the 28th district in 1878, his opponents being James K. Wright, Dem., and Henry Smalley, Greenback, both of Gratiot County.

In November, 1880, Giles T. Brown, Rep., of Gratiot, was elected senator for the 28th district, his opponents in the campaign being Theron A. Johnson, Gbk., of Gratiot, and M. H. Stanford, Dem., of Midland.

In 1881 the legislature organized the 24th senatorial district with the following counties in its make-up: Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Clare. John W. Hance, Rep., of Isabella was elected senator in 1882. Frank S. Burton, of Midland, was his Fusion opponent.

Henry Woodruff, Rep., of Clare County, was elected in the 24th district in 1884 over his Democratic opponent—Dr. Stiles Kennedy, Fusion, of Gratiot.

In November, 1886, the successful aspirant was Floyd L. Post, Rep., of Midland County, his competitors being Sylvester B. Heverlo, Fusion, of Gratiot, and Rev. Orin Gates, Prohi., of Gratiot. The 24th district had been changed in 1885 by the addition of Gladwin County.

At the election of November, 1888, Edbert B. Green, Rep., of Gratiot, was chosen senator over Harvey W. Lyon, Fusion, and Isaac N. Shepherd, Prohibitionist.

Frank L. Prindle, Rep., of Gladwin, was elected senator in 1890, defeating Farwell A. Wilson, Fusion, of Clare, and John W. Doane, Prohi., of Gratiot.

The legislature of 1891 reorganized the senatorial districts, combining Gratiot with Clinton to form the 19th district. At the election of 1892, George A. Steel, Rep., of Clinton, was chosen senator, his opponent being John T. Swigart, Fusion, of Gratiot.

At the election of November, 1888, Edbert B. Green, Rep., of Gratiot, was elected senator, defeating E. G. Bennett, Dem., of Clinton, Dewitt Vought, Peo., and John W. Doane, Prohi., of Gratiot.

The election of 1896 resulted in the election of Elisha Mudge, Fusion, of Clinton County, over Chester W. Martin, Rep., of Gratiot.

In November, 1898, Chas. W. Giddings, Rep., of Gratiot, was elected senator, Peter L. Ryker, Fusion, of Clinton County, being his competitor in the race.

Hiram M. High, Rep., of Clinton County, was elected senator in 1900, defeating Elisha Mudge, Dem., of Clinton County.

At the election of November, 1902, Coleman C. Vaughan, Rep., of Clinton County, was chosen senator, his opponent being Willard D. Tucker, Dem., of Gratiot.

Townsend A. Ely, Rep., of Gratiot, was the successful candidate for senator in 1904, defeating Willard D. Tucker, Dem., of Gratiot.

Townsend A. Ely, Rep., of Gratiot, was re-elected senator in November, 1906, Wm. A. Bahlke, Dem., of Gratiot, being his opponent.

At the legislative session of 1907, Gratiot County was combined with Isabella and Mecosta to form the 25th district, and at the election of 1908, Newton O. Ward, Rep., of Mecosta County, was elected over Clark C. Field, Dem., of Isabella County.

Newton O. Ward, Rep., of Mecosta County, was re-elected in 1910, defeating Vincent P. Cash, of Gratiot, his Dem. opponent.

Francis King, Rep., of Gratiot, was elected senator in November, 1912, over Frank L. Convis, Dem., of Gratiot.

### State Senator—Recapitulation.

Stephen H. Warren, Rep., Montcalm Co., 1856.
Osmond Tower, Rep., Ionia Co., 1858, '60.
Westbrook Devine, Rep., Montcalm Co., 1862, '64.
David H. Jerome, Rep., Saginaw Co., 1866.
Alfred B. Wood, Rep., Saginaw Co., 1868, '70.
Ralph Ely, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1872.
Isaac A. Fancher, Rep., Isabella Co., 1874.
Chas. H. Morse, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1876.
Jas. W. Cochrane, Rep., Midland Co., 1878.
Giles T. Brown, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1880.
John W. Hance, Rep., Isabella Co., 1882.
Henry Woodruff, Rep., Clare Co., 1884.
Floyd L. Post, Rep., Midland Co., 1886.
Edbert B. Green, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1888.
Frank L. Prindle, Rep., Gladwin Co., 1890.
Geo. A. Steel, Rep., Clinton Co., 1892.
Chester W. Martin, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1894.
Elisha Mudge, Fusion, Clinton Co., 1896.
Chas. W. Giddings, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1898.
Hiram M. High, Rep., Clinton Co., 1900.
Coleman C. Vaughn, Rep., Clinton Co., 1902.
Townsend A. Ely, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1904, '06.
Newton O. Ward, Rep., Mecosta Co., 1908, '10.
Francis King, Rep., Gratiot Co., 1912.

### Congressmen and Congressional Districts.

Michigan Territory was first represented in congress in 1819. The first delegate to congress was William Woodbridge, who was also secretary of the territory and much of the time was also acting governor, Gen. Lewis Cass being governor but with other public duties occupying a large share of his time and attention. After Woodbridge, delegates served in the following order: Solomon Sibley, Gabriel Richards, Austin E. Wing, John Biddle, Austin E. Wing again, Lucius Lyon, Geo. W. Jones.

After the admission of Michigan as a state of the Union in 1837, and up to 1841, the state constituted one congressional district, and was represented in congress, first by Isaac E. Crary, and in 1841-2 by Jacob M. Howard.

By act of the legislature of March, 1843, the state was divided into three congressional districts, and Gratiot County was a member of the third district.

In 1853 the apportionment gave the state four congressmen, Gratiot remaining in the third.

In 1863 the number was increased to six, Gratiot County being in the sixth district; a district that took in no less than twenty-seven counties.

being all the territory of the state north of and including Clinton, Shiawassee, Genesee, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron, excepting a few counties along the Lake Michigan shore.

The apportionment based upon the census of 1870 which gave Michigan nine congressmen, put Gratiot in the eighth district along with Saginaw, Bay, Gladwin, Clare, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Oscoda, Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, Cheboygan and Emmett.

Eleven districts were formed, based on the census of 1880, and Gratiot remained in the eighth, the counties composing the district being as follows: Montcalm, Gratiot, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Midland and Isabella.

In the apportionment of 1891, which divided the state into twelve districts and which continued in force until 1913, Gratiot became a member of the eleventh district, sometimes called "the shoe-string district", on account of its being so long and narrow. The counties composing it were Gratiot, Montcalm, Isabella, Clare, Mecosta, Osceola, Roscommon, Missaukee, Antrim, Charlevoix, Kalkaska and Grand Traverse.

In 1912, congress made a re-apportionment of congressmen among the states, and Michigan was given another member, making thirteen members for this state. At the election of November, 1912, our state legislature not having yet re-districted the state so as to make a place for the thirteenth member, a congressman was elected by the state at large—Patrick H. Kelley being the winner. At the last session of the state legislature, the re-districting process put Gratiot County into the 8th congressional district, along with Saginaw, Shiawassee, Clinton, Montcalm and Ionia.

The following gives in condensed form the names of congressmen who have represented districts of which Gratiot County formed a part, since the admission of the state in 1837, and have thus represented Gratiot County in the national legislature. The dates denote the year in which they were elected:

Isaac E. Crary, 1837; one term.

Jacob M. Howard, 1840; one term.

James B. Hunt, 1842; two terms.

Chas. E. Stuart, 1846; one term.

Wm. Sprague, 1848; one term.

David Stuart, 1852; one term.

David S. Walbridge, Rep., Kalamazoo County, 1854; two terms.

Francis W. Kellogg, Rep., 1858; three terms. Opposition—first and second, Thos. B. Church, Dem.; third, no opp.

John F. Driggs, Rep., Saginaw County, 1864; two terms. Opposition—first, none; second, Julius R. Rose, Dem.

Randolph Strickland, Rep., Clinton County, 1868; one term. Opposition—Wm. Newton, Dem.

Jabez G. Sutherland, Dem., Saginaw County, 1870; one term. Opposition—John F. Driggs, Rep.

Nathan B. Bradley, Rep., Bay County, 1872; two terms. Opposition—first, none; second, Geo. Fred Lewis, Dem.

Chas. C. Ellsworth, Rep., Montcalm County, 1876; one term. Opposition—Fred H. Potter, Dem.

Roswell G. Horr, Rep., Saginaw County, 1878; three terms. Opposition—first, Bradley M. Thompson, Dem.; Henry H. Hoyt, Gbk.; second, Tim. E. Tarsney, Dem.; Wm. H. Smith, Gbk. Third, Chas. J. Willett, Fusion, of Gratiot.

Timothy E. Tarsney, Dem., Saginaw County, 1884; two terms. Opposition—Roswell G. Horr, Rep.

Aaron T. Bliss, Rep., Saginaw County, 1888; one term. Opposition—Tim. E. Tarsney, Dem.

Henry M. Youmans, Dem., Saginaw County, 1890; one term. Opposition—Aaron T. Bliss, Rep.

John Avery, Rep., Montcalm County, 1892; two terms. Opposition—first, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Fusion; second, Hiram B. Hudson, Dem.; Wm. T. Pitt, Gratiot County., Peo.

Wm. S. Mesick, Rep., Wexford County, 1896; two terms. Opposition—first, J. G. Ramsdell, Fusion; second, Alva W. Nichols, Fusion.

Archibald B. Darragh, Rep., Gratiot County, 1900; four terms. Opposition—first, Geo. Killeen, Dem., of Gratiot; second, David J. Erwin, Dem.; third, Wm. A. Bahlke, Dem., of Gratiot; fourth, Arthur J. Lacey, Dem.

Francis A. Dodds, Rep., Isabella County, 1908; two terms. Opposition—first, Leavitt S. Griswold, Dem.; second, Hubbard Head, Dem.

Francis O. Lindquist, Rep., Montcalm County; elected November, 1912. Opposition—Archie McCall, Dem., of Gratiot; John W. Patchin, National Progressive.

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### United States Senators.

Lucius Lyon and John Norvell were elected November 10, 1835, before the state had been formally admitted, but after its organization, and while the boundary line question between Ohio and Michigan delayed the formal admission of the state.

Augustus S. Porter, elected November 10, 1840.

Wm. Woodbridge, February 3, 1841.

Lewis Cass, February 4, 1845.

Alpheus Felch, February 2, 1847.

Thos. Fitzgerald, appointed 1848 in place of Lewis Cass, resigned.

Lewis Cass, January 20, 1849; February 5, 1851.

Chas. E. Stuart, January 11, 1853.

Zachariah Chandler, January 10, 1857; January 8, 1863.

Kinsley S. Bingham, January 18, 1859.

Jacob M. Howard, appointed 1861, in place of Kinsley S. Bingham, deceased.

Thos. W. Ferry, January 17, 1871; January 16, 1877.

Isaac P. Christiancy, January 19, 1875.

Zachariah Chandler, January 14, 1879.

Henry P. Baldwin, appointed 1879 in place of Isaac P. Christiancy, resigned.

Omar D. Conger, January 18, 1881.

Thos. W. Palmer, January 16, 1883.

Francis B. Stockbridge, January 18, 1887; January 17, 1893.

James McMillan, January 15, 1895; January 15, 1901.

John Patton, Jr., appointed May 5, 1894, in place of Francis B. Stockbridge, deceased.

Julius C. Burrows, January 15, 1895, to succeed John Patton, Jr., for the unexpired term of Francis B. Stockbridge; January 17, 1899.

Russell A. Alger, appointed September 27, 1902, in place of James McMillan, deceased; January 10, 1903.

Wm. Alden Smith, January, 1907; January, 1913.

Chas. E. Townsend, January, 1911.

# NEAR-COMEDY—NEAR CRIME.

## McCall-Kirby in the Elba Election of 1898.

Probably one of the most important cases ever tried in the Gratiot County Circuit Court, and certainly one of the most interesting cases, was that of McCall vs. Kirby, which followed the election of November, 1898. Important, interesting; and in some of the facts brought out it had features bordering on the ludicrous; features that excited wonderment and other emotions. Of course it is well understood that the main province of this volume is to record matters and events of general importance and interest either to the county at large or to specific localities, and not to give undue attention to matters personal, or matters of merely a personal nature. This McCall-Kirby case, while of especial interest to the principals, was in a much larger sense of interest to the people of the county in general. Hence this account of the case, giving its main points.

At the fall election of 1896, the united forces of Democrats, Populists and Free Silver Republicans, were successful in Gratiot County, winning every office by an average majority of about 500. In November, 1898, a re-action in sentiment gave a mixed result, the usually dominant Republicans getting a majority of the offices. Majorities ran from 75 for the Republican coroners to 130 for the fusion surveyor. The fusionists won sheriff, register of deeds and surveyor, the Republicans taking all the rest. Julius B. Kirby, Republican candidate for prosecuting attorney, had a majority of 23 over Archie McCall, the Fusion candidate.

Such a close result naturally excited a good deal of interest and a lot of speculative talk among those who concern themselves more or less in elections and results. So, when rumors began to float up to the county seat from Elba, to the effect that the election in that township had been carried on in a loose and unauthorized manner, followed by more substantial reports giving details of positive and important violations of the election laws, those particularly interested began to take especial notice. As a primary proposition it was felt by many that gross violations of the election laws by inspectors of election ought to be investigated and brought to an end, regardless of the question as to what candidate or what party would be adversely affected thereby. Secondarily it was noticed that Mr. Kirby's majority in Elba was 104, and consequently if it could be shown to the satisfaction of the courts that the violations of the election laws in that township had been so flagrant that its vote should be thrown out altogether, the change thus created would give footings that would show Mr. McCall elected by 81 majority.

The facts as gathered, unofficially, seemed to fully justify action to have the vote of the township thrown out. Mr. McCall, as a defeated candidate, was criticised severely by some who were more or less biased against him and his party, offering the opinion that a defeated candidate should gracefully submit, and not kick up a row. "But," as one argued at the time, "that depends. If a candidate is beaten fairly, that is, without the perpetration of fraud, and without a gross and apparently intentional violation of the law, then it is manifestly wrong to raise a contest. But in this case it is not small errors that are complained of, nor honest and unimportant mistakes that are charged. Gross and flagrant violations of the election laws

are charged, and, according to our information, Mr. McCall has ample evidence to substantiate the charges. If he does substantiate them, he will have done his county a service by the exposure. On the other hand if a trial of the issue shows that there were no solid grounds for the charges, the result will clear up the matter, and neither side should be subjected to undue censure for making an effort to get at the truth."

Mr. McCall, by his attorneys Geo. P. Stone, J. T. Matthews and Elisha McCall, commenced proceedings to test the validity of the election in Elba Township. The suit was brought under the sanction of the Attorney General of the State and was tried in the Gratiot Circuit Court in February, 1899, Judge S. B. Daboll presiding. Attorneys K. S. Searl, Wm. A. Leet and B. H. Sawyer appeared for Mr. Kirby. The jury was composed of James Wood, Clark Smith, Edward Bohn, Washington Merchant, Simon S. Munson, Thos. Croton, Frank Church, A. W. Rock, Jacob Burnham, S. Matthewson, Geo. Payne, Thos. Lang.

The grounds for the action are clearly given in this synopsis of the case and of the facts conceded or proven: The manner of conducting the election, and the main question of its regularity were the points to be determined. It was shown by many witnesses, and it was conceded by the defense, that in addition to the regular full board of election inspectors, one Chas. Kerr was sworn in as an "instructor"; that he was placed behind the booths in a position entirely out of sight of the election board, and where he could, and did, talk freely with the voters before they went into the booths; that he was given all of the official ballots to hand out to the voters, and that he did so hand them out; that he instructed those who needed instruction, shook hands with them and passed the compliments of the day, and had the last word, and as many words as he chose to have with them before they passed into the booths. Half a dozen witnesses testified that he not only offered his instructions unasked, but he also told them right where they should put their mark if they wanted to vote for Mr. Kirby. All this entirely out of sight of the board.

The defense conceded all this, excepting as to his calling especial attention to Mr. Kirby's name. They claimed, and showed, that the proceedings at that election were practically the same as for several years past; that the board acted in good faith in the appointment of Mr. Kerr as "instructor", supposing that they were acting within the law; and though they conceded that Mr. Kerr was a superfluity, they contended that, inasmuch as it was not shown that he actually influenced voters sufficient to change the result, the election should stand.

The judges ruling and charge were overwhelmingly favorable to the respondent Kirby, and the jury rendered a verdict accordingly after deliberating but a short time. This result in the lower court was anticipated by those whose business or pleasure it was to keep tab on the matter; and as it was the general understanding that the case would be taken to the supreme court whichever side won, a verdict either way could cut no serious figure.

The case got to the supreme court in due time and was heard by that tribunal June 22, 1899, Attorneys Stone, Mathews and Bahlke for Relator A. McCall; Attorneys Searl, Leet and Respondent Kirby for the defense. While the matter was being digested by the court, speculation naturally ran something like this, in the minds of people disinterested, but only anxious to have the question settled right: If the decision confirms Mr Kirby in the possession of the office, then those conceded, serious violations of the election laws may be continued, and may be practiced without limit as to time

or place, and practically without limit as to degree. How can the supreme court sanction such positive violations of the election laws that have been labored over and constructed with so much pains and care for the express purpose of securing the sanctity and privacy of the ballot and of suffrage, and to prevent the very things charged, proven, and conceded in this case!

On the other hand, inasmuch as no actual fraud is charged or proven; no actual intimidation or coercion; no influence exercised sufficient to interfere with the free expression of the will of the voters—at least nothing of the kind shown or proven; such being the case, will the court disfranchise the entire township, simply because the election officers were guilty of a gross violation of the election law!

The supreme court decided the matter speedily, reversing the finding of the circuit court, and, consequently, finding for the relator, McCall. The court was unanimous in its findings. The opinion, in part, is as follows: "Manifestly the law was wholly ignored in the appointment of an "instructor", in intrusting the ballots to him and permitting him to have free access to the electors after they had passed into the voting precinct and into the booths themselves. It is urged that the inspectors acted in good faith, and supposed they had the right to appoint a man as instructor of election. It is difficult to understand how intelligent men could reach this conclusion. The law makes no such provision.

"It is due to the members of the election board to say that there is no evidence that they acted from corrupt motives. If, however, this conduct can be sustained and the plain provisions of the law ignored, rascals can very readily make the same plea, and it would be difficult to expose their rascality. These provisions of the law are held to be mandatory; they cannot be evaded by showing that the parties acted in good faith, and that voters were not influenced. The law was intended to prevent just such transactions and chances to influence voters; and courts cannot fritter them away by permitting jurors to find that there was no fraud and that voters were not unduly influenced."

This was a very clear opinion, tersely and pointedly worded. It sounds just as if the honorable judges had a feeling of disgust, or at least of impatience, at the entire transaction. They made short work of it. Their feelings are in evidence without a diagram. It probably would take a diagram to fairly portray the emotions of the election board of Elba, and of the court and jury that tried the case in the Gratiot circuit, when they perused and absorbed the decision.

Prosecutor Kirby retired gracefully from the office, and Prosecutor McCall took possession. The rejection of Elba's vote had no effect upon the other officers of the county except to increase the majorities of the Fusionists who were elected, and to reduce the majorities of the Republicans who were elected.

## THE PINE RIVER ELECTION FRAUD OF 1875.

In the spring of 1875, Pine River Township was the scene of a dastardly political or official steal that caused great excitement and indignation not only in the township but throughout the county when the facts became known. Inasmuch, however, as the exposure came more than eleven months after the steal, no action was taken to bring the guilty to punishment. Referring to the counting out of the Republican candidate for supervisor—Cornelius Holiday—and the counting in of Henry P. Clark—the Democratic candidate—by a Republican election board.

As manipulated and read by the chairman of the board, in canvassing the split tickets the result was made to appear that Mr. Clark was elected by a majority of 21. At the time of the canvass of the votes suspicions were strongly in evidence that skulduggery was being practiced, but after the result was announced showing a majority of 21 it did not seem probable that enough names had been transposed or substituted to have stolen the election by such a comparatively large majority. So the matter rested until the 17th of the following March, just a few days before the next township election, when, under perfectly plausible, legitimate and harmless conditions and circumstances an opportunity was afforded for looking over the ballots used at the election mentioned, a year before. A casual counting of the vote on supervisor, several times repeated afterward, showed that instead of being defeated by 21 majority, Mr. Holiday had actually been elected by six majority. The fraud was promptly exposed through the next issue of the St. Louis Herald, at that time published by Jared B. Graham, Democrat. The exposure was electrical in its action and highly sensational in its effect. The local excitement was intense, and the controversy through the newspaper was of a nature to stand in a class by itself. But as the official term had expired, no legal steps were taken to right the wrong. And on the other hand the gaseous and imbecile bluffing as to what ought to be done to the person who had made the exposure went for what it was worth.

A word as to the reasons why the chairman of the board wanted to defeat Mr. Holiday; reasons well understood at that time. The chairman had been honored with many positions of responsibility and had been supervisor many years. The people, however, and particularly his own party, had become dissatisfied with his methods, which they considered to be too much on the scheming, unreliable order, and they were showing a disposition to retire him permanently to private life. The rural citizens, particularly, had that feeling. So when a farmer was nominated to displace him as supervisor the plans were laid, (he had sympathizers, if not confederates) to discipline and reprove the party by defeating their candidate. This statement is not a mere supposition but is based on many acts and circumstances that cannot be detailed here, but which were well known and well understood at the time. The exposure finished his career, both as an official and politician. He was never heard of afterward in any official or public capacity whatever. All of which suggests the same old moral that need not be rehearsed here, but which will occur to the minds of most readers.

Complete files of the newspapers containing the whole matter treated of in this article are before me as I write. This is a mere synopsis of a long and interesting story.

# ALL ABOUT BOHEMIAN OATS.

## People Were Caught in Their Own Traps.

What was known as the "Bohemian Oat Swindle" interested the people of Gratiot County along in the '80s to such an extent that it would seem to be an error to not give it some considerable consideration in a work of this kind. It would be difficult to point to any one thing that has ever caused as much general interest, not to say excitement, as did the "Bohemian Oat" episode of the years mentioned. For some reasons one naturally shrinks from the job of writing of the matter or even referring to it. Many good men, or at least men who averaged pretty good, were roped into the scheme, and everyone who went into it did so in the hope of making money in a fictitious way, or to be more plain, in a way that meant getting something for nothing.

To say that all who bit at the bait held out by the head swindlers were either knaves or fools, would doubtless be putting it too strong. But to say that those who fell into the scheme had a selfish, grasping streak in their make-up seems not far out of the way. And to say that reasonably intelligent men could not see the swindling nature of the scheme and that it must inevitably come to a bad ending, sooner or later, resulting in great loss to many, would be equivalent to saying that those men had a deplorably foolish streak in their systems. So, while not necessarily fools or knaves, they all showed traces of character that would have a tendency to disqualify them for membership in a club of the truly good or truly wise.

These remarks and suggestions apply only to the laity, so to speak; the rank and file of the operators in Bohemian Oats. The leaders in the swindle—those who studied out the scheme, and those who were let into the game to act as cappers and stool-pigeons to beguile the unthinking people who were expected to only look on the surface of things, and whose natural avarice would make them easy marks—those leaders, it may be said, come under another head, and doubtless were entitled to all the censure they ever received. Probably their avarice was no stronger than that of the other class, but they allowed their grasping, grafting propensities to sway them regardless of the fact that they knew the game was in its nature a swindle, and that sooner or later, and probably "sooner", it would collapse, leaving the last operators stranded high and dry. They understood this, but as they were on the "inside" and had been allowed to win on the initial deal, they were not so particular about what would happen when the end came, only so that they were not caught. Probably "knave or fool" would not be the proper term to apply to this class, for even their victims didn't call them fools.

But to get at the nature and workings of the scheme: It had been in operation for a year or so in some parts of Northern Ohio and Southern Michigan, but as it was a project that required frequent changes of base some of its promoters came up to Clinton and Gratiot Counties in the winter of 1884 and spring of 1885, and organized the Lenawee, Clinton & Gratiot County Bohemian Oat Association. Some of the principal offices, such as president, superintendent, etc., were given to Lenawee County people, those who had had experience in the business. But it needed some good men on

the ground to look after its interests, so Robert Smith of the Gratiot County Journal was made secretary of the association, and some minor offices, such as directors, etc., were given to other local men.

To make it clear to the present generation who often hear the Bohemian Oat swindle spoken of and who may not really understand what it was and how it worked, it may be well to say right here that the plan adopted to get the people's money, was to get possession of their promissory notes, duly executed, and then sell the notes to "innocent parties" in whose hands they would be collectable, regardless as to how they were originally obtained. The big haul of notes was to come the second year. The first year was devoted to baiting and setting the hook so as to insure a big haul of victims the next year. So a few men who were considered men of influence, were let into the workings of the scheme. The variety of oats to be operated in was no better than any other variety. The extra value attached to them was purely fictitious, and was applied for speculative purposes. To these few men were sold the oats to the amount of from 10 to 50 bushels each, at $10 a bushel, the company at the same time binding itself to take its pay in oats, and to take all the oats the man raised, at $7.50 a bushel.

Say a man took 10 bushels, giving his note for $100, and taking the company's bond, as stated, to pay him $7.50 a bushel for his crop. The 10 bushels would sow five acres, which might yield 40 bushels per acre—200 bushels. At $7.50 a bushel the crop would be worth $1,500. This would take up his note and leave him $1,400 clear for his five-acre crop. The company fulfilled its agreement, and had oats galore, ready to enlarge its operations the next year.

So that's the way it was worked. That was the hook and that's the way it was baited. All that was necessary now was to set the hook all nicely baited. This was done by way of a circular issued from the Journal office and also published in the Journal by Robert Smith, the secretary of the association, and editor of the Journal, setting forth that the 25 or 30 people mentioned—all well-known residents of the county, Robert Smith among the rest—had raised the oats and had found it "the best and most profitable branch of farming that they had ever engaged in." Then the circular went on to state how many bushels each one had bought and how many bushels each one had sold and what each one received—beautiful, large sums, every one of them; and advising farmers to take right hold of the matter and do likewise.

And the farmers fairly fell over one another in their anxiety to get some of those oats and to give their notes for them at $10 a bushel, and to take the company's bond to buy their entire crop at $7.50 a bushel. The notes were ordinary promissory notes, given by good, responsible people and were promptly turned over to the local banks at a good price, and were then in the hands of innocent purchasers. Then, long before the time came for sowing those blessed oats, the people opened their eyes and began to take notice; the intrinsic baseness of the scheme was exposed and with the exposure came the end of speculation; but not the end of trouble. If the farmer did not sow the oats and raise a crop, the company could not buy them and thus furnish him with the means to take up his note. And if he did sow the oats and raise a crop, the company would not buy them, and thus fulfill its obligations as expressed in the bond, because the bottom had fallen out of the market for $10 oats and no man would buy a bushel at a price above the ordinary market price for oats. But the notes—good big ones, some of them—were mainly in the banks ready for collection when they come due. A small portion of the notes were in the hands of agents

who had taken them from the company in payment of commissions. It has been stated that some of these were returned to the farmers who gave them.

By those unacquainted with the nature and depth of the scheme it may be asked why redress was not had against the company on its bond given to each farmer who bought oats and gave his note. The answer is that the company was constituted like the rest of the scheme; made up mostly of wind and faith. Besides, a cute provision of the bond made every man who gave his note and took a bond a member of the company and continued him as a member until his note was paid. So, as those who were in the year before were out as soon as their notes were paid, the company was composed of new members, all fellow-dupes, and to all intents and purposes the bonding process was but a sort of a co-operative bonding arrangement between the dupes. An equitable adjustment would have left the members right where they were at the start; that is to say, each man would pay his own note just the same.

Going back to the spring of 1885, when the stool-pigeons were being trained for their part in the transaction, it seems proper to show that the people of the county were warned of the dangerous or questionable character of the proposition. At that time the writer of this volume was publishing the St. Louis, (Mich.) Herald. He had seen some references in the papers to the Bohemian Oat matter, but not enough to excite much curiosity. Early in March, however, the matter got nearer home, and began to be mentioned in the county and in the newspapers of the county. Emissaries from the southern part of the state were up here looking over the ground and working up interest in the subject. Among others, the interest of Robert Smith of the Gratiot Journal was enlisted, and he had said in substance in an issue in February, "Wait! Withhold judgment on this Bohemian Oat question till we can hear from an agent that we have sent down to Lenawee County to investigate. When he comes back we will know whether or not the scheme is a worthy one." The agent saw no one but those who were deeply interested in the sale of the oats and the perpetuity of the scheme. He returned with glowing testimonials; and the editor of the Journal hastened to publish them, and gave the scheme his personal commendation. The company was formed and Smith was made secretary. The diligent, trusty agent also got a position. A banquet and a ball were held, and the campaign was on. And from that time on, the Journal never had a word of criticism to offer, and would not even allow its correspondents to say a word derogatory to the swindle. Probably the only paper in the state that did not give the subject more or less attention from week to week.

In its issue of March 13, 1885, the St. Louis Herald uttered a warning. This was immediately after the return of the agent mentioned, and the endorsement of the entire scheme by the Journal. The Herald's article was as follows:

"We have several times been requested to say something warning the farmers against the so-called 'Bohemian Oat Swindle', but there being such a wide difference of opinion as to whether it is a swindle or not, and having no positive knowledge of our own in the matter, we have hitherto refrained from meddling with the subject. The Gratiot Journal of last week contains an article on this subject by a citizen of Ithaca, who has been to the southern part of the state for the purpose of investigating the merits of the oats and the parties selling them. His researches convince him, that the oats are a great success, and he backs his opinion by published statements of several

prominent farmers of Lenawee County. So far so good, but we might remark right here that there are people in this county who are taking his statements with a pinch of salt, and are actually harboring the belief that he went south at the request, and at the expense of the oat fiends themselves, and is in duty, and by interest, bound to report favorably. We wash our hands of any knowledge in the matter, and simply give an outline of the evidence on both sides, closing with this clipping from the Detroit Free Press: 'The farmer who pays $10 a bushel, or even $1 a bushel, for Bohemian Oats will later apply to himself the true saying, a fool and his money are soon parted; and will want to kick himself all over his Bohemian Oat field for being fool enough to believe the smooth-tongued agents who roped in a sucker.'"

These warning words may have had the effect of restraining some from taking part in the nefarious enterprise. But the temptation was too great for some and the work went on. Contracts were made with a few in each township; just enough to get sufficient seed to bait a lot of them next year.

The Gratiot Journal was the leading paper published in the county; the first paper established and well known. It was published at the county seat, and had a large circulation in all parts of the county. The endorsement of a project by its editor, Robert Smith, had great weight with many people. Smith posed as a leader and was a leader, and, as the saying is, he acknowledged it himself. A year or two before the Bohemian Oat period, in proclaiming his guardianship over the county and its people he said in his paper: "We believe in enterprise. We believe in fighting wrong and in striking down fanatics of whatever name or nature. We believe in working for the development of Gratiot County and promoting her interests. We believe Gratiot County is destined to be one of the first agricultural counties in Michigan, and the Journal will work incessantly to advance her interests in this direction."

In his issue of May 1, 1885, he took pains to tell his readers that after a thorough investigation into the matter and the methods of those Bohemian Oat dealers doing business in Gratiot County, he failed to find any instance where they had not lived up to their contracts and perform their every obligation. At the very time he was writing that endorsement, his own Bohemian Oats that he had agreed to pay $10 a bushel for were up and flourishing on a farm over in North Star Township, and he had in his pocket the so-called bond of the company to take his entire crop at $7.50 a bushel. Then, along in the fall, after the oats were harvested and thrashed, he issued from his office the circular heretofore mentioned, and also published it in his paper, date of November 13, 1885, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, farmers and growers of Bohemian Oats during the year 1885, beg leave to testify to the fact that the scheme is the best investment ever made by us in the line of farming We purchased the quantity of oats stated below, last fall, from the product of which we have sold, at this date, the number of bushels designated, at the price named. All the business has been done through A. A. Griffith, superintendent of the Lenawee, Clinton & Gratiot County Bohemian Oat Association, and its agents, whom we have found to be straight and honorable in their transactions with us. Indeed, we have been dealt with better than we expected or our bonds called for."

Then follows 35 names of different residents of the county, from Forest Hill to Bridgeville, with the amount of oats bought and the amount sold, and the sums paid and received for the same. For instance: "Robert Smith,

Ithaca; bushels bought, 20; bushels sold, 60; amount received, $600. J. E. Parkinson, Forest Hill; bushels bought, 16; bushels sold, 210; amount received, $2,100." And so on through the list.

In his issue of November 20, 1885, a glowing account is given by himself of a "Bohemian Oat Dance and Banquet" at Ithaca, in the course of which prizes were given by the schemers: To one farmer "$10 in gold" for the best crop, per acre; a "gold ring set with pearls" to another, and a "solid gold vest chain" to another for courtesies shown. There were 250 farmers present in spite of bad weather, from all over the county. Such were the methods of the company to stimulate the interest and avarice of its dupes and prospective abettors.

In the meantime the St. Louis Herald, editorially and by its correspondents, was branding the whole matter as a nefarious swindle, and its officers and promoters as outrageous swindlers, and thus calling down the maledictions of those who had become entangled in the scheme and who were frantic to get out of it whole, or better still, three or four hundred per cent. ahead, at the expense of some other poor devil.

On the strength of the booming given to the swindle by those who profited by it the first year, scores of farmers bit, as heretofore stated. They wanted some of those profits, and eagerly gave their notes. But the collapse came before they could even sow their oats; but not before their notes had been turned over into the hands of innocent purchasers as heretofore mentioned.

It may be asked why Robert Smith is so severely arraigned in this connection, while other culpable ones are not personally mentioned. The answer is that with his position as publisher of the leading newspaper in the county, and with his well-known aggressiveness in whatever he undertook, the Bohemian Oat scheme would probably never have gained a serious foothold in the county without his endorsement. Certainly if the scheme had been met by his active and energetic opposition it would have died without a single Gratiot County dupe. Those who knew him and the undoubted influence he wielded at that time will not question this statement. It is barely possible that a few may imagine that personal spite, or a wish for revenge may have inspired these strictures. But this would be entirely erroneous. The writer is not constituted that way. And besides there are no old personal scores to be settled that way. All obligations and scores were fully paid and balanced up at the time when any controversies occurred. Nothing was left to influence legitimate history a generation afterward. It is the aim to give the facts of history with as few adverse personal allusions as a strict regard for accuracy and completness will permit, and if I knew of any way to narrate the Bohemian Oat case and make its workings and the reason for its getting a foothold in Gratiot County, clear and plain to the reader without personal allusions that may appear offensive, I would gladly adopt that method, and refrain from allusions that could be construed as designedly personal. The Bohemian Oat episode was one of the most important and exciting in the entire history of the county, and as such it calls for fair, frank and lucid treatment.

The collapse of the bubble came largely through the efforts of the St. Louis Herald as heretofore stated. Its editor was ably aided in his investigations by Attorney Edwin H. Ashley, of Ithaca. Ashley early caught on to the workings of the project and went after it in his characteristic style. In articles to the Herald under the pen-name of "A farmer (like yourself)" and addressed as open letters to the editor of the Gratiot Journal, he gradually unfolded the rotten details of the scheme to the gaze of the people:

and the deal was at an end. Of course Ashley as well as the editor of the Herald got a lot of cursing. Men who had given their notes were suddenly confronted with the fact that they would have them to pay and had practically nothing to show for the outlay; and they were exasperated. The end had come and they—instead of some other fellows in the distant future —were the stranded victims.

The matter went into the courts in various forms. Some paid and some got out of paying on one pretext or another. Some paid voluntarily rather than stand a law suit. Some got out of paying on the court's decision that the holder of a Bohemian Oat note could not collect if he knew the nature of the note when he bought it.

The whole matter left a bad taste that has hardly been overcome to this day. Certainly the memory of it is still acute with many.

As a fitting ending to this article, and to show that the charge, that people who were taken in by the scheme had a tinge of knavery or foolishness or both, in their make-up was not entirely baseless, the following from the St. Louis Herald of February 10, 1888, is given, showing how it appeared to the State Supreme Court:

"In its opinion on the Bohemian Oat case mentioned last week, the Supreme Court uses language that must make certain parties that we have in mind, hot about the ears. Read these caustic words and then pity the unhappy mortals to whom they apply. Sharper than a serpents tooth, and hotter than a mustard plaster, coming as they do from the court of last resort in the state: 'The court cannot shut its eyes to the fact that this is only one of the thousands of similar contracts made within this state in the last few years, and that the unwary, unspecting and too credulous farmers have been made the victims of sharpers and swindlers, who, by their seductive arts have worked upon the natural love of gain which most men possess, and thus reaped a rich harvest from those whom the law should protect.

" 'The very scheme itself bears evidence upon its face that it is a fraud and a snare; and yet so cunningly devised that in the hands of a sharp, shrewd and designing man, hundreds of the unwary have been defrauded; and the courts should set their seal of condemnation upon it, and pronounce it, as it is, a contract void on the ground of public policy. It is upon its face a gambling contract.' "

Such is the story, in brief, of the Bohemian Oat episode in Gratiot County. The originators, instigators and leaders were and are worthy of the severest censure for their part in the matter. The dupes of their nefarious scheme are only entitled to a certain degree of pity, and that pity of a type bordering on contempt, for their gullibility, and for their self-evident predisposition to accept and embrace a bold or thinly-veiled speculative scheme which "on its face bore evidence that it was a fraud and a snare"; with the selfish hope and belief predominant and controlling, that they were getting something for nothing, regardless of the prospective loss and suffering of those who must necessarily lose in proportion to their own fraudulent gains. The peculiar workings of the human mind and conscience sometimes constitutes a puzzle that seems almost unsolvable.

# CASUALTIES RESULTING FATALLY.

## A few of the most noted—Others following by Townships.

### Death by Fire.

A young man named Geo. Lott, of Elm Hall, lost his life at St. Louis, night of May 24, 1877, being cremated by the burning of the village jail in which he was spending the night. He had been arrested on a larceny charge, by Sheriff Geo. L. Patch and was placed in the St. Louis lock-up for safe keeping over night, the idea being to take him to the county jail at Ithaca, next day. During the night the jail was discovered to be on fire, and, despite extraordinary efforts to extinguish the fire, it was burned to the ground, and Lott suffered a horrible death by fire. It was the supposition that Lott started the fire either by accident or design, and the coroner's jury so decided the matter.

The village lock-up was an edifice constructed of plank and was located on the northwest corner of the public square opposite the place now occupied by the Union School building. It was a very unfortunate and distressing occurrence, and one for which it was a difficult matter to place the blame.

### Boiler Explosion at Ithaca.

1887, March 8, Ithaca—Three lives were snuffed out when the boiler in Wm. F. Thompson's butter tub factory exploded on this date; one of the worst occurrences in the history of the county, fatalities considered. The explosion came in the afternoon, and was without warning, presumably caused by low water. R. J. Norton, the engineer, was killed outright. He was from Ohio, and left a wife and four children. Orin Harvey, 16 years old, son of Mrs. Levi Armstrong, survived his injuries only about two hours. Charles Wilson, aged 32, lived till 8 o'clock the following morning. He was the adopted son of Henry P. Howd, and left a wife and two children.

Those injured more or less seriously were Emmett Pierce, Jas. Dixon, Luther Lord, Leonard Emmons and Jas. Logan. John C. Heslin and J. C. Naugle, though in the midst of the danger, escaped injury. A horse belonging to the mercantile firm of Nelson & Barber, and driven by Jud. Rosekrans, was instantly killed by a portion of the boiler striking him on the neck in its descent, after being hurled almost perpendicularly high in the air. The factory was located at the southeast corner of Main and Emerson Streets, but the force of the explosion was so great that bricks were hurled more than a block, breaking windows in the business places.

The building was erected in 1866 by W. W. Comstock, for a grist mill, and was so used till bought by Mr. Thompson in 1882 and remodeled into a butter tub factory and sawmill. Fire from the explosion partially destroyed the engine room and sawmill part of the structure, but the firemen were promptly on hand and, confining the fire to those parts, soon had it extinguished.

The coroner's inquest, conducted by Coroner J. H. DeMay, with jurymen J. H. Seaver, W. B. Scattergood, Wolf Netzorg, O. H. Heath, F. H. Horr and S. B. Heverlo, returned a verdict that the victims "came to their deaths by means of the explosion of the steam boiler in the tub factory of W. F. Thompson; that deceased came to their deaths in the manner and by the means aforesaid, accidentally and by misfortune, and not otherwise."

It may not be inappropriate to remark here, in closing, that the mill was repaired and enlarged, and did a thriving business for many years, and until the business was sold to Armour & Co., who removed to other quarters in the west part of town. The old building was put to various transient uses for several years and was then torn down, piecemeal, as it were, the last of it disappearing in the spring of 1913 to make room for the new residence building of Theron A. Goodwin.

### Fourth of July Fatality.

The celebration of the National holiday, at Ithaca, July 4, 1887, ended with a catastrophe that brought death to one person and serious bodily hurts to several others. The big crowd had been satisfactorily entertained throughout the day and the fireworks were in progress, being operated from an elevated stand located on the north side of the Court House square. As the exhibition progressed a big skyrocket was "set off", the back-action rush of sparks ignited a lot of rockets lying on the platform partially covered with a blanket. An explosion followed, sending the rockets and rocket sticks flying in a promiscuous manner. Carlton Snedicor, son of C. Snedicor, of Emerson, was hit in the abdomen by one of the sticks and fatally wounded, living till about noon the next day. Robert Reed, of Newark, an old soldier, was struck on the hand and side by a stick, and several others were more or less injured. Young Snedicor was a fine young man, and the sad ending of his promising young life was sincerely deplored. It was said that no one was to blame for the accident as all the usual precautions had been taken to secure safety.

### Gardner's Mill Explosion.

On June 25, 1890, in North Star Township, occurred the terrible boiler explosion that destroyed more lives than could be charged against any other single catastrophe in the county. Referring to the stave mill explosion of Frank Gardner in North Star Township. Six men were killed outright or died within a few hours, and about 12 others were more or less seriously injured. The factory was located about one and one-half miles southeast of North Star Village on the south side of the Ann Arbor Railroad, at that time called the Toledo, Ann Arbor and North Mich. The mill employed 25 hands, had been in operation about eight years and was of much importance to the farming community in furnishing a market for timber, besides providing work for the force of hands directly employed. The explosion occurred at 2:30 in the afternoon. The mill was standing idle, temporarily, while a belt was being mended, when the shock came. Following are the main personal facts relative to the victims:

Frank Gardner, proprietor of the mill, so badly injured that he died about 10 hours after the accident. He left a wife and son, the latter aged 18, being in the midst of the danger, but escaped serious injury. Mr. Gardner was aged 46.

Fred Tucker, aged 27, breathed a few minutes after being taken from the ruins. He left a wife but no children. His home was in St. Louis.

Chas. Brown, the engineer, lived about four hours, when death claimed him. His age was 40 years. He resided at North Star Village and left a wife and three children.

Jay Brown, brother to Charles, the engineer. He lingered about 20 hours. He was 28 years old, and had a wife and two children living not far from the mill.

Hiram Goodwin, aged 17, son of Hiram Goodwin, living near the mill, was instantly killed.

David Costello, aged 35, was killed upon the spot. He was a comparative stranger, coming from Wisconsin.

The names of the others more or less seriously injured are as follows: Jas. Hull, Jas. Britten, Richard Britten, David Robinson, Cassius Conklin, Eugene Conklin, Wm. Erb, Neil Holm, Mandus Holm, John Logan, Floyd Gardner, Wm. Ready, Jas. A. Thum, Jas. E. Van Epps.

The ruins took fire and everything combustible was reduced to ashes, and, an account written at the time, goes on to say: "It required quick work on the part of the survivors to get the dead and wounded out from the debris and away from the flames. A large quantity of stave bolts was consumed. The dry-house, full of staves and the blacksmith shop further away were also entirely destroyed. The trucks are all that is left of two freight cars that stood on the sidetrack, loaded with staves and heading. Away over in the orchard back of the Gardner residence, and fully 20 rods from the site of the mill, lies, spread out, one-half of the boiler. It is spread out flat. In reaching its present resting place it flew almost directly north, struck a stave shed in its flight and knocked out a corner post, then struck on the ground and bounded clear over the railroad track, struck a tie and then with another leap landed clear over the further fence, taking large limbs from an apple tree on its way. The piece of boiler is seven by fifteen feet in size. The other half took a westerly course and landed 20 rods away in a stave pile."

A coroner's jury attributed the cause of the explosion to low water. The mill was not rebuilt.

### The David Strouse Tragedy.

An accident fatal to two people occurred in St. Louis, July 19, 1894, at the intersection of the railroad and Main Street, near the depot. David Strouse, with his wife and 12-year-old son were driving across the track and were caught by the east-bound train which came upon them without warning, at least without warning enough to attract their attention. Mr. and Mrs. Strouse were both instantly killed, and the lad was seriously injured. The unfortunate people were residents of Ithaca, and stood well in the community. The verdict of the coroner's jury had no censure for anyone.

### Death in a Blizzard.

In the spring of 1901, Edwin Hutchinson, aged about 21, son of Wm. O. Hutchinson, of Arcada, went west to North Dakota with a small party of St. Johns people, took up land for a farm and commenced improving it in accordance with the provisions of the homestead law. All seemed to go well until in February, 1902, his father received a telegram to the effect that Edwin had been lost in a blizzard that had swept over that western

country. He was supposed to have been in his hut during the storm, but when the blizzard was over, neighbors failed to find him there or to get any trace of him. His father went immediately to his rescue, but after weeks and months of searching, failed to get any definite clue as to his fate.

Time passed on, and in the summer of 1903 the young man's remains were found 20 miles from his home, occupied at the time of the storm, a year and a half previously. The remains were identified by the clothing and some things remaining in the pockets. His money and watch were gone, which indicated that the remains had been found by someone previously, and robbed. The presumption was that during the blizzard he had attempted to go to a neighbor's, but had got lost in the storm and wandered to the place where he was found, and had died from exhaustion.

The case was a sad one and full of interest, enlisting the sympathy of all the people acquainted with the incident.

### Tortured by Fire.

Death by fire, July 22, 1901, was the fate of Mrs. Jacob Huffman, aged about 69 and living a mile southeast of Ithaca. She had been to town and was returning home. She was addicted to smoking a pipe, and it was presumed that having been smoking she had put her pipe into her pocket without properly emptying the fire out of it. Anyway, when within 40 or 50 rods of home she was suddenly enveloped in flames, her clothing having taken fire in some way. Assistance was near, and the fire was extinguished, but not until the old lady had received frightful burns. She was taken home and everything done for her that it was possible to do to relieve her, but she gave up the struggle at 9 o'clock that evening. She was a pioneer of the county, and was a woman of great energy and activity and with many friends, all of whom were shocked at the tragic circumstances of her death.

### Lonely Death of Mr. Mey.

Julius Mey, an old gentleman aged 75, residing on section 9, Pine River Township, met his death about June 1, 1902, under peculiarly pathetic conditions. He had been to St. Louis on Decoration Day, and when he started for home with his horse and buggy it appeared that he became confused and took the wrong road and the wrong direction, for when he was missed and a search instituted which lasted several days, his horse was found in the eastern part of Lafayette Township, and further search resulted in finding his body and the wrecked buggy just over the meridian line, in Saginaw County, and a little distance from the road, in the woods, the indications being that the horse had wandered from the road, upset the buggy, throwing the old gentleman out, and that his death resulted from the fall. The place is about 25 miles from his home.

Mr. Mey was a pioneer of Pine River and had the respect of all who knew him. He had been a resident for about 49 years, having settled in 1853 on the farm he owned and occupied to the time of his death.

### Three Dead at Crystal Lake.

July 31, 1903, one of the most distressing casualties that ever happened to Gratiot County people occurred at Crystal Lake, Montcalm County, the

popular vacation resort for so many Gratiot County people. A row boat, overloaded with ten people—two men, five women and three children—was swamped in about eight feet of water at the end of the pier which extended into the lake. All saved themselves, or were saved, excepting three. Miss Myrtle Debolt, of Breckenridge, aged 20, her aunt, Miss Ethel Debolt, of Saginaw, aged 30, and Lura, aged seven years, daughter and only child of School Commissioner Charles F. Pike and wife, of Ithaca, were drowned in spite of all efforts to save them. Though the bodies were soon recovered from the water, all endeavors to resuscitate them proved unavailing.

This was a sad ending to a happy week of recreation. Two amiable, intelligent and esteemed young ladies, in the prime of young womanhood, victims of a strange and heartless fate. Nothing could be more saddening unless it might be the cruel fate of the innocent child, the idol of her parents and the pride of many relatives and friends.

### Arcada's Death-Dealing Cyclone.

On the 11th of October, 1912, at a little before midnight, a cyclone, local in its nature and in its destructive work, visited Arcada Township, and left its mark in ruined buildings and orchards, dead and maimed farm stock, and one dead human being—Mrs. Ermina S. Bowman, a lady 70 years of age, widow of Edward D. Bowman, who died March 30, 1910.



WRECKAGE OF BOWMAN BUILDING—MRS. BOWMAN WAS KILLED.

The Bowman farm is on the southeast corner of section 9. The storm came from the southwest, and seems to have dropped down and paid its respects to a strip of country a few rods wide and two miles long, doing much damage to property, as already stated. Mrs. Bowman, her son, E. F. Bowman, and a hired man named Earl Everson, were in their beds when the storm demolished the house. All three were carried with the wreckage of the house 80 or 100 feet from the starting point. Mr. Bowman was considerably bruised and lacerated; his mother, Mrs. Bowman, appeared to

have been killed instantly, as she was quite dead when found by her son within a few minutes, her neck being broken. The hired man was practically uninjured.

Mrs. Bowman had been a resident of the county and on the same farm for a period of thirty-five years, and was very much respected. Her tragic death was mourned by a large circle of acquaintances. She left three sons and a daughter.

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### Disappearance of Ray Naugle.

In November, 1912, the people of Ithaca became greatly interested and concerned over the fate of Ray Naugle, who suddenly and mysteriously disappeared from the face of the earth, apparently, from the wilderness regions of the Upper Peninsula, where he had gone for a hunting vacation. Mr. Naugle was a young married man about 28 years of age, only child of Mrs. Margaret Naugle, so well known as the leading saleslady in Henry McCormack's department store; and the young man himself had for many years been employed as clerk in the same establishment. The strange disappearance not only claimed the excited interest of the people of Ithaca, but of the entire county, as well, and the case became of general interest throughout the state, as the facts became known.

On the 25th of October, 1912, Mr. Naugle, together with Nathaniel Johnson, of Newark, and George Mikesell, of Pompeii, both men considerably older than Ray, left by train for a hunting trip. Arriving at Newberry, they went about 12 miles into the woods northwest from that city. It is a wild and rough country, with extensive swamps, here and there a lumber camp, and the settlers far apart.

On Friday, November 1st, the men were hunting and when night came, Mr. Naugle failed to return to camp. He was last seen in the afternoon by Mr. Johnson, and at that time he was following the trail of a deer that the two had started up. The trail led into a swamp, and by agreement Ray started one way around the swamp, while Johnson went the other. That was the last seen of the young hunter. As told by Johnson and Mikesell, they hunted for Naugle all day Saturday, notifying all whom they encountered, of Naugle's disappearance, and on Sunday notified the authorities at Newberry. But though the officers, with hundreds of searchers scoured the country for miles in all directions, for days and weeks, not the slightest trace of the lost man was ever discovered. His relatives here in Gratiot, as well as other friends, went to the scene of the mysterious disappearance, and made every effort to solve the mystery, offering a reward of $500, but without avail.

Various theories to account for the mystery are held and advanced by individuals, but none of them have anything more than bare supposition as a basis. Possibly the theory most generally accepted, is that which supposes an accidental shot, by some hunter mistaking Ray for a deer, and then to cover up the hideous blunder, a hasty but strangely effectual burial of the body. The theory that he may have wandered into a swamp and sunk to his death in a quagmire, might be the true one; or that he became lost in some thicket not penetrated by the searchers.

Whatever the details of his fate may have been, the fact of his death seems hardly to admit of a doubt. A fate deplored by a host of friends; a sad affliction to his bereaved family.

## ARCADA CASUALTIES.

1877, Aug. 17—James Dean, of Arcada, aged 25, was killed by a falling tree.

1878, March 12—Adelbert Corey, aged 17, whose home was in Hillsdale County, but who was working for Ellis A. Potter, of Sumner, was drowned near Wolf's bridge, Arcada, by falling from logs in the river, the logs closing over him, preventing his rise to the surface.

1879, May 1—The body of Lorenz Unser was found in Pine River, southwest of Alma, he having drowned himself in the river about two weeks previously, said to have been despondent and bothered over religious questions. A river-driver was passing along by the place during a thunder storm on the above-mentioned date, when, immediately after a heavy clap of thunder, Unser's body came to the surface, popping up suddenly, head first, before the astonished river man's gaze, frightening him nearly out of his senses.

1884, May 28—Mrs. C. P. Sherman, riding on a board laid from bolster to bolster on a lumber wagon, was thrown to the ground and a wheel broke her neck. She was 50 years of age, and an estimable lady.

1893, Feb. 25—Geo. Milliman arose in the middle of the night and ended his existence by pitching head first into a well. Poor health and poor financial conditions were given as the reason.

1893, Nov. 11—Jas. M. Taylor, a well-to-do farmer, aged 55, while temporarily unbalanced in mind, hanged himself in his barn till dead.

1897, April 10—The violent death of Homer Burns occurred in the sawmill of W. T. Naldrett in Ithaca. Mr. Burns was one of the 1854 pioneers of Arcada, and was nearly 80. He stepped into the mill and stood looking at the work going on, when without warning, a piece of board, thrown from a saw 40 feet away, struck him in the neck, killing him almost instantly. It was a shockingly sudden and unexpected taking off. Mr. Burns was a much esteemed citizen.

1897, June 5—Hugh Mead, aged 18, whose home was in Corunna, committed suicide by hanging, at the farm of Mr. Hollabaugh in Arcada. The coroner's jury said he was insane.

1898, April 7—Bessie, the six-year-old daughter of Henry Daymon was fatally burned by her clothes taking fire from burning brush dying next day.

1903, July 1—Geo. Kerwanski, residing three miles west and one and one-half miles north of Ithaca, died quite suddenly after having been on a prolonged spree. The inquest showed that in about two days he had consumed two bottles of medicine procured from one doctor, two bottles from another and one from another, besides a pint of brandy and half a pint of alcohol, and ending with a teaspoonful of nux vomica which threw him into spasms and the next world. The jury said that the death was accidental "from an overdose of nux vomica, taken by mistake."

1904, July 12—An attempted murder and a successful suicide occurred at the house of Mrs. Mary J. Granger in Arcada. David Rouschenberger, a hired man, fired three shots at Mrs. Elsie Martin, Mrs. Granger's daughter, wounding her, but not fatally, and then did a better job on himself with one bullet. Unappreciated love was said to have been responsible for the act.

1904, Oct. 22—Another one of those so-called shooting accidents occurred at the home of Floyd Nevins, in Arcada. Miss Nora Johnson, daughter of Mathew Johnson, of Pine River, was employed at the house, and a young

man named Frank Jameson, from Ohio, was doing farm work for Mr. Nevins. Mr. and Mrs. Nevins were away from home in the afternoon. Jameson concluded to go hunting. As he had been in the Spanish-American War, Miss Johnson asked him to give her an exhibition of the "manuel of arms" before he went. Complying with her request he managed to shoot her dead during his display of skill. All the circumstances and appearances seemed to corroborate Jameson's explanation, so the coroner's jury fully exonerated him from blame. Jameson conducted himself in every way like an honorable and innocent man, and as there was no evidence to incriminate him he could not reasonably be held criminally responsible.

1911, Oct. 31—Carl Scherff, shot himself to death while lying on a counch at his home one and a half miles south of Alma. His age was 77 years. He was a tailor and had formerly done business in Alma. Despondency the only known cause for the act.

1913, Jan. 4—A. A. Ide, of Arcada, passed to the other world by poison, self-administered, at the age of 56 years. Insanity caused by ill-health, seemed the most plausible explanation of the rash act.

## BETHANY CASUALTIES.

1869, March 29—Hiram Traver was killed by a falling tree, at the age of 59 years, while chopping in the woods.

1878, Feb. 26—Norman D. Vincent, a well-known pioneer carpenter, and popular citizen, lost his life, being kiled by a falling tree.

1879, Aug. 7—Bertie McLean, son of Wanton McLean, aged six, met an untimely death by getting a kernel of corn in his windpipe.

1879, Dec. 31—Bennie A., aged seven, son of Jas. M. Johnson, died from injuries received by falling down stairs.

1883, Jan. 1—An exposion in Hollister's sawmill, killed Stephen R. Goodwin, who was employed there. On January 25th the mill was destroyed by fire, thought to have been of incendiary origin.

1883, Sept. 17—Charles Howell, residing two and one-half miles east of St. Louis, working in David Bailey's brick yard, Arcada, was caught by a cave-in, and was smothered before he could be rescued.

1887, Jan. 4—Charles McCall, third son of J. H. McCall, aged 22, was killed by a falling tree on the farm of John C. Baney, where he, with his brothers, was engaged in chopping. All accounts agreed that he was a fine lad, and his death was sincerely deplored.

1889, May 9—Henry Baldwin, a well-known farmer of northwestern Bethany, was kicked by one of his horses and so badly injured that death resulted next day. He was aged about 54.

1889, Nov. 24—A little son of Mr. Strong was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of a brother, a year or two older. A ramrod in the barrel of the gun was driven entirely through the body of the poor lad, producing injuries which caused death within a few hours.

1892, June 26—Chas. Smith, 14 years old, son of John Smith, residing a mile east of St. Louis, was accidentally drowned in the river at St. Louis while bathing.

1894, Dec. 22—Edward Acker, near St. Louis, aged 16, accidentally shot himself while hunting rabbits. His injuries resulted in death two days later.

1908, Oct. 13—Mrs. Edgar Deline, while her two children were at school and her husband was at work for a neighboring farmer, took her own

life by taking a dose of arsenic and cutting her throat. No cause was known to exist, and the coroner's jury pronounced her insane; which seemed to be the only plausible conclusion. An estimable lady, aged 38 years.

1909, July 21—Roy Powelson, 24 years old, son of Adelbert Powelson, fell under the wheels of a moving train, at Belding, Mich., and died from his injuries next day. He had been visiting at Belding, and was taking the train to return home.

1909, July 22—Benjamin Francis, aged 23, was killed by lightning while standing on the porch at David P. Smith's residence, during a thunder shower.

## ELBA CASUALTIES.

1886, March 13—A young man named Lawrence Brownell, aged 20, was killed at Bannister in attempting to cross the railroad track in front of a moving train.

1886, June 2—Wm. Odell, proprietor of the Ashley House, hanged himself in his barn. It was said that domestic infelicities disheartened him: at the early age of 28 years.

1894, Aug. 26—Mary Stanton, aged 19, took her own life with Paris green. An estimable young lady, and no cause known for the rash act.

1895, Sept. 7—John A. Chittenden, aged 21, son of Chas. E. Chittenden, of Ashley, was so terribly injured in his father's stave mill, that death resulted within an hour. The sad death of this popular young man cast a gloom over the entire community.

1896, April 17—Charles, aged nine years, son of Stephen Hubbard, was instantly killed by a stroke of lightning while at work with his father in the granary. The father was badly shocked by the same bolt.

1900, June 23—Mrs. Sabrina Bickford, wife of Myron Bickford, of North Star Township, was killed by a switching engine at Ashley in the evening of June 23rd. She was sitting in their wagon, holding the team while Mr. Bickford was transacting some business in the station. When he came out he found his wife dead by the track, killed by the engine, and the team standing a few rods away. The exact particulars as to the cause of the accident could not be ascertained, but presumably the team got the advantage of her and she was thrown out of the wagon and under the engine. She was a popular woman, aged 40 years.

1901, July 10—John Robinolt, an aged man and old settler living near Ashley, was killed by being thrown from a mowing machine.

1902, Aug. 22—Wm. Hobbs was killed by a train on the Ann Arbor Railroad a short distance south of Ashley.

1906, Dec. 30—C. Haggerty, of Bannister, aged 71, took an ounce of oil of wintergreen, with suicidal intent, and died next day. He left a note saying he was tired of life.

1907, Feb. 3—At the burning of the Hotel Brimmer, at Ashley, William ("Billy") Toms, the bartender, well-known in that capacity in this and other counties, lost his life.

1911, Aug. 3—A traveling salesman named Willis S. Druly, was killed at Ashley by being struck by a freight car while the trainmen were changing to a sidetrack by the "flying switch" method. A brother from Indianapolis came on and took charge; burial in North Star cemetery. The unfortunate man was about 60 years of age, and left a wife and two children.

## EMERSON CASUALTIES.

1873, March 7—Mrs. Margaret Beebe died from the effects of a fall, at the age of 49 years.

1873, Dec. 7—Geo. W. Bellows, of Emerson, aged 21, was accidentally shot and killed with his own gun, while hunting in the woods with two others.

1879, May 23—Wm. Allen, son of David Allen, residing near Ithaca, was thrown from a buggy while driving with another yong Emerson man, receiving injuries from which he died five hours later.

1881, April 15—Mrs. Jacob S. Snyder was accidentally shot to death in her own home. A loaded gun that was standing in a corner, fell down and struck in such a way as to cause its discharge, the shot having the fatal effect as stated. Mrs. Snyder was a pioneer, aged 60.

1881, Aug. 28—Marshall K. Walker, aged 64, committed suicide in a manner all his own. He went about 50 rods from his house, climbed upon a brush heap, set fire to the brush and then shot himself dead, his idea being to cremate his remains. However, his family heard the shot, and hastening to the spot, pulled his body from the fire before it was badly burned. He was evidently insane.

1881, Nov. 22—A little son of Ira S. Allen, aged six, fell into a sap-pan of boiling water and died next day, from the terrible scalding he received.

1883, April 14—Chas. Coleman committeed suicide by hanging himself in his barn, getting up in the middle of the night for the purpose of performing the act. He had previously shown signs of insanity. "Suicide by hanging, voluntarily, and deliberately," was the jury's verdict. Coroner—Dr. W. D. Scott; jurors—Jesse Pepple, Bert Gartee, Daniel Griffith, Ed. A. Brown, F. M. Pinkham, Isaac D. Pepple.

1885, Oct. 27—Lewis Jarvis, aged about 75, committed suicide by drowning himself in Beaver Creek. On being taken from the water it was found that he had also cut his throat. He had been a resident of Gratiot for 30 years.

1889, April 19—While chopping in his woods, Alvah Mosier, aged 54, was killed by a falling limb. He was a respected farmer, leaving a wife and three children.

1889, Nov. 29—Leon, the 14-year-old son of Willard Gay was instantly killed by a falling tree, and one of the span of horses he was driving was killed by the same accident.

1905, May 29—A kick on the back of the neck by a horse he was leading, paralyzed the body and limbs of John Eichorn, seventeen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Eichorn, causing his death six days later. He was an only child, and a well-liked lad.

1906, July 4—Two natives of Croatia, Austria, named Mato Zugec and Mike Papez, members of a company of imported beet-weeders, stopping temporarily on L. W. Fidler's farm in Emerson, got into an altercation while drunk, July 4th, and Papez struck Zugec on the head fracturing his skull, causing his death about two days later. Papez was arrested and put in jail. When he came to trial it was shown to the satisfaction of the jury that he struck in self-defense, and he was acquitted.

1907, June 26—Timothy Sullivan fell from his wagon when returning home from Ithaca, and died two days later. He was 35, unmarried and intoxicated.

1908, Aug. 6—The 15-months-old child of Geo. Duerr, of Beebe, fell from its father's grocery wagon and sustained injuries which caused its death two days afterward.

1912, July 5—Mrs. Ruth Dailey was killed in an automobile accident near her home. Her husband, Lorenzo ("Jack") Dailey, was driving, and losing control, ran the machine into a roadside ditch. Mrs. Dailey was 66 years of age, and her many friends were greatly shocked by her violent death.

## FULTON CASUALTIES.

1873, May 9—Geo. Doan, son of John Doan, was killed by a fall while at work for Parker Merrill. His age was 18 years.

1888, Feb. 21—Jefferson Morse ended his life with a revolver, going into a bedroom in his home, and deliberately putting a bullet through his brain. Despondency caused by troubles, real or imaginary, led to the deed.

1889, March 15—Andrew J. Tillotson killed himself at Perrinton by a shot through the head. Despondency on account of poor health, the only known cause. He was 64, and had been a resident here only two years, coming from Leslie, Mich.

1892, July 5—W. H. H. Helms killed himself by cutting his throat. Before finishing himself he endeavored to kill his wife, but was prevented by his daughter. He was insane, having been in a bad state of mind for some time. His age was 55.

1892, Dec. 6—Johnnie Duflo, the young son of Chauncey Duflo, of Middleton, accidentally shot himself while in the woods hunting. He was found dead with a terrible wound in his neck, and with his clothes almost entirely burned off from him, presumably the discharge of the gun having set his clothes on fire.

1901, July 5—John Cumberworth and Walter Price, two well-known farmers of southern Fulton, were killed by lightning in the barn of W. H Herman where they had taken refuge from the approaching storm. Price was killed instantly while Cumberworth survived a few hours. A horse in the barn was killed by the same bolt. Roy Cumberworth, aged 17, was also in the barn but escaped serious injury.

1907, Sept. 12—A little son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hill, aged two years, was drowned in a large crock that was set in the ground, around a spring where the family got water. He had fallen in head first, and though only a few minutes had elapsed, when found he was dead.

1908, June 1—Chas. Crosley was killed on the T. S. & M. Railroad between Middleton and Carson City, by being run over by a train. It was said that he was addicted to the use of strong drink and was presumed to have been intoxicated at the time.

1908, July 25—Bert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ennis, of Fulton, was drowned in Pine Creek one and one-half miles north of Perrinton. With two companions he went in for a swim, and went down in about 14 feet of water. The presumption was that he was taken with cramps. He was taken out in about 20 minutes but could not be revived. He was 22 years old, a promising and well-liked young man.

1908, Oct. 17—Wm. Sheridan, of Perrinton, a young married man, was run over by a freight train three-fourths of a mile east of Perrinton and instantly killed. He and a companion, both overcome with liquor, had fallen in their helplessness, but the other one was clear of the track and escaped injury by a close shave.

1913, Oct. 5—Wm. O'Connell died from the injuries received in an automobile accident near Ithaca two days previously. He was about 48 years old.

1913, November 27—John W. Martin, of Middleton, was so severely wounded that he died next day. While engaged in shooting at a mark with his son and Fred Bolyard, the pistol was accidentally discharged, the ball lodging in Mr. Martin's body. Mr. Martin was one of the most popular and upright citizens of southern Gratiot, and his terrible fate caused profound sorrow. He was 54 years of age; settled in Newark in 1887, but had been a resident of Middleton about two years, in hardware trade with his brother, Webster Martin.

## HAMILTON CASUALTIES.

1889, July 9—The infant child of Arthur Hazelton was accidentally drowned in a wash-boiler in which the mother was giving it a bath.

1889, Oct. 16—George, the seven-year-old son of Frank Marshall, died from injuries caused by the kick of a horse a few days previously.

1895, Jan. 11—The little 14-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Orin Echelberger got hold of a bottle of laudanum and drank enough to cause death a few hours afterward.

1904, April 5—The death of Leonard Wight, caused by an accident occurred at the home of his son Abram L., with whom he lived, one-half mile north of Sickels. He fell from a second story window and was killed, his neck being broken. He lived long enough, however, to tell how it happened. He had raised the window to air out his room and had fallen out. He was 89 years old, and a pioneer very much respected.

1904, Aug. 5—Roy, the six-year-old son and only child of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wight, of Sickels, was run over and killed by a heavily-loaded wagon; a great grief to the parents and a shock to the community.

## LAFAYETTE CASUALTIES.

1883, May 6—John Devereaux, aged 21, son of Theodore Devereaux, was drowned in Bad River while handling logs for C. W. Mead.

1896, Feb. 5—A terrible accident resulted in the death of a young man named Seymour Scudder, son of Joseph Scudder, for many years supervisor of Lafayette. While chopping in the woods with his brother, he was caught by a falling tree. His skull was fractured and he passed away after a few hours, without regaining consciousness. He was a single man, 32 years of age and popular.

1896, Oct. 15—Wm. Webber, aged 20 years, while at work near Rose City, Ogemaw County, was killed by a falling limb.

1900, May 20—The danger in the careless handling of firearms was too well illustrated in the shocking death of George Godley, of Lafayette, a farmer, in his 29th year. The gun was in the hands of Sherman Tyron, aged 17, Godley's hired man. The charge struck the unfortunate man in the neck, making a wound that caused death in about 10 hours. No special or criminal blame was charged to young Tyron. It was only another instance of carelessness or thoughtlessness in allowing the muzzle of a gun to point toward a living creature that it is not the intention or desire to kill.

1901, April 29—John Cusick, insane, who lived with his son, Pat. Cusick, near Edgewood, hanged himself in a narrow place between two barns. He had previously tried to cut his throat with glass.

1901, Oct. 23—Verne, the five-year-old son of S. V. Oakes, was instantly killed by being thrown from a horse.

1902, Jan. 6—Albert Shaw's little son, aged two and a half years, was fatally burned by his clothes taking fire, and died next day.

1908, July 14—Geo. H. Thompson, of Arcada, formerly of Lafayette, was overcome by gas in a coal mine, in Alberta, Canada, while heroically aiding in saving others who had been overcome by the gas. He was 24 years old.

1909, July 30—Marie, three and one-half years old, little daughter of Wm. Gleason, was shockingly burned when her clothes ignited from a fire around which she and other children were playing, her death occurring a few hours afterward.

1911, Dec. 25—Burr Godley died from wounds self-inflicted with a revolver on the morning of Christmas Day. His mind had become unfavorably affected by reason of some trouble he had with boys of the neighborhood. He was 32 years of age.

## NEWARK CASUALTIES.

1869, Nov. 24—Hugh J. Kellogg, aged 18, son of E. W. Kellogg, died from the effects of a gunshot wound, accidentally inflicted.

1879, Aug. 16—Luther C. Smith committed suicide with morphine, following a controversy which worked on his mind. His dead body was found in the woods on section two. He had been prominent in official matters in three townships. He was one of the earliest settlers in North Star where he held official positions, and in 1860 he was Arcada's supervisor. In Newark he was also a man of standing and influence. He was about 70 years old at his death.

1883, Dec. 2—Jacob Emanuel Frazier committed suicide at the home of Simon Munson, by taking strychnine, aged 27. A love affair was said to have been at the bottom of the act

1887, April 27—Stephen Cunningham, Jr., hanged himself to the limb of a tree in his father's woods. He was 22 years old and a young man very much respected. He was temporarily insane, supposed to have been caused by undue excitement over religious questions.

1889, July 6—Joseph, the nine-year-old son of Frederick Peters, was killed by the kick of a colt.

1892, Sept. 18—Frank Boyer took his own life by hanging himself in his barn. He was a well-to-do farmer, and business matters were thought to have upset his reason.

1893, April 26—Riley Boots, a young man aged 22, was instantly killed by a falling tree while engaged in chopping with his father and brother.

1896, June 21—Frank Hoffman, aged 11, son of Peter Hoffman, was killed by the kick of a horse.

1897, June 17—Frank Evilsizer, aged 33, when riding a horse from the field to the house, was thrown violently against a stump, and apparently, was instantly killed. He had struck the stump with his left side, the ribs on that side being crushed in. His reputation was that of an honest, industrious man and a kind neighbor.

1899, July 3—Joseph Eicher, of Newark, aged 74, took his life with a dose of carbolic acid, while in a state—according to the jury—of "mental aberation."

1903, Aug. 16—Frederick Boyer, a well-known farmer of Newark, while in the field driving up the cows for milking, Sunday morning, was attacked by a vicious bull and so badly bruised and crushed that he breathed his last soon after being taken to the house. He was 69 years of age, a Civil War veteran and a pioneer of 1854, with an excellent standing as a citizen and neighbor.

1903, Oct. 6—Rolla Gibbs, aged nearly 17, son of Henry Gibbs, committed suicide by shooting himself in the region of the heart, while alone in his father's house. All the indications showed it to have been a deliberate act, carefully planned, but nothing like an adequate cause could be found.

1909, April 28—While dynamiting stumps on his farm two miles southwest of Ithaca, Wm. H. Cox, 66 years old, was accidentally killed by an explosion which mangled his head in a shocking manner. He had been a resident of Gratiot County over 40 years and was in all respects a first-class citizen, treasurer of his township in 1892, and holding other positions of importance.

1913, Oct. 16—William H. Quick was instantly killed in an automobile accident near his home in Boyne City. He was a Newark boy, son of the late James M. Quick, and had been away from his native township about 15 years. His brother, B. J. Quick, was with him in the auto, but escaped without serious injury.

## NEW HAVEN CASUALTIES.

1873, June 7—In a fire that burned the house of Frank Kimball, of New Haven, his little daughter, Maggie, aged three years, was burned to death in bed.

1876, March 10—Stephen Whiting, of New Haven was killed by falling timbers while aiding in raising the frame of a building.

1880, Jan. 12 John Sellers, aged about 50, was killed by a falling limb, while engaged in chopping.

1882, Nov. 20—The little daughter of Thos. O. Whipple, aged six, died from burns received two days previously, caused by her clothes taking fire.

1885, Aug. 1—A young man named Frank Townsend, while insane, killed himself by cutting his throat.

1889, Nov. 17—A lamentable shooting accident occurred at the home of Samuel E. Sower. By the accidental discharge of a gun their only daughter, Nannie, aged 14, was so terribly wounded that she died within about two hours. No criminal blame was charged to anyone. It was only the everlasting and near-criminal practice of careless handling of firearms.

1890, Feb. 26—Hiram Husted, aged about 65, hanged himself in his brother's barn in Newark. Nothing that would pass as a valid cause was brought out at the coroner's inquest. Mr. H. was a veteran of the Civil War.

1896, Dec.—Claude, aged five, son of Godfrey Crouse, was killed by a falling limb.

1903, July 21—During a thunder storm the house of David Davis, Jr., was struck by lightning and the only child, Harry, 12 years old, was instantly killed.

1904, Oct. 4—A fatal tragedy was enacted at the Morse farm Tuesday afternoon, October 4. During a thunder storm at that time Noel Morse, youngest son of Hon. Chas. H. Morse, who occupied the place, was struck by lightning and killed, just as he was about to enter the barn. The barn was burned. The unfortunate man was 31 years of age and highly esteemed.

1905, Dec—Ira Andrews' death resulted from the accidental discharge of his gun when returning home from a hunting trip. The gun fell backward from his shoulder and was discharged, the load shattering both legs. One leg had to be amputated, and he succumbed to the shock and loss of blood a few hours afterward.

## NORTH SHADE CASUALTIES.

1874, May 13—Marshall McCrary, a young man, son of Robert McCrary, of North Shade, was killed at Bailey's brick yard, in Arcada, by the caving in of a clay bank.

1880, June 5—John Salisbury met his death by an accident, aged 22.

1885, July 5—Christopher Willett, aged 80, of North Shade, was killed in a runaway accident by being thrown from a buggy.

1888, Jan. 10—Horace W. Chafey, aged 60, shot himself through the body with a rifle, dying in about an hour. A coroner's jury rendered a verdict that it was a case of "accidental death or deliberate suicide"; a verdict pretty safe if not entirely conclusive. Some business matters with which he was perplexed seemed to strengthen the suicide theory.

1888, Feb. 1—Corwin Broomall, working in a sawmill, was killed by falling upon a circular saw when it was in rapid motion. His age was 45 years.

1896, Nov. 10—In a fire that destroyed the house of Alex. Campbell at two o'clock in the morning, three boys lost their lives. They were Clayton and John Campbell aged 10 and six, respectively, and Leslie Dent, aged 10, a nephew of Mrs. Campbell. A fourth lad escaped with serious burns.

1899, Jan. 17—The house of Jesse Casteel, occupied by John First, was burned on the night of Jan. 17, and the 10-year-old son of Mr. First perished in the flames, while several others had narrow escapes.

1899, Nov. 3—Wm. Kavanaugh, of North Shade, aged 20, son of James Kavanaugh, was killed at a railroad crossing near Carson City. The horse he was driving was killed and the buggy demolished.

1907, May 7—By the accidental discharge of a gun, Max Norton, aged 16, was wounded in the neck, and died within an hour. He was the son of Mrs. Elliott Norton; a bright and popular lad.

1909, Nov. 28—Lawrence Cranson, 13 years old, accidentally shot himself to death while hunting.

1911, Nov. 11—Calvin A. Stratton, aged six years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stratton, died from the effects of a kick by a horse, inflicted a few days previously.

## NORTH STAR CASUALTIES.

1873, April 14—While engaged in log-driving on Bad River, John McDaid, aged 21, was drowned, just over the county line, in Saginaw County. Falling into the water, the logs closed over him, preventing his rise to the surface. He was son of Alex. McDaid.

1885, March 20—Bessie, aged five, and Virgil, aged three, children of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Spooner, were burned to death in their beds, when their home was destroyed by fire. A terrible fate for the innocent and helpless children.

1885, June 17—Glenn, little son of Rufus M. Palmer, North Star, was choked to death by getting his head through an opening in a box, and not being able to extricate himself. Only two and a half years old.

1891, March 9—A horrible death was that of Mrs. Michael Reichard, residing three and a half miles south of Ithaca. Her clothing caught fire at the cook stove and were entirely burned from her person, roasting her to a crisp. The poor woman lingered in agony till the next morning when she breathed her last. She was aged 38.

1893, Jan. 3—Ora Andre, 14 years old, son of Wm. Andre, was killed while engaged in breaking a colt to drive with an old horse. He was thrown beneath the horse's feet and trampled to death before aid could reach him.

1894, June 21—The seven-year-old son of John Strouse, four miles east of Ithaca, was kicked in the forehead by one of his father's horses, receiving injuries which proved fatal next day.

1895, March 12—Alonzo West, 13 years old, living with his grandfather, Wm. West, committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn. No cause was known.

1895, April 19—Milo White's little girl, aged five, was burned to a crisp by her clothes taking fire when she was burning brush. She died three days after.

1895, July 19—Chas. Johnson, aged 41, was killed by foul gas, in a well on Isaac Cook's place. He first tested for gas and found it in bad condition. He took the chances, however, and was overcome.

1900, Dec. 14—A railroad accident caused the death of Willis C. Clark, of North Star, aged 39. He was on his way home from Ithaca with his team, and when crossing the railroad track a mile east of Ithaca, he was caught by the south-bound train and killed. His team was unhurt, but his wagon was reduced to mere fragments. The reason for his being caught seemed a mystery, for the outlook along the track was clear for a long distance. The Clarks were early comers to North Star and were—and are—prominent people.

1904, Oct. 30—Daniel Walbridge, 14 years old, son of A. H. Walbridge, of Marion, formerly of North Star, was killed while hunting, by the accidental discharge of his gun. He was a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Wilkinson, of North Star, and was a good boy.

1907, July 19—Alex. Meredith, aged 15, son of Geo. Meredith, while "catching on" cars at North Star Village, was so seriously injured that he died a few hours later.

1908, March 15—A terrible accident in the Armour Woodenware Factory at Ithaca, resulted in the death of Porter Bordine, of North Star, aged 26. He was caught by a line shaft and his life pounded out by being whirled against the adjacent timbers. He left a wife and two small children, besides other relatives.

1908, Aug. 12—Clyde Turner, a young married man, died from the effects of injuries received while heroically trying to stop a runaway team. He was nearly 21.

## PINE RIVER CASUALTIES.

1876, Nov. 10—Giles King, aged about 55, ended his life by shooting. His reason was upset by the reported election of Tilden, without doubt, as he remarked in a conversation with the writer the day previous to committing the deed, that with Tilden elected he "didn't want to live any longer," and seemed greatly depressed.

1879, Sept. 11—A young man named Edward Buck was accidentally shot by the premature discharge of his gun and died 12 hours later.

1889, Feb. 12—While working in a lumber camp in Mecosta County, John Farrow, of Pine River, aged about 30, was killed; crushed by a rolling log.

1889, Oct. 7—Geo. T. Rice, son of Mrs. Gordis Smith, aged 27, was drowned in the river at Mt. Vernon, Ind. He was an aeronaut traveling with Wallace's circus. It was his 100th ascension and in descending he alighted in the river, became entangled in the ropes and was drowned.

1895, Dec. 7—Theron A. Johnson, one of Gratiot County's best-known citizens, was so badly injured by an infuriated bull that death resulted about 36 hours later. His age was 61 years, and he had served as supervisor, and as postmaster at Alma, and was editor of the Gratiot Journal about four years; an intelligent, honorable and progressive citizen.

1905, Oct. 20—Fred, aged six years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Vanderbeek, was the victim of a fatal accident. While playing around his home, a heavy beet-rack fell upon him, crushing his life out. He was a bright and active lad, and his death was a great grief to his family.

1906, July 11—Ira Livingston, an old resident of Emerson but latterly residing in Pine River, shot himself dead in a piece of woods in the northwest corner of Pine River, after first shooting his horse and burning up his buggy and harness. Seemed to be in revenge for fancied or real family troubles. He was 70 and an old veteran of the Civil War.

1907, Aug. 9—Jay Hudson, of Mt. Pleasant, aged 23, a brakeman on an Ann Arbor freight, fell between the cars of his train between Forest Hill and Alma and was run over. When missed at Alma the train backed up and found his dead body on the track.

## SEVILLE CASUALTIES.

1874, Jan. 8—Wm. Clifford, of Seville, was killed by a falling tree while at work in the woods near Brown Creek.

1878, Nov. 29—T. B. Talmadge, sawyer in J. B. Adams' sawmill, Riverdale, was struck violently in the side by a stick with which he was clearing away barks from the saw while it was in motion, and died next day.

1882, Dec. 18—Maude, aged one and a half years, little daughter of Samuel and Estella Fletcher, fell into a post-hole, breaking her neck.

1892, July 19—Lewis Seidman, aged 20, while rowing alone on Mud Lake, was drowned by falling from his boat.

1894, Sept. 3—Two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Romanzo Fisk, who married Fred and Noble Sherman and went to Minnesota, were the victims of a terrible holocaust at Hinkley, Minnesota, Sept. 3rd, in which there were 12 victims, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sherman and children, and Mrs. Noble Sherman and her children, 12 people in all. Noble Sherman escaped by being away from home. Dry weather and forest fires caused the great calamity.

1895, May 4—In a runaway accident Mrs. A. Carmer had her neck broken when she was thrown from the buggy.

1895, May 7—Bernard Parks the 13-year-old son of Sylvanus Parks was kicked over the heart by a horse and killed.

1896, May—Dr. J. A. Morey, a practicing physician at Riverdale for some years, committed suicide with morphine, in the City of Cadillac. He was a man whose history showed a strenuous and varied career.

1903, Dec. 22 –Harry Heiser, a freight brakeman on the Pere Marquette Railroad, was killed while doing some switching at Riverdale, by being caught between a car and the "chute" for loading stock|

1904, March 29—Fire destroyed the house of Wesley Switzer at Wonders' sawmill, and Switzer's four little children perished in the flames. The mother had gone to a neighbor's a few rods away, when the fire broke out. The mill hands did all in their power to save the children but without success. The oldest of the children—a boy—was only five years old; the two younger ones were twins. The little bodies were found all together in one corner, burned and tortured to mere cinders. Nothing could appeal more strongly to the sympathies.

1905, Nov. 29—Earl Abbott, aged 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Abbott, ended his life by shooting himself through the body with his father's shotgun. No cause was known for so desperate an act, and temporary insanity would seem to be the only explanation.

1907, Jan. 10—Two deaths by drowning was the record for this date at Riverdale. Harry Vallance, a lad of 14 was skating on the river, and unluckily skated into an open place. Albert W. Gibson, principal of the Riverdale schools, came to the rescue, but in his efforts he ventured too close to the edge of the ice and went in. Before other help could reach them they were both drowned. Prof. Gibson was a popular teacher and was on his third year at Riverdale. Probably this was the worst occurrence in the history of Riverdale. It certainly caused heart-felt sorrow with all the people.

1907, Jan. 19—A west-bound train on the P. M. Railroad left the track near Riverdale, just east of the river, and the fireman, Homer Johnson, of Edmore, was killed—crushed by the engine which turned over in the ditch.

1910, Jan. 16—Frank Wiltshire, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wiltshire, of Riverdale, was accidentally shot by the premature discharge of his gun while hunting with other boys Sunday, January 16th. His wounds proved fatal in about eight hours.

1910, June 12—Walter P. Wyeth, a well-known and highly respected citizens of Riverdale, was instantly killed by the engine of an excursion train on the Pere Marquette Railroad, Sunday, June 12, 1910, while walking on the track. Mr. W. was quite deaf and did not hear the train, and also failed to see it though it was approaching him from the front. He saw the train when it was close at hand but too late to get out of the way. He was about 73 years of age.

1912, Jan. 18—The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Billings, aged 13 months, was burned to death in the fire that destroyed the Billings home.

1912, Jan. 20—Gladys, aged nine years, only child of Harvey Humphrey and wife, died at Brainerd Hospital, Alma, following an operation on account of injuries received while catching on to sleighs four days previously.

1912, Oct. 2—Dr. R. J. Davison, of Elwell, came to his death by an "overdose of morphine administered by his own hand," said the jury. He had practiced medicine at Elwell only a few months.

1913, July 13—Jefferson Pratt an old resident of Seville and highly esteemed, committed suicide by taking a large portion of carbolic acid, Sunday morning, July 13. He arose early and went to the barn where he was found dead by his son, an hour or two later. His mind had become unbalanced by sickness.

## SUMNER CASUALTIES.

1876, Jan. 21—John Annis, of Sumner Township, was killed while hunting rabbits, his dog jumping upon the gun in such a way as to discharge it.

1888, Oct. 24—John Langdon, aged 62, ushered himself into the other world by hanging. Financial troubles were mentioned as the cause. Three months afterward, on suspicion of there having been foul play, his body was exhumed and examined, but nothing was found to substantiate the suspicions.

1895, May 27—John Giles was drowned in a ditch while out walking. He was subject to fits, and it was the presumption that while one was on he had fallen into the ditch. He was an old resident and well thought of.

1897, March 2—Thos. Gifford, a pioneer of the township, aged 73, blew off the top of his head with a shot gun. He was a respected citizen, whose ill-health had rendered him despondent.

1897, Aug. 2—Oscar Corbin, aged 75, was killed by falling from a wagon and striking on his head on the barn floor; at Elm Hall.

1900, May 27—Mrs. Charles Sanders was killed by lightning. A storm was coming up and Mrs. Sanders was taking clothes from a wire clothes line, one end of which was fastened to a tree. Lightning struck the tree, followed the line and thence to the body of Mrs. Sanders. Death was instantaneous. She was 42 years old and a good woman.

1909, Nov. 7—Andrew Johnson, a well-known farmer of Sumner, was gored to death by a mad bull, while doing chores at the barn, Sunday morning. Just how the animal got the advantage of Mr. Johnson was a mystery, as he was known to be vicious and had to be closely watched. Mr. Johnson was aged 61, and stood high in the esteem of all who knew him.

1912, July 11—Anton Boyer committed suicide by shooting, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Walter Miller. He was in poor health, and was despondent on account of having lost his wife a few months previously. He settled in Sumner in 1869, and was much respected. His age was about 75 years.

## WASHINGTON CASUALTIES.

1870, March 10—Henry English was accidentally killed while at work in the lumber woods, aged 26.

1878, Jan. 4—A little daughter of Samuel McCutcheon died from burns received on the previous day, by her clothes taking fire at the stove; eight years old.

1883, Nov. 5—C. E. McMannis, of Washington, was killed by a falling tree in the lumber woods near Loomis, Mich., aged 24. He was an exemplary young man; had been married a little over a year, and left a wife and infant son.

1888, May 10—Myron Slayton, aged 24, son of L. A. Slayton, was killed in his father's sawmill. His clothing was caught by the line shaft,

and, being whirled around it with great velocity, he was terribly crushed and mangled, living only about two hours after being released. He was a popular young man and his death was sincerely regretted by the entire community.

1889, Jan. 4—Edward S. Dean, of Washington Township, but who was a pioneer of North Star, was killed by a freight train on the Ann Arbor Railroad two miles south of Ithaca. The train came upon him from behind, and as he was quite deaf he failed to hear it in time. He was a respected citizen 61 years old.

1889, July 10—Thos. M. Sutton met with an accident that caused his death. He was driving the team that operated the hay fork in unloading a load of hay, when the whiffletree of the near horse broke letting the "evener" fly back with great force striking Mr. Sutton in the side. Several ribs were broken and his injuries were so great that death resulted next day. He was 59 years of age, a resident 21 years, and valued as an honorable and progressive citizen. He left a wife and one son, John T.

1900, May 18—Jasper Rhynard, a Washington farmer, aged 50, was with others washing sheep in Maple River. While stooped over reaching for a sheep to take into the water, an old ram butted him in the region of the heart, killing him almost instantly. He was a good citizen, a resident in Washington about 30 years.

1908, July 10—Geo. Whitaker was the victim of a bolt of lightning at about 5 o'clock p. m. He and his four children were on a load of hay and headed for the barn to escape from a shower coming on. Mr. Whitaker and his horses were killed, and the load of hay was set on fire and consumed, the children fortunately escaping, unhurt.

1911, March 7—Samuel Clifford, residing in the south part of Washington Township was loading logs on a wagon, alone in the woods when he was killed by a log getting the advantage of him and crushing him to the ground. He was about 60 years of age, and a man of good standing in his community.

## WHEELER CASUALTIES.

1875, Nov. 2—Chas. S. Pratt was burned to death in the burning house of James Bottsford, at Ring & Rust's mill. He was trying to save the four-year-old daughter of Bottsford from the fire, and both were burned to death.

1881, Jan. 23—Alexander McLeod, a prominent and popular young man of Breckenridge, aged 26, was accidentally killed in a lumber camp near Cedar Lake.

1883, Aug. 6—A 12-year-old son of Jacob Ward was fatally wounded by the bursting of his gun as he was endeavoring to shoot a hawk. His skull was fractured and he died a few hours later.

1887, July 4—At the celebration held at Wheeler, a small cannon, used to produce a noise, burst and a piece killed a man named W. H. Wells. He was 64 years old, and was in town on a visit to his son, the engineer at the stave mill.

1888, June 21—Wm. Wierman, aged 20, whose parents resided in Wheeler Township, was drowned in the mill pond at St. Louis while bathing with other boys. Presumably he had cramps.

1894, Sept. 15—Amanda, 13 years old, daughter of Wm. Tinklepaugh, was burned to death when her clothes took fire at the cook stove. She kindled the fire with kerosene, with the result as stated.

1898, Dec. 18—Wm. L. Reynolds, residing in the east part of Bethany, was instantly killed while attempting to cross the railroad track just east of Breckenridge, ahead of an approaching passenger train. He was about 65, an old resident and much respected.

1899, May 16—While Burr Parrish, aged 17, son of Supervisor John H. Parrish, and David Merrill were handling a revolver in the house of Mr. Merrill, the weapon was accidentally discharged, the bullet entering young Parrish's forehead, killing him instantly. A terribly sad and unfortunate accident.

1899, July 1—Lynn Lapham, miller at the flouring mill, Breckenridge, but whose home was at Eaton Rapids, was caught in the machinery and terribly injured. He died in a few hours.

1903, May 15—The little four-year-old son of V. Leimbach, of Wheeler Township, fell into an old well in the field, and his neck was broken by the fall.

1905, March 17—Shooting himself through the head was the way in which Wm. Frick, of Wheeler, ended his life, after struggling along until he had reached the age of 80. Despondency induced by poor health accounted for the desperate deed.

1907, July 5—Arlan W. Stone sustained injuries which resulted in death a few hours later, by being thrown from his buggy when his team ran away while driving in the streets of St. Louis. He was a prominent and popular business man of Breckenridge, aged 37, and had been a resident there about 27 years.

1909, March 27—Bernard Odell, of Breckenridge, aged 25, while in Springfield, Ill., was found dead in a barn at the place where he was staying. A revolver in his hand furnished strong evidence that it was a case of suicide, though no adequate reason was known for such an act.

1910, Dec. 26—A shocking tragedy at Wheeler Village resulted in the instant death of Dr. A. J. Ervey of that village. In attempting to walk across the railroad track ahead of the east-bound fast passenger train which was rapidly approaching, he was caught and terribly mangled, dying instantly. Bystanders warned him of his danger, but he failed to heed them, doubtless misjudging the train's speed. No inquest was held, as there was no mystery to clear up, except perhaps the mystery of the workings of the man's mind which allowed him to take such chances; and it was too late to get light on that mystery. The Doctor was about 65 years of age, an old soldier of the Civil War and had been a practicing physician at Wheeler for 30 years or more.

1913, July 27—Wm. Gephart, of Wheeler Township, was killed by lightning.

1913, Sept. 1—Hattie, daughter of Clinton Sutfin, residing near Breckenridge, was kicked by a horse and instantly killed; aged ten years.

## ALMA CASUALTIES.

1883, Nov. 4—Alex. McCormick, a young man boarding at the home of Wm. Adams, Alma, went hunting Oct. 30th, and not returning, a search was instituted resulting in finding his dead body in the woods with his gun lying near, and empty. He had been shot through the heart. An inquest conducted by Dr. J. F. Suydam with a jury composed of S. F. Anderson, I. B. Wolf, F. E. Pollasky, David Cuvrell, W. H. Rogers and C. L. Delavan, found from the testimony that he "came to his death by his own hand during a fit of temporary insanity." He was 20 years old and his parents resided in Midland County.

1884, May 23—Lewis B. Miller, Alma, shot himself through the head, with suicidal intent, in his own house and in the presence of his wife. Excessive use of liquor, long continued, doubtless was responsible for the deed. His age was about 60.

1894, July 18—Mrs. Fred Frusch killed herself with rough on rats. She went to the woods ostensibly to pick berries, but not returning when expected, a search was instituted and she was found dead with a package of the poison by her side.

1897, April 25—A man named Genson Judd, whose home was in Chesaning, walking on the Ann Arbor Railroad bridge at Alma, was caught by a freight train and so badly injured that he died an hour later at Brainerd's Hospital to which he was taken.

1899, April 7—Jackson Tally, an old resident of Gratiot, had both legs cut off by an engine at Owosso, and died soon after.

1903, Dec. 23—Robert J. Walters, a workman at the Alma Sugar Factory, was killed instantly by being struck by a train, near the factory.

1907, March 14—Nothing like an adequate cause was known for the suicide of Archie Peters, who shot himself through the head.

1907, May 24—Miss Grace Johnson, a student at Alma College, was drowned in Pine River near Wolf's bridge, Arcada. She was a popular girl whose home was in Lapeer. A canoe in which she was rowing with her sister and another young lady, upset, the other girls being rescued, while she sank and was drowned.

1907, July 5—Mrs. Frank Dennis went to her death by means of a large dose of carbolic acid. Domestic troubles was the cause assigned.

1908, Feb. 20—A little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Secord, aged four years, met a horrible death. A steam pipe at the college grounds, running under ground from the heating plant to the main building had burst and the escaping steam and water had formed a pool of hot water and mud two or three feet deep. Into this the child fell, and though rescued almost immediately, the plunge proved fatal. She was on her way, with her mother, to see her father who was night fireman at the works, and just when he espied her coming and started to meet her, she fell to her shocking death. A most pathetic and cruel fate!

1908, May 10—Albert Henderson, an Alma College student whose home was in Detroit, was drowned in Pine River. Toward night on that day he had gone up the river in a boat to get flowers from the bordering woods. As he was returning a violent thunder storm came up, and his boat was swamped sending him to his death. After constant search for four days his body was found in 12 feet of water. He was a popular student, and his dreadful fate was greatly deplored.

1908, July 29—Miss Doris Smith, aged 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Smith, was drowned in a lake near Oscoda, Mich. She was an Alma High School student and was spending part of her vacation among friends at Oscoda. She was a bright and charming girl whose sad death was deplored by a multitude of friends.

1908, Nov. 21—John C. Wolfe, an employee at the Alma Sugar Factory, while walking on an elevated tram track, slipped and fell a distance of about 30 feet, striking on a cement floor and sustaining injuries that resulted in his death about 20 hours later. He was 59 years of age.

1909, June 18—Richard Bird, aged 60 and quite deaf, was killed by a train on the Ann Arbor Railroad near the coaling station just south of town.

1910, Sept. 12—People of Alma were greatly shocked and grieved when it was known that Ely Brewbaker, cashier of the First State Bank of Alma, had killed himself by shooting, in the office of the bank at about 8 o'clock in the morning. Temporary insanity caused by too close application to his duties was the cause. His accounts were correct in every particular. He was an exemplary and popular citizen who could count every acquaintance as a friend.

1911, March 20—Reuben F. Shunk, formerly of Emerson, later of Alma, lost his life in a fire in an automobile factory at Lansing where he was at work. He escaped safely with the other workmen, but went back to get his coat in the pockets of which he had money, and was overcome before he could again make his escape. He was 51 years of age and left a family.

1911, July 2—Louis Thomas died in St. Mary's Hospital, Saginaw, from injuries received from a fall at the Alma Sugar Factory four days previously. He fell a distance of 20 feet, striking on his head and shoulders. He left a wife and four children.

1912, Nov. 11—Mrs. Kate (Archer) Harlock, wife of Charles Harlock, became insane at their home in Box Elder, Montana, and took her own life by shooting herself through the head with a revolver. She was 36 years of age, and left a husband and two children. They were residents of Alma up to 1910, when they removed to Montana.

1912, Nov. 24—Fred Bruce, an employee at the sugar plant, was found dead in an outhouse, having been killed with a shotgun which was found near by.

1913, July—Roden C. Hooper, aged 26, son of Fred W. Hooper, of Alma, together with his young wife and four other people, were drowned at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, by the upsetting of their yacht. Mr. Hooper was engaged in business at Edmonton. The terrible accident was a great shock, not only to the family, but also to all the acquaintances.

1913, Dec. 25—Death by fire was the terrible fate of Miss Mattie Williams on Christmas morning, at the home of Leo J. Schaeffer, where she was rooming. In an attempt to hurry the kitchen fire which she was kindling, in the absence of the Schaeffer family from home, she mistook the gasoline can for the kerosene oil can and by the resulting explosion and fire was so frightfully burned that she died four hours later. Miss Mabel Lake, who was staying with her, attempted to go to her aid but was driven back upstairs by the flames, and, jumping from a window, was seriously though not fatally injured. The fire was soon extinguished by the fire department. Miss Williams was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Williams, residing two miles east of Alma. Miss Lake is a daughter of Edward W. Lake of Alma.

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## ITHACA CASUALTIES.

1881, May 30—The violent death of Fred Bowen, son of Norman M. Bowen, was a great grief to his family and friends. He was instantly killed at Church's sawmill, four miles north of Ithaca, by being caught by the line shaft and whirled to his death. He was nearly 18, and a very popular lad.

1881, July 1—A man named Walter Jones, hostler at the Fox House, was fatally injured while aiding in lowering a large wooden cistern into the ground. A lever, released from its fastenings, flew back, striking him with such force as to cause his death five hours later.

1881, Aug. 29—Blair P., aged four, son of S. B. Prichard and wife, had his life crushed out by a barrel of sand being accidentally tipped over upon him.

1883, Sept. 18—Geo. M. Churchill, aged 38, died from injuries received by the bursting of an emery wheel in Beckwith's furniture factory, on the previous day.

1883, Nov. 9—Miss Anna Nelson, aged 23, daughter of Rev. S. Nelson, pastor of the M. E. Church, Ithaca, was the victim of a shocking tragedy. Her brother, aged 19, came into the room where she sat playing the organ, and playfully placed the muzzle of a revolver against her neck and pulled the trigger, with the result that she was instantly killed. The young man had been out shooting off the revolver, and supposed it to be entirely empty. The shocking result of the useless and senseless accident was greatly mourned in the community, the young lady being an especial favorite.

1886, April 6—Mrs. Susan A. Sutliff, residing at the home of her son, Nathan G. Sutliff, died from burns received the previous evening, when the newspaper she was reading caught fire, enveloping her in flames. She was 90 years old.

1886, Aug. 22—It was a terrible fate that overtook little Nina Beasley, five and a half years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Beasley. The feature of cruelty which characterized it was calculated to send a shudder of horror to the heart of the most hardened and unfeeling. The Des Ermia House, at that time called the Central House, but now and for more than twenty years past known only in tradition and the vacant space at the corner of Main and Center Streets, had for its proprietor, N. G. Peet. Mr. Peet was the owner of a pet bear which he kept securely chained at the rear of the hotel. On Friday evening, August 20th, Mr. Peet's little daughter was feeding the bear, while Nina, who lived near, was looking on. She seems to have got too close, for suddenly the bear seized her with his teeth, shaking her violently, and lacerating her person in a terrible manner. Cries brought help immediately and the enraged animal was beaten off. But the child was so badly injured that she died about 36 hours later. The distress of the parents was rendered more acute by the fact that they had lost Nina's twin sister by death three years previously.

1888, April 14—This date witnessed a sad occurrence in Ithaca—the death, by drowning, of little Nellie Thayer, aged four years. Mrs. Will Thayer, with her little daughter was calling, in the afternoon, at the home of K. P. Peet—now the McCormack residence, in the north part of the village. Nellie, who was playing with the Peet children in the back yard, started to go into the house by way of the back door, and when inside instead of going into the kitchen, by mistake she entered the bath room and fell headlong into an open trap door and down into the cistern. This, of course, only became known when she was missed a half hour later, and her lifeless body was found in the cistern, after a long and anxious search. Nellie was a bright and attractive child, the pet of all who knew her, and her tragic and cruel death was a sad shock to the entire community. She was the only child of loving parents.

1889, July 6—Stella, little daughter and only child of Thomas Hawks, aged two and a half years, was so badly scalded by falling backward into a pail of hot water that she died after a few hours of intense suffering.

1890, Feb. 28—A rear-end collision occurred at the Ann Arbor depot, which at that time was located three-fourths of a mile east of the business section, resulting in the death of Conductor James Enright, of Owosso. A

freight train, of which Enright was conductor, came from the north at 4 o'clock a. m. and was standing at the station, when another, coming from the same direction, crashed into the caboose of the standing train, killing Enright, who was asleep in the caboose. Several others of the train crews were injured. The wreck took fire and three cars were consumed. Many in the village heard the crash of the collision and hastened to the scene. A coroner's jury consisting of K. P. Peet, W. H. Beasley, B. E. Van Deventer, H. B. Smith, Fred Best and F. S. Van Buskirk, decided that by misunderstanding his orders the blame rested upon the dead conductor.

1895, Sept. 27—A peculiarly sad and distressing accident caused the death of Dora, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Naldrett, aged six years. She had been to the fair and was returning to her home at the corner of Center and Elm Streets, when, on crossing the last named street, she was run over by a heavy dray and so badly crushed that she breathed her last an hour or two later. She was an only child. Witnesses of the accident were agreed that it was unavoidable under the circumstances, and that no blame could be attached to the driver of the dray.

1897, Feb. 22—The cruel death of Miss Ada Amspoker was a case to bring sorrow to the most hardened. She was a young lady of 21, engaged in housework in the family of Judge Geo. P. Stone. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, while engaged in the kitchen, her clothing caught fire from the stove, and before the fire could be extinguished she was horribly burned. Young Ashley Stone, who was not far away, aided heroically in putting out the fire. She lingered, most of the time unconscious, until the next day at noon, when death ended her sufferings. Her people lived in Owosso. She was a young woman of excellent standing, and with many friends.

1899, May 28—Miss Bessie Miller, of Ithaca, aged 23, daughter of James Miller, of Ithaca, was drowned in Crystal Lake, near Frankfort, by the upsetting of the boat in which she and Fred Tompkins were fishing. Will Van Wegen and Albert Wilkinson, who were not far away, went to their rescue and saved Tompkins, but the girl went down too soon. A coroner's jury exonerated all from blame.

1900, April 1—At the burning of the Owosso Union School building a fireman and a lad 16 years old lost their lives by falling walls. The lad was Frank Tucker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Tucker, formerly and for several years residents of Ithaca. Frank and his parents had many friends in Ithaca.

1903, May 19—Sam. McCollum fell over a hydrant in the south part of town, while drunk, and injured himself so badly that he died five days later.

1903, Aug. 31—Gladys, the five-year-old daughter of Sylvester Brand, was accidentally shot with a toy pistol, and died from the effects a week later.

1904, June 24—John Smith, a young man farm hand working for C. Boyd, two miles east of Ithaca, was instantly killed by a stroke of lightning, while on the way to the barn when a thunder storm was approaching. His home was in Jackson.

1909, April 28—Wesley Gabrion, son of Isaac Gabrion, who had been in Illinois two or three years, was arrested, charged with wife-desertion, brought to Ithaca and lodged in jail. Wednesday morning, April 28, he cut his throat with a razor and was dead before a doctor could get to him. His general reputation was good; so whether his rash act was caused by shame at being arrested as a criminal, or by dread of again taking up the trials of married life—or was he insane; it was all a mystery never to be solved by his hosts of friends.

1910, July 20—Arthur D. Saunders, doctor of dental surgery, took his own life by shooting himself in the head, at his rooms on Jefferson Street, south, at about 8 o'clock a. m., July 20th. He was a popular young man and no adequate reason for the rash act was known to exist. He was about 30 years of age and had been a resident of Ithaca seven or eight years, coming from Bay City.

1911, Feb. 4—Loren Barnes, aged about 30 years, formerly of Ithaca, when crossing the tracks of the Ann Arbor Railroad at Owosso with a horse and carriage, evening of February 4, was instantly killed, being run over by a train. His wife and daughter, who were with him, escaped serious injury, though carried along several hundred feet by the engine. Mr. Barnes' body was terribly mutilated. No one was accounted to have been particularly to blame for the accident.

1911, March 29—Mrs. Pearl Boyer, wife of Frank Boyer, and daughter of Mitchell Augustine, of Ithaca, came to her death by a shocking accident at her new home at Hill City, Minnesota, March 29th. She was starting a fire with the aid of kerosene oil which she poured from a can, when an explosion occurred, covering her with burning oil and causing her death. They had but lately moved to Hill City, Mr. Boyer being employed in the Armour Woodenware Factory which had recently been removed from Ithaca to that place. Mr. and Mrs. Boyer were married December 21, 1910, the wife being but 17 years of age. The body was returned to Ithaca for burial.

1911, April 25 (about)—At his home in Oregon, Will Townsend, formerly of Ithaca, committed suicide by shooting, at the age of 50. His wife died about two months previously. He was insane, without doubt.

1912, Feb. 17—Samuel L. Miller was killed by a train on the Ann Arbor R. R. near Lake, Clare County. He had recently moved to a farm in that vicinity, from Ithaca, where he was a well-known and highly esteemed citizen for about 15 years. He was hauling a load of logs, and one of his horses was killed also. Mr. Miller was aged 63 years.

1913, July 31—Leonard Braden, aged 18, son of Mrs. W. W. Yerby, of Ithaca, received injuries from which he died shortly afterward in a Saginaw hospital. He was a brakeman on the Grand Trunk, and received his injuries by falling between cars, and being mangled by the wheels.

1913, Nov. 6—Thomas Marr was instantly killed at Hill City, Minn., by being run over by an engine in the yards of the Armour woodenware plant, where he was employed as assistant manager. He was well known in Ithaca where he was similarly employed for many years. He was 53 years of age. He left one son, Clifford. Mrs. Marr died in Ithaca in 1900. Mr. Marr's remains were brought to Ithaca, by his son and Joseph H. Seaver, and were buried in North Star Cemetery.

## ST. LOUIS CASUALTIES.

1873, June 3—Stewart Kemp, aged about 20, son of Jacob M. Kemp, of St. Louis, was drowned in the mill pond. He was walking on the logs with which the pond was filled, and, losing his footing, he fell between the logs, which, closing over him prevented his escape. He was a worthy young man.

1875, Nov. 13—Mrs. Bridges, mother of Alfred Bridges, baggageman on the S. V. & St. L. R. R., cut her throat while insane and died at her son's residence, aged 51. Bridges was a son-in-law of Wm. Wait, the well-known meat dealer of those early times.

1876, March 9—Milo Harrington, a St. Louis merchant, killed himself with a shot gun. Business embarrassments led to the act. He was 60 years old.

1876, Aug. 15—Miss Minnie Truesdell, daughter of the late John E. Truesdell, died from poison taken with suicidal intent, at her home in the Eastman House. Her father, with Wm. H. Taylor, was proprietor of the hotel, and earlier was in the same business in Alma.

1880, Nov. 21—Dr. Jacob Myers, familiarly known among his many friends as "Dutch Jake," died from the effects of a gunshot wound received while hunting in Gladwin County. He was a very early settler in this vicinity, his wife being a sister of Missionary Meissler of the Bethany Indian Mission.

1881, July 25—Dennis O'Brien fell part way down stairs in the Leonard House and dislocated his neck. He had been but a few days in town, was intoxicated, and was about 30 years of age.

1884, July 30—Mrs. Samuel R. Dewey, St. Louis, ended her life by shooting herself through the head, at her home, apparently without adequate cause.

1885, June 3—Andrew J. Van Riper killed himself by cutting his throat with a razor, at the age of about 40.

1886, Nov. 25—Eddie Fox, aged 12 and living with his mother, Mrs. Fred Fox, on the angling road between St. Louis and Alma, lost his life by drowning. With other boys he was skating on the St. Louis mill pond just above the Cheesman bridge. The ice was thin, and, breaking through he was drowned. He was found standing upright in the water, his head being about a foot under the surface.

1886, Dec. 3—John M. Church, a prominent resident of St. Louis lost his life by drowning in his cistern. Life was extinct when he was found, but circumstances seemed to show that in reaching into the opening for a pail of water he had fallen in; perhaps being stunned by the fall, and thus rendered helpless. Mr. Church was aged 49 years; an old soldier. He served as postmaster at St. Louis three years; an efficient and popular official and a good citizen.

1887, Aug. 29—Mrs. John Hughes died in the operating chair of Dentist John F. Goss, from the effects of chloroform administered to ease pain. Accidental death was the verdict. She was aged 40 years.

1887, Oct. 9—The body of Robert George Scott, son of Amos Scott, was found hanging to a limb in the woods southeast of town, the deed having been done several days previously. The verdict was "suicide caused by domestic troubles." Scott was 23 and married.

1888, Dec. 30—Harry Hayes, only son of Wm. H. Hayes, St. Louis, aged 18, was drowned near Wolf's bridge, Arcada, by skating into an air-hole in the ice.

1889, May 31—People were shocked by the suicide of John Dunlap, who shot himself through the heart. There was nothing known that could be called an adequate cause. Aged about 35.

1890, Feb. 27—According to the finding of a coroner's jury the suicide of E. F. Frost was caused by despondency.

1890, July 15—Ludwick Miller, aged 35, drowned himself in the river. Nothing worse than financial stringency was presumed to have been the cause. He was son of Lewis B. Miller who shot shot himself dead at Alma six years previously.

1892, March 24—August Arndt went to the house where his wife was staying -she having been compelled to leave him on account of his actions —and after vainly trying to have her go back and live with him, drew a

revolver and attempted to kill her. He only made a flesh wound in her shoulder, however. He then put a bullet through his own head, thus finishing a career that was certainly a failure.

1893, Aug. 23—Victor White, a Chicago man, temporarily staying in St. Louis, bought a revolver, loaded it, and then walked out Franklin street to near the southern limits of town. Then he shot himself and died in the street. Temporarily insane, it was said.

1896, Oct. 2—Wm. H. Leppard ended his life by shooting himself. Domestic infelicities were presumed to have been the moving cause.

1896, Nov. 12—A young man named John Updegraft was instantly killed by the accidental discharge of his own gun while hunting in Midland County in company with Bert Kemp, R. V. Faurot and Howard Placeway. He was an industrious and popular young man, aged 21.

1898, Dec. 4—Fred Eagan, aged 13, son of Peter Eagan, was drowned in the mill pond when he broke through the ice.

1901, June 9—A young man named Jasper N. Wright, living in St. Louis, was found dead in some woods near the road a mile or so northwest of town. A woman living near gave the alarm, claiming that she found him dead. The coroner's jury, after getting all the evidence available, rendered a verdict that the man "came to his death from over-exertion, resulting in heart-failure."

1903, April 25—Mrs. Manahan, widow of Jeff. Manahan, committed suicide, while insane, by drowning herself in the cistern at her home, aged 50. She settled in Bethany about 1878.

1905, June 18—Jas. Chase died from the effects of a dose of Paris green taken with suicidal intent. He was 76 and insane.

1906, Dec. 16—Jo. Byers, an old resident of St. Louis, suicided by hanging, at the age of 66. There was no known cause that seemed to give a plausible excuse.

1910, Sept. 28—Fred L. Kemp lost his life in an automobile accident near Breckenridge. He was a liveryman at St. Louis, aged 35, son of Geo. L. Kemp, of Forest Hill.

1910, Dec. 15—Robert Shank, son of the late Hamp. Shank, was killed while hunting coyotes at Pendleton, Oregon, by the accidental discharge of his gun. His body was returned to St. Louis for burial.

1911, Feb. 3—O. J. Becker, an old resident of Emerson, but for a few years living in St. Louis, met his death at the farm in Emerson, Friday morning, February 3rd. He was driving a team hitched to a dray, and the horses becoming frightened and unmanagable, turned in such a way as to throw him off and against a corn crib, inflicting such injuries that he died in a short time. He was an esteemed citizen, an old soldier and had been a resident of Gratiot about 40 years. He was 71 years of age.

1911, May 26—Floyd Shippey, son of Degrasse Shippey, was killed by an engine in the Durand railroad yards where he was employed; aged 42.

1911, Sept. 18—Martin E. Frear, while engaged on some work at the sugar factory, fell a distance of 15 feet, Monday, Sept. 18th, and received injuries which resulted in his death the next day. He was son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Frear, of Pine River. A wife and one child, besides other relatives were left to mourn his sad death.

1911, Sept. 28—Edwin D. Clow, aged 42, lost his life from injuries received four days previously when the automobile he was driving was struck by an Ann Arbor motor car, at Alma. Son of Jas. Clow, of St. Louis, and a resident of that place nearly all his life. He was in the employ of the city as electrician.

1911, Dec. 4—Chas. A. Oswald, a highly-respected citizen of St. Louis, was killed in a runaway accident about three miles north of Wheeler. He was on his way in a buggy to the farm of Frank Howland where he was building a new house. A team of horses and a heavy beet-wagon ran over his rig from behind, and Mr. Oswald was so badly crushed that he died within a few hours.

1912, Nov. 27—John Elwell Collin, aged about 30 years, grandson of the late Col. John A. Elwell, and well-known in St. Louis, was killed in a railroad wreck in Pennsylvania. His home was in Pittsburg; burial in Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Louis.

1913, Nov. 18—Kenneth Allen, little son of Charles Allen, aged eight years, was killed by the accidental discharge of a revolver in the hands of Vern Allen, a brother, aged 16 years.

## SOME OF THE SEVEREST STORMS.

### One to be Remembered—1890.

A very severe storm in the nature of tornado passed diagonally over the county from southwest to northeast Saturday afternoon, May 24, 1890, and did a lot of damage all along its course. In west Fulton the large stock barn of Lewis Reynolds was unroofed; orchards and fences were spread over the ground, Henry Stitt alone having two miles of fence prostrated. In New Haven N. H. Wells' house was relieved of its porch and a hay barn was unroofed. John Wood's barn was picked up and thrown away, leaving his horses standing to mark the site, and unhurt. Newark and North Star people had experiences, and in Emerson there were a lot of sufferers. Wm. Phillips, house frame blown down; Mrs. Eichorn, barn turned around; Wm. Eichorn, house and barn both moved out of place; school house at Beebe damaged; Tim Sullivan's barn roof carried 15 rods, into a neighbor's field; Albert Crites' barn wrecked; fences, orchards, timber and small buildings tossed around in great confusion. It was called the worst storm that had ever visited that region up to that time.

### Ithaca Got a Sufficiency in 1896.

Here is the way an eye-witness details some of the particulars of the storm that struck Gratiot County and especially Ithaca, Monday morning, August 10, 1896, at about two o'clock. Many will doubtless recall the incident from the description; and if they don't the description stands anyway:

"This seems to be a year of great and disastrous storms. We have read of their ravages in other states and in various parts of this state, and have felt somewhat grateful that Gratiot was being skipped. Our turn came, however, last Sunday night and Monday morning. The weather had been fearfully torrid and cyclonic in its characteristics for two weeks past, and several good, brisk showers had given us all the moisture that seemed necessary. But the storm of Sunday night overdid the matter decidedly. At about 11 o'clock that night a heavy shower got in its work, but between

two and three o'clock Monday morning the boss deluge of the season came along; and it came on the wings of the wind. Now this is not written to enlighten any of the people of Ithaca and vicinity. No! They know about the shower. They were present and witnessed it. They even got out of bed to take it in. And they literally took it in—by way of the windows, and through the roofs and down the chimneys. The storm was of that riotous, boisterous nature that not only drives in at every crack and crevice, but comes in any old way, crevice or no crack. The kind also that not only drives the folks from the upper stories down to the ground floor, but even into the cellars. Many would have been glad even to have got under ground if they hadn't been kept busy holding in the doors and windows.

"The wickedest man in Ithaca says that as the worst of the trouble was passing away, the hired girl got down on her knees and thanked a kind Providence that had spared their lives; and this wicked man says that in all his born days he never heard anything sound so good as that prayer. Good and bad were all scared alike.

"The morning light revealed the fact that a good deal of miscellaneous damage had been done. Many sheds and small buildings were promiscuously scattered around and many shade trees were down; some glass was broken, several chimneys and windmills laid low. No lives were lost and we only hear of one person being injured. Frank Coleman attempted to close a door that had blown open, and as he did so he either received a light stroke of electricity or else got a large-sized nervous shock, for he tumbled down in a heap and was rendered unconscious for some time.

"In the country a great deal of damage was done in the way of blowing down fences, forest trees, fruit trees, corn and everything else of a movable nature. Ira Allen's house, over in Emerson was partially unroofed, and F. S. Kelly's and Jas. Moore's barns were more or less demoralized. It is estimated that fully one-third of the apple crop was harvested by the wind. D. C. Gibb's brick yard suffered great damage, sheds being blown down and a large brick smoke-stack came down, smashing a wagon into little fragments.

"The liberty pole at the corner of the court house square came down, breaking off even with the ground. The heavy, ornamental iron cornice on the fronts of Lewis & Yost's and Dr. I. N. Monfort's blocks was wrenched out of shape, and a plate glass in the Savings Bank front was broken and ruined. Frank Scott lost a chimney and three fine shade trees. T. S. Barnes is minus a chimney and that handsome pear tree. N. M. Bowen also lost some trees.

"P. H. Sisson, of Edgewood, had hard luck. His new store building, replacing the one destroyed by fire last spring, enclosed and about ready for plastering, was completely demolished."

### This Storm Went After the Cows.

It was one of the worst storms of several seasons that occurred in central Gratiot, Saturday night, May 3, 1902, about a month before the big tornado in southern Gratiot. The principal items of damage were the result of the lightning's pranks, as the wind was not of the destructive kind in this particular case. But what was lacking in wind was fully made up in water, lightning and fire. A citizen of Ithaca alive at the time, made the following compilation from information received: The rains descended and the

floods came, and those who were complaining of the lack of rain have no more fault to find in that direction. Commencing before 10 o'clock, Saturday night, there was a succession of heavy showers lasting till morning, the lightning and thunder being practically incessant. There was much damage by lightning, the worst in this vicinity being sustained by John Sowle who lives just south of town, (Ithaca). His barn was struck at about two o'clock in the morning and was entirely destroyed by fire, together with three cows, a horse, a large amount of fodder, his milk wagon and much other property. Mr. Sowle succeeded in getting out four cows and three horses, but the fire gained headway so fast that it was impossible to do more.

Perry Delaney, of Newark, was another loser by the storm. His barn was struck and consumed, cremating two horses and burning a new buggy and other contents of the barn. He knew nothing of the fire until aroused from his slumbers by a neighbor.

John W. Martin, another resident of Newark is minus a cow, lightning striking the barn and killing the cow, though luckily the barn was not burned; and John is glad of it. Lightning struck the chimney on the house of Barbara Betz, of Lafayette, doing some damage to that useful attachment, but injuring none of the inmates of the house. A shed on the farm of Joseph Keeler, Newark, was struck, and another unfortunate cow was killed, shed and cow being consumed by the fire resulting from the lightning's stroke.

The nimble lightning visited the house of Jas. Fisher, Emerson, taking to the chimney, thence down, doing some damage to the house, striking the leg of a bedstead on which Jim's niece was sleeping, but doing no serious damage. On the Knowler Gibbs farm, Newark, lightning got into the barn in some manner and totally deafened a horse; but three others escaped without the slightest injury.

Here is an array of exciting and important incidents crowded into a space of six or seven hours, that ordinarily would be sufficient for the whole season. It is a matter for congratulation that no human lives were lost, and no one received personal bodily injury.

### The Big Tornado of June 12, 1902.

In the matter of storms, Gratiot County, since its settlement, has a record of but one that measures up to the dignity of a real, sure-enough cyclone. Not that the county has been skipped in the distribution of severe storms, for it has had many of them; storms that have done lots of damage through wind and water lavishly bestowed. But the one "twister" that has stood in a class by itself for more than 11 years and which it is hoped will remain so for many years to come, was that which visited southern Gratiot Thursday, June 12, 1902. That was something to be remembered by those who experienced its fury, and by those who saw the marks of its visitation while the marks were yet fresh.

The storm came at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day mentioned, and as a storm it was quite general over the county, but its main cyclonic feature concentrated itself along a line commencing on the west line of New Haven Township and extending in an east-southeasterly direction across that township, leaving Sethton a little to the north, passing into Fulton Township and taking a course a little to the north of Middleton and Perrinton and to the south of Pompeii, entering Washington at about the center of the west line, thence passing diagonally across Washington and leaving

the county near the southeast corner of that township. The path of the "twister" averaged about 80 rods in width, though it was not continuous, but showed that the disturbance had a way of rising and dropping at intervals, getting in its worst work along three different stretches, within this county.

Some of the persons and places in the path of the cyclone in New Haven Township were the old Chas. H. Morse place, occupied by John and Noel Morse, where a large sheep barn and a part of a large farm barn were wrecked, and the orchard and a fine maple grove laid low. A tenant house also was destroyed. T. N. Wilson's house was badly racked, wind-pump down, barns unroofed, and sheds blown away. J. Kepner lost much valuable timber. Samuel Ludwick lost his barn roof. Frank Koehler lost part of his barn roof, and his cow stable went with the barn roof. Elmer Jason's veneered brick house was converted into a mass of ruins, and his orchard, wind-mill, tool house, granary and half his barn roof were numbered with the lost.



HERB JENNE'S BARN, SUNDAY FOLLOWING CYCLONE.

At John Noll's the barn and granary were wrecked, the house unroofed, a tool shed demolished ruining three carriages and three reapers. Three apple trees were all that were left of a fine orchard. Jas. Gardner had his house turned around and the kitchen scattered around. S. A. Ritter's house and orchard were badly used. At G. T. North's the kitchen was wrecked and Mrs. North had to be chopped out of the ruins. Frank Brader was badly used, losing barn, sheds and orchard.

A. P. Moore had a log barn laid low. Frame barn and granary wrecked, chimneys carried away, holes punched in the roof and house badly racked, requiring replastering; orchard badly used. Others materially injured were Dan. Chambers, Geo. Lindsey, E. Andrews, J. Chambers, John Hanna, Platt Wilber, etc. The Dunkard Church was unroofed and otherwise treated with much disrespect.

On the Sunday following the tornado, in company with County Treasurerr D. L. Sharrar, I visited the scene of devastation in Fulton Township, and a condensed account of what was found runs about like this: After the

twister left the vicinity of Sethton and swept along past Middleton and Perrinton, the damage done for a few miles, though considerable, was not of an appalling nature. Quite a large amount of timber was destroyed, some fruit trees uprooted, fences leveled and small buildings demoralized. Near Perrinton Mrs. Hodges' barn was half unroofed, and the roof on Lewis Baker's barn was carried away and the chimneys on his house laid low. Then it straightway got down to earth and the farm of Herb. Jenne was the first to catch it severely. A large portion of the orchard was destroyed and the barn unroofed. Herb. was near the barn with his team trying to get to shelter, but the wind broke up his calculations, one of his horses being instantly killed by flying timbers, and he barely escaping with his life. Two horses in the field were injured, one dying from its injuries. On that Sunday when the writer was looking over the scene, more than 40 men were engaged in putting a new roof on the barn, and helping to straighten things out. Count the men; maybe there were 50.

Ed. Pierce, whose farm lies east of the Jenne farm was badly used. His orchard of large fruit trees was entirely destroyed, and his barn and other farm buildings were scattered flat over the ground. His house was moved two rods to the east, turned a quarter way around, unroofed and twisted out of shape. Mr. Pierce, an aged man and quite heavy, was caught outside of the house and was thrashed and tumbled around promiscuously. The siding to the house showed many gaping holes caused by flying boards from buildings and fences.

Just south and across the road is the farm and residence of ex-Supervisor Fred Read. Mr. Read, wife and two little girls were in the house when the trouble commenced. The house, a story and a half structure standing lengthwise east and west, was quickly unroofed, and the whole east end went out at the same time. Fred and his family gazed out of the open end of the house and saw their barn lifted bodily into the air, shaken to pieces and the fragments scattered over the adjacent fields. Other buildings and his windmill also were demolished. A summer kitchen at the back of the house was swept away leaving only the floor to show where once the structure stood. The freakishness of those circumgyratory storms was shown in the fact that the heavy cook stove was hurled violently away, while a light washing machine was not moved from its tracks. Clothing and bedding were whisked out of the house and lost. Four calves were peacefully grazing in a field west of the house. After the storm three of them were in the wheat field east of the house while the fourth was in front of the house, stone dead. They had drifted or floated a distance of twenty rods, and over three fences.

Next east of Pierce's is the farm of John Wang. The house stands, or rather it stood, well back from the road on high ground. Here was destruction complete. Nothing left, practically, but 80 acres of land, a wing of the large house and a fair-sized mortgage. The house, excepting the east wing was scattered along the lane, over the field and down the road. Household goods—furniture, bedding, clothing—mixed with all manner of truck, were carried over into the next township. Mrs. Wang's plush cloak was found three miles away, over in Washington. But to get back to Wang's: The big barn, though not entirely scattered to the winds, was unroofed and came out only the wreck of its former self while every other building was annihilated. The orchard, consisting of over 100 large apple trees 30 cherry trees and 30 peach trees, resembled the slashing of an early pioneer. Not an apple tree remained, and but three or four of the others were worth the space they occupied. Great apple trees 16 inches

through were dragged out by the roots and hauled away any distance up to 40 rods, and whipped and thrashed till not a leaf or small twig remained. Others were twisted off near the roots, while still others had their limbs all wrenched off. Just before the demon tackled the house, but getting there rapidly, Mr. Wang, wife, child and wife's sister, Fanny, started for the cellar; and they were not a bit too soon in their flight. As they reached the cellar the house was peeled from over their heads and started on its way for Washington Township. A heavy organ was one of the things that were dropped in the front yard. When the writer visited the scene on Sunday the family had settled down to housekeeping in the little wing and seemed to be enjoying the novelty of the situation, while John was off after a load of lumber with which to commence over again.

East of Wang's and across on the south side of the road was the scene of probably the worst disaster of all. It is the old Dwight Payne place with its big house and barn and its numerous other farm buildings, its big orchard, said to have been the oldest in Fulton Township. Nothing but kindling wood left! The place had recently been purchased by John Taylor,



AS IT LEFT JOHN WANG.

who had put all his accumulations into it. The tornado came along and annihilated all his buildings, his orchard, his fences, his farming implements and some of his live stock. Hard luck! When the storm approached, Mr. Taylor inspected it from the woodshed door. But it was upon him almost immediately, and he hurried to get with his wife and five children. As he went through the kitchen and sitting room in his search for them, he was jostled and bruised by the writhing, falling and flying walls and timbers. But, persevering, he followed his family as they rushed ahead of the falling walls and ceiling, and all reached a little bedroom at the southeast corner of the house. Their lives were saved; for that little room was the only one that withstood the fury of the blast; and the walls of that room were so demoralized that they seemed just ready to collapse. Uncle Dwight Payne was in the sitting room when the house was wrecked, and was hauled out from under the wreckage not much the worse for his experiences.

Standing on the ruins and surveying the scene of desolation, one could vividly appreciate the terrible discouragement that must torment the victims

of such a calamity. Mr. Taylor's horses were saved from death by a wagon which aided in holding up the wreck of the barn till the timbers could be chopped away.

Nearly half a mile east of Mr. Taylor's stood the East Fulton Congregational Church. It was leveled to the ground, even the foundation wall being spread out over the ground.

But the rest wasn't quite so bad, and I must hasten along the track and bring this tour of inspection to a close. The next serious damage occurred across the township line, in Washington. Geo. English, on section 18, was the first one seriously touched. His new barn frame, 40 by 68, was leveled and badly broken up, the foundation also being badly injured. His orchard and 20 acres of fine timber were demolished. Mrs. Helen Longley lost fruit and shade trees and a log barn. Clarence Henson's house was partly unroofed and his blacksmith shop was laid low. Wm. Henson's kitchen roof went, together with all his chimneys. Mrs. M. Norris lost much timber, and also the cupola from her barn. S. N. French was in line, and had the roof of his barn carried away, and lost many shade and fruit trees besides about 200 fine maple trees; also fences without limit.

John Sutton lost the roofs from his large sheep barn, from his hay and horse barn and from his ice house; also the chimney from his house. A hen house 100 feet long east and west was picked up bodily and made to stand exactly north and south. The front was nearly all glass, but not alight was broken. Supervisor Fred E. Smith got the next call, his house being moved east about the width of it, and all of the family crockery ware was broken. Wm. Cook's large, new basement barn was totally destroyed. Lewis Curren's new house was moved fourteen feet from its foundation. Fred Cooley lost his new barn.

John Tobey was in his barn and tried to hold the south door shut. But when the north door blew in Brother Tobey went out the front way taking the door with him. The door finally fell on him, injuring him somewhat. The Adventist Church and the Center school house received serious damage, and Jonathan Baum, Oliver Roberts, Riley Rhines, O. A. Waldorff, F. L. Davis, Aaron Husted, Mr. Cordray, Mr. Widener, Mr. Cronk, Mr. Kriner and many others were damaged to an extent that would have been called serious had there not been so many worse losses.

Other items of loss, of less importance, were almost innumerable, but need not be mentioned here, though the aggregate would be great. The items of fences, orchards and timber are the most important of the lesser losses.

There were several cyclonic side-issues while the main performance was in progress. About three miles south of Ithaca a barn belonging to Everett Mulholland was unroofed. Further along, over in North Star, Elbridge Franklin's barn was served the same way. In Pompeii a lot of shade trees were blown down.

It is a gratification to be able to close this record of the "worst storm" by the statement of a wonderful fact—that with all the destruction of property, and in spite of all the dangers of the day, no lives were lost, and no one was dangerously injured.

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### The Wettest Season Ever—Spring of 1904.

Gratiot County went wet in the spring of 1904 to a degree hardly ever equalled. Spring floods are expected, but they occasionally exceed expectations and overdo the matter. That was the case along about the first of

April, 1904. It is not the purpose to record every wet spell, but the floods of that spring will be remembered by many anyway, so they might as well have it right. So great was the disorganization of all means of travel that it was almost impossible to keep up with the news of the washouts, disasters and damages. All of the railroads were held up and quite a number of lives were lost. Friday noon's mail train, north bound on the Ann Arbor, that first week in April, got as far as Ashley and found a water barrier in front, and when it attempted to retreat it was found that the "gurgling Maple" had closed in and cut off its retreat at Bannister. The south-bound five o'clock train on the same day got as far as Ashley and then backed up to Alma to get its bearings and consider the matter. Then it started again for Ashley to meet the 9 o'clock train, but it never got into Ithaca. At the big cut in the suburbs of Ithaca it ran into a great land-slide, plowed mud, ties and rails for a space of six or eight rods and then whopped over on its side, crosswise of the track; the baggage car also going off. The engineer crept out from under his engine but no one was seriously hurt. Ithaca was practically without mails from Thursday till the next Tuesday.

Michigan cities, notably Grand Rapids, Ionia, Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, etc., had the greatest floods in their history, the damages amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

### Another Wettest Spell is Recorded.

Anyone who kept a diary along in the summer of 1905 will find recorded in early June of that year that the greatest storms of the season, or of any season, occurred on the 5th and 6th of June. One truthful diary reads as follows: It is not conceivable that any resident of the county or state is ignorant of the fact that the rain record of many years has been broken this week, in the downpour of Monday supplemented by that of Tuesday. However, for the sake of the record it may be well to mention that the continued heavy rains of the spring that have been such a drawback to agricultural operations, reached the climax on Monday last. There had been no rain for just a week, and farmers were really indulging in hopes. But the sultry air of Monday forenoon presaged showers, and at three o'clock the first installment arrived, followed by a succession of storms continuing the remainder of the day and all night. On Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock another severe storm came on, the heavy mass of clouds shutting out the light of day, and rendering artificial light indispensable.

The terrific wind that accompanied Monday's first storm did considerable damage throughout the northern part of the county, and there was some damage by lightning. Pine River rose to an unprecedented height for the time of the year, and much damage was done at Alma and St. Louis.

Terrific storms occurred in various parts of the state, and in Tuscola and Sanilac Counties tornadoes developed, resulting in the destruction of buildings and in the death of several people and the serious injury of others. Railroads were badly used, the Pere Marquette the worst of any, perhaps. The bridge at Alma was badly damaged and trains were delayed for two days; the Ann Arbor also suffered from wash-outs.

### Through St. Louis, Bethany, Lafayette, etc.

A very severe storm visited Gratiot County Friday afternoon, July 2, 1909, doing a lot of damage along a diagonal course through Pine River,

Bethany, Emerson, Lafayette and Hamilton Townships. It was of a cyclonic nature, and did its worst damage along a comparatively narrow strip of territory.

At St. Louis a good deal of havoc was made with the shade trees, some of the streets being fairly blockaded with the fallen trees and branches, heavily loaded as they were with foliage. The city park, however, escaped with small damage. In Bethany Mrs. Rowley's barn was blown from its foundation. Will Brewer and Allen Reed each lost a silo, and Mr. Salsbury's barn was badly damaged. Ervin Stewart had a barn destroyed, Geo. Dershem's barn was shoved off its foundation, and the house of Jas. Wiles lost part of its roof.

In Emerson and Lafayette those sustaining the most damage were Elmer White, barn badly injured; C. Bebow, orchard blown down; Elmer Healy, large barn destroyed; Odell and Frank Peet, damage to timber; the Street farm, house and barn unroofed; J. Cresswell, L. M. Cramer, Del Davis, Fred Simmons, B. F. Benson, Theo. Bloss, F. H. Hunter, Ray Muscott.

In Hamilton, Supervisor Seth J. Curtis suffered the most serious loss. His lofty barn, a landmark and visible for miles around, was laid low. Mr. Curtis and his hired man were in the barn, but got out just in time to save their lives. A bull and some hogs were killed, but seven horses in the stable escaped injury.

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### That Great Hail Storm—1911.

Doubtless it might truthfully be termed the worst hail storm that ever visited Gratiot County; referring to the storm of Sunday, June 4, 1911, that paid its respects to Alma, St. Louis, Forest Hill and the adjacent territory. Of course the term "ever" reaches far back in the past, and it may be well to qualify the expression to the time that has elapsed since the country was taken from the Indians.

The threatening clouds began to gather in the northwest, and to assume a decidedly beligerent aspect at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and in a very short time the heavy, black clouds almost completely shut out the light of day, rendering at least all northern Gratiot almost as dark as night. Then came the wind and the downpour of rain, and the hail. There was some lightning, plenty of wind, and floods of water, but it was the hail that furnished the excuse for this article. At Ithaca there was nothing worse than a good, brisk rain storm, with accompaniment of wind and lightning, and a few scattering small hailstones. But in the Townships of Seville, Pine River, northern Arcada and western Bethany, and including the cities of Alma and St. Louis, the fusillade of hail was something fearful and exceedingly destructive.

The Alma Record described the frightful half-hour like this, the Journal also giving a vivid description of the storm: "Coal-black clouds hung heavily from the sky. Then underneath them there began to sway back and forth what appeared to be a mass of foam. The whole mass moved from the north, a seething, tumbling mass of thick clouds. The wind swooped down, ever increasing, until it blew at the rate of a small hurricane. But this was all tame as the sleeping beauty compared with what followed. From the north there came a whining, buzzing sound. The whole sky seemed to drop, and a fusillade of hailstones began to batter against the houses and on the roofs. It had the same effect as a shower of stones, breaking windows, splitting shingles and even breaking down trees. Fruit

trees were stripped, and growing crops were pounded into the ground. The hail came with such force that screened and unscreened windows alike were broken. Some of the frozen bullets shot through the glass, cutting holes cleanly through the panes. The ground was soon covered with leaves and branches, the trees being stripped almost bare."

The Record then goes on to say that "the size of the masses of ice was almost unbelievable. One stone measured 13 inches in diameter." This doubtless was a misspell, as a hailstone 13 inches in "circumference" would be quite a sizable chunk. In Alma the loss in glass was very great, practically all glass on the north side of buildings being demolished, including many plate glass fronts in the business places. The sugar factory and manufacturing plants were heavy losers. Many roofs also were badly damaged, letting in floods of water to damage the interior of buildings. The losses footed up many thousands of dollars.

The St. Louis Leader gave an edifying description of the trouble in St. Louis, the Independent also doing its full share in detailing the disastrous work of the elements. The Leader said that "the wind began lashing the trees, and then a few hailstones made their appearance; and then they came faster and larger until the pelting of the stones became a continuous roar of hail and ice chunks, and with the howling of the wind combined to make the stoutest heart faint, as one wondered what the outcome would be. * * * The storm coming from the north was so severe that we have heard of but one house in the city, having windows on the north side, that did not suffer, and in nearly every case every window light was smashed." The business places, school buildings, hotels, sugar factory, green houses, all took their share—and more—of the damage meted out.

"We have read of hailstones as large as hens' eggs," says the Leader, "but that was all; we had never seen them until Sunday night; and we are not curious to see any more of them. There were millions fell in this city that were as large or larger than hens' eggs. Any number were picked up that weighed from a half-pound to 10 ounces each; and when they struck a roof or a light of glass something had to give way."

But the farmers were really the greatest sufferers by the storm, as in many cases their crops were entirely ruined, their orchards denuded of fruit and foliage, and in some cases live stock was killed. All this besides the losses on glass and roofs. The little Village of Forest Hill suffered as much as the larger towns in proportion to size, and the farmers in that vicinity seemed to get the effects of the storm in greater degree than anywhere else. A trip over the Ann Arbor two days after the storm, gave occular proof to the writer, of the thorough destruction of the crops about Forest Hill.

The great hailstorm of June 4, 1911, to those who suffered from its ravages, will be an incident and a date to reckon from for years to come.

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### Some Out-of-Season Snow Storms.

On the first day of May, 1875, this county was visited by a snow storm that surprised the oldest inhabitants. Snow fell and staid on the ground to the depth of 10 inches. It had been a backward spring and vegetation was not very far advanced, so no great damage was done.

Of comparatively recent date was the well-remembered snow storm of May 30, 1889—Decoration Day. Snow fell nearly all day, and though the temperature was a little above the freezing point, snow gathered during the

day to the depth of two or three inches. Had the weather been but a few degrees colder it is likely that the depth of snow would have been at least a foot by nightfall.

May 13, 1895, was the date of a very heavy snow storm, coming when the temperature was low; consequently the storm and its effects were unusually severe, and much damage, inconvenience and suffering resulted.

The severe and extensive snow storm of April 29, 1909, is remembered even by the young. The snow and the temperature were just right to load everything down with a heavy weight of snow and ice, and much damage was done to trees and wires throughout the country. A local publisher said: "The snow fell to a depth of ten inches. Traffic was effectually blocked. Rural carriers were unable to make their trips, and thousands of dollars of damage was done all over the state. Fruit trees and shade trees were unable to withstand the strain and many were broken down." Some beautiful and unique views were captured by the camera and kodak people, as mementoes.

A terribly destructive hail storm visited the southern part of the county August 1, 1907, doing immense damage to growing crops. The hailstones were of the size described as "averaging as large as hens' eggs, a great many of them weighing a pound." But the reality was no joke, the losses aggregating thousands of dollars.

## GRATIOT COUNTY TRAGEDIES.

### Not a Long List But Ample Sufficient.

It is not a pleasant task to write of crimes; but there is no way to avoid it if the historian is to fulfill his purpose to chronicle local events of importance and of wide local interest. Every one of the cases here recorded was of intense interest in its locality at the time it occurred and for months following; and every one of them attracted the attention of the entire county in greater or lesser degree, and held its deeply interested attention for months, and sometimes for years. So the bitter must be chronicled as well as the sweet, and with like fidelity and impartiality.

#### The Crimes of Thaddeus S. Green.

Thaddeus S. Green was one of the early settlers in Newark Township. The exact date cannot now be given, but he was there in the spring of 1856, and was elected one of the four justices of the peace. He left the county during the hard times of 1859, but returned during the summer of 1860 and located in Ithaca. His log house stood on the high ground just north and east of the W. C. Beckwith residence, and on the same block. He worked at the cooper's trade. He had a daughter, Josephine, aged about 16, who kept house for him.

When Green was a resident of Newark, Sally Taylor, daughter of Benson Taylor, was an associate of Josephine, and the girls visited back and forth after Green located in Ithaca. On Sunday, March 11, 1861, Sally

went to visit her chum, Josephine. Nothing further was seen of her until the next Friday, when Miss Taylor's people became alarmed at her long absence from home. Going to Green's house they found it closed and the windows darkened. Accompanied and aided by some of the Ithaca people, Mr. Taylor forced an entrance to the house, when a horrible scene was presented to their view. The dead bodies of the two young girls were found lying on a bed. They had been killed with a hatchet which lay on the floor near the bed. Green's dead body was found lying upon another bed. He had stabbed himself in the throat, producing wounds from which he had bled to death. It was clear that he had murdered the girls and had then ended his own existence.

The coroners inquest brought out facts going to prove that Green and his daughter had been living together under conditions shockingly immoral. But what were the immediate circumstances at that particular time, that led to the fiendish murders and to suicide, is a problem that has never been, and never can be, unravelled; probably a horrible combination of circumstances that must be left to each individual imagination to solve.

This was the first murder ever known to have been committed in the county, and in many of its features was one of the most despicable and fiendish crimes ever committed in the county in all its history.

In closing this brief account of a sad and sickening tragedy, I add a few lines from a letter from Rufus S. Peck, of Scottville, Mich., ordering a copy of this history. Mr. Peck is a son of Elijah Peck, an early resident of Gratiot County, and prominent as an official. Mr. Peck says: "Gratiot County was my home from the age of two years until I was 21. I have seen the place where Ithaca now stands change from a dense forest to a fine city. I well remember the Thad. Green tragedy. I went to school in the old log house where Green killed the girls and himself. I was one of the boys who, with my father and others, made the discovery. It is a terrible picture to me even now; seeing them as I did, lying there on their beds with their throats cut from ear to ear, and the butcher knife sticking in the log across the room." While this brief line from memory varies the details slightly though immaterially, it detracts nothing from the cruel and brutal nature of the crime.

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### The Stratton-Skinner Case at Sumner.

The Village of Sumner furnished a tragedy January 12, 1883, that deeply interested the people of Gratiot County for about a year and is still well remembered by many. Reference is made to the killing of John Skinner by Geo. Stratton, Jr., by stabbing him in the breast with a pocket knife. Both were young men of the village, Skinner being 22 years old, married and with one child, while Stratton was a little younger and single, son of Geo. Stratton, Sr., a man of considerable prominence and standing. The facts as brought out at the inquest and at the trial were substantially as follows, allowance being made for the long time that has elapsed since the occurrence, and the consequent difficulty in getting details of unquestioned reliability:

The two men were in the saloon conducted by Wm. Harvey, proprietor. Skinner was playing a game of cards with Geo. Stratton, Sr., a man about 60 years of age, while young Stratton was looking on, or otherwise engaged. A dispute arose between the two players over the count, and young Stratton joined in the controversy. A fight ensued during which Stratton drew a jack-knife and with the big blade stabbed Skinner in the breast. The in-

jured man sank to the floor, saying, "I am stabbed; get a doctor quick." He breathed his last in about 15 minutes, Dr. Dayton, who was summoned, not being able to afford any relief to the dying man. The knife point had penetrated the heart.

Geo. Stratton was arrested and taken to the jail at Ithaca. An inquest was held over the dead body of Skinner by Justice E. L. Drake, an official of Sumner, with a jury composed of Sam. H. Stevens, Morris W. Tucker, Milo Standish, John Callahan, John Lang and Sam. Bigelow. A verdict was returned in accordance with the facts as stated. The dead man was buried without a post-mortem examination. The next day after the burial, however, it was determined to have an autopsy. The remains were exhumed and Drs. Scott, of Ithaca, and Dayton and Marvin, of Sumner, made an examination, finding that the knife had passed between the fifth and sixth ribs of the left side, and had passed nearly through the heart.

Stratton had his examination before Justice Drake, January, on a charge of murder, and was bound over for trial in the circuit. Prosecuting Attorney Jas. K. Wright appeared for the people, while T. W. Whitney, of St. Louis, and Geo. P. Stone, of Carson City, looked after the interests of the prisoner.

The case came on for trial at the March term of court. Many jurors were rejected for one cause or another, but the following jurors were finally agreed upon: Luke Woods, R. C. Lattimer, Edgar G. Sechler, Asa Dalrymple, W. C. Mallory, Wm. O. Johnson, Isaac Webber, Orlando Luce, J. E. Densmore, O. S. Himes, Wm. Carrington and Alonzo Peterson. Prosecutor Wright was assisted by Elisha McCall, of Ithaca, while the defense was conducted by T. W. Whitney, of St. Louis, A. B. Morse, of Ionia, and Geo. P. Stone, of Carson City.

The theory of self-defense was put forward in behalf of the prisoner, and it was shown among other things that Skinner was inclined to be quarrelsome, and that he was a much stronger man than Stratton. Justification on this theory took with four of the jurymen, a disagreement being the result of the trial, the jury standing eight for conviction; four for acquittal, after deliberating four and a half hours. The prisoner was remanded to jail, but afterward he was admitted to bail and released, Nathaniel Strayer, Benjamin Fowler and Geo. Stratton, Sr., going on his bonds.

The case came on again for trial at the December term of court. The new jury was constituted as follows: Sam. H. Cass, Henry T. Nooney, Henry Cobb, C. Breneman, Joseph Vosburg, Jas. B. Daw, Jas. D. Smith, Wm. Gamble, W. H. Beasley, Leslie Purden, John Swartzmiller and T. Whitmore. The prosecuting attorney was assisted by John C. Blanchard and G. H. Cagwin, of Ionia; T. W. Whitney for the defense alone. After a trial lasting three days, the jury, after about two hours deliberation, returned a verdict of murder in the second degree.

Judge Hart, in sentencing the prisoner to hard labor at Jackson prison for a period of five years, took occasion to deliver an impressive lecture to him, and incidentally "rossed" the elder Stratton severely for his helpful influence and example in bringing about the unenviable position in which his son now found himself.

This was probably the most important case ever tried in the Gratiot circuit up to that time.

### The Near-Murder of Garrett K. Cruson.

The crime described here, while not actually resulting in death, directly, is dealt with here because of its peculiarly murderous character, and because it missed being murder only by the narrowest margin.

The attempted robbery and near-murder of Garrett K. Cruson, treasurer of the Township of Lafayette, was one of the most dastardly crimes, short of actual murder, ever committed in the county. It occurred at the home of Mr. Cruson, two and a half miles south of Breckenridge, Wednesday, January 16, 1884. Mr. Cruson was serving his second term as township treasurer and was an honest, energetic and painstaking official, enjoying the confidence of his townsmen in a marked degree. At the season of the year referred to he was in the midst of his tax-collecting labors, and presumably, living some miles from any bank, would be likely to have a considerable sum of money in his possession. Such would be the reasoning and conclusion of anyone contemplating a robbery and knowing the circumstances.

At about 8 o'clock in the evening of the day mentioned—January 16, 1884—Mr. Cruson was sitting by the table in his house, surrounded by his family occupied in various ways, when a rap was heard at the door. Mrs. Cruson stepped to the door and on opening it was confronted by two revolvers in the hands of two masked men, who, stepping into the room ordered her to be quiet or she would be shot, at the same time ordering Mr. Cruson to throw up his hands and surrender. The latter comprehended the situation at once, but instead of surrendering he made a dash for the men, and, grappling with one of them succeeded after a sharp struggle in getting him to the floor. During the melee one of the robbers fired a shot which took effect in Cruson's shoulder, and at about that time the light was put out either by accident or design and the struggle continued in darkness.

In the meantime Mrs. Cruson had run out door and was vigorously ringing the farm bell to attract help from the neighbors. This, with the added fact that Cruson's two sons aged 14 and 11 respectively had joined in the struggle and were belaboring the villains with chairs as best they could in the darkness, seemed to discourage the robbers, and, gathering themselves together they beat a hasty retreat. Neighbors were soon on the scene, and messengers were dispatched for physicians and officers.

It was found that the robbers had come to the place with a horse and cutter. The ringing of the bell had frightened the horse which broke from its fastenings and ran away. Some of the neighbors, in coming to the scene, had met the runaway horse, and then had met the two men hastening away on foot, carrying some of the paraphernalia scattered from the cutter, such as robes, cushions, etc.

Subsequent developments showed that the robbers were two brothers named John M. and Elisha Warner, who had formerly resided in Lafayette, and previous to that had conducted a meat market at Ithaca. John seems to have been the moving spirit in the nefarious undertaking, the sequel showing that Elisha had been made a tool of by his more crafty and desperate brother.

Frustrated in their attempt at robbery the miscreants started toward Ithaca, some 13 miles distant. When they got within three miles of Ithaca they stopped at the residence of Wm. Ching, who is a distant relative, and, revealing to him the nature of their troubles, asked to be secreted. Mr. Ching kindly put them to bed in a garret, and then, like the honest man that he was and is, immediately dispatched a messenger to Sheriff Peet at Ithaca. The sheriff was soon on the spot with Deputy D. C. Johnson, and the men were secured without serious trouble, and lodged in the county jail.

The people of the entire county were greatly wrought up over this dastardly attempt to rob a public official, notwithstanding the attempt proved a failure. Mr. Cruson's townsmen were especially excited over the matter, their indignation being all the more intense on account of the serious wound

inflicted upon the victim. It is among the probabilities that had circumstances thrown the two scoundrels within their power before being gotten safely within the walls of the county jail, there might have been a double lynching. However, the speedy work of the officers precluded such a possibility; and though by many such a result might have been considered not a bit too severe, it was very fortunate, for the sake of law and order, and the good name of the county, that no such extreme action was taken, and that no record has to be made of such a lawless transaction.

The examination of the Warners was commenced before Justice Wm. L Phillips, of Ithaca, and adjourned from time to time to await the result of Mr. Cruson's injuries. At an adjourned session held on March 3rd, they concluded to waive further examination, and they were remanded to jail under $2,000 bonds, each, to await trial in the circuit court.

On the 5th day of June, 1884, they were brought into court, and, pleading guilty, were given their sentences by Judge Hart—John M. Warner getting a sentence of ten years and his brother, Elisha, a sentence of four years, both at the Jackson prison.

To return to the Cruson home—Drs. Watson, of Breckenridge and Wheeler, of St. Louis, responded to a call for their services, and attended the wounded man. Through their skill, largely, he recovered from his injuries in a measure though the effects of his wound probably shortened his life, for he died in September, 1887, less than four years after his desperate experience with the robbers.

It is a matter of interest to know that at the time of the crime Mr. Cruson had $700 in cash in a sachel sitting in the room where the attack was made; money belonging to the township and county, which he had collected as treasurer, and which he saved by desperate bravery, and nearly at the cost of his life.

The board of supervisors was not unmindful of the merits of Mr. Cruson's sacrifices, as is evidenced by the records of the board at its October session, 1884, and the January session of 1885. At the first mentioned session, Mr. Scudder, of Lafayette, offered a resolution providing for the payment to Mr. Cruson the sum of $309.25, being the amount paid out by him on account of his wounds, received when he saved $700 of public money and received wounds that crippled him for life. The resolution was referred to the committee on resolutions, which committee, through Supervisor Reid, of Arcada, reported favorably, and the report was adopted. Afterward the vote was reconsidered and the matter laid on the table. The board adjourned without taking further action, but at the session of January, 1885, the matter was taken up and the resolution was adopted, by the close vote of 8 to 7. Yeas—Russell, Meacham, Scudder, Pomeroy, Kirby, Reid, Holliday, Pitt. Nays—Hill, Marshall, Pepple, Sharpsteen, Stitt, Cowdrey, North.

Appreciative citizens throughout the county subscribed a fund of $249.95 and presented it to Mr. Cruson in June, 1884, to aid him in lifting a mortgage against his 40-acre farm. All of which went to show that the people sometimes recognize merit and self-sacrifice when plainly visible before their eyes, and are willing to reward it.

### An Adopted Murder Case.

This case of Jim Carr, though not originally a Gratiot County affair, became a noted case throughout Central Michigan, with Gratiot County as the center of activities, with her officers and people responsible for the administration of justice.

The Jim Carr murder trial interested the people of Gratiot County during the year 1885, and by grace of the state supreme court the interest was prolonged well along into the year 1887. It came to Gratiot County by adoption, Judge Hart, by change of venue sending it down from Clare County where it originated.

Jim Carr was the keeper of a disreputable "den" near Harrison, Clare county, with various and sundry bad, sporty females as part of the outfit. The place was named "Devil's Ranch", and it was, without doubt, a very appropriate name. Jim Carr was accused of a brutal and fiendish assault upon Frankie Osborne one of the girls connected with his place, injuring her so seriously that she died the next day, June 17, 1884.

His trial for the crime occurred in May, 1885, at Harrison, Judge Hart presiding. The prosecuting attorney of Clare County was assisted in the prosecution by J. Lee Potts, at that time a resident of that county, but now for many years a prominent attorney of Gratiot county, located at Ithaca. For some reason, good or bad, adequate or otherwise, the trial resulted in a disagreement of the jury, and Jim was let out on $4,000 bail.

A change of venue was granted and a new trial ordered, to take place in the circuit court at Ithaca. This trial commenced December 15, 1885, Judge Hart again presiding. Prosecutor T. W. Whitney was assisted by W. A. Burrett, prosecuting attorney of Clare County, and J. Lee Potts. The defense was conducted by C. Stuart Draper, of Saginaw, Geo. Gallup, of Clare, and Jas. K. Wright, of St. Louis.

The jury was constituted as follows: Judson Rosecrans and Geo. W. Rhodes, Ithaca; Daniel Kelly, Elba; C. E. Bonesteel and Wm. Gary, Wheeler; John Humphrey, North Star; Geo. Martin, Newark; H. N. Hayes, Pine River; V. P. Knight, North Shade; Job C. Wolford, Sumner; David C. Rounds, Lafayette; Jas. R. Errett, Seville.

The result of the trial, which lasted a week, was Carr's conviction of murder in the second degree, and his sentence to fifteen years in Jackson prison.

In February, 1887, the state supreme court granted Carr a new trial and he was brought back to Ithaca February 15th. On March 7, 1887, the case against him was nol-prossed, and he was immediately re-arrested, charged with firing the dwelling of Jas. Silkworth, in Franklin Township, Clare County, December 4, 1884. He waived examination and was bound over for trial in the Clare County circuit court. The trial came on in December, 1887, resulting in Carr's acquittal. And thus Jim Carr, reputed to be one of the bad men of the country, escaped from all the machinations of those who sought to punish him for his alleged—and probably justly alleged evil deeds.

A newspaper item of March, 1892, conveyed the news item that "Jim Carr, the notorious den keeper for many years in Clare County, and who was tried on a charge of murdering one of the inmates of his place several years ago, died in a hovel near Meredith this morning. He was at one time quite well off, but it is all gone, and he died unattended save by his wife, who had figured conspicuously in his career and in his trial, and remained faithful to him to the last."

So Jim Carr was at last beyond the reach of persecution and prosecution; free at last from his troubles; from his earthly troubles, at least.

### Peaceful St. Louis and a Shooting Tragedy.

The shooting of Adelbert Vliet at St. Louis, Sunday evening, May 16, 1886, caused more excitement there than had been experienced in the village for many a day. Excitement, not only on account of the heinousness of the crime itself but also for the unpleasant circumstances surrounding the incident. A synopsis of an account of the affair published at the time will give the most authentic version possible at this time; in fact it gives the only reliable version possible after a lapse of 27 years.

The account goes on to say: "A bloody tragedy occurred in St. Louis last Sunday evening, May 16th, in which Adelbert Vliet met a violent death by a pistol shot fired by Elnora Fetters. The victim was an old resident of the place and was aged about 25 years, married and boarding with his wife at the Indiana House, on Mill Street, north. He was what is called a rather hard citizen, an habitual hard drinker, and with the characteristics of the desperado developed in an unusual degree. Elnora Fetters, the daughter of Samuel Fetters, is a girl of only 15 years, residing with her parents on the west side of Main Street near the iron bridge over Pine River. The reputation of the family is unsavory, and the girl has long been considered depraved to a degree deplorable in one so young.

"As developed at the inquest it appears that at about seven o'clock p. m. of the 16th, young Vliet went to the Fetters residence and, being under the influence of liquor, was abusive to the family, threatening bodily injury, pulling the old man off from the bed by the hair, and swearing that he would kill the whole family. Mr. Fetters is an invalid soldier, and only lately returned home on a furlough from the Soldiers' Home in Grand Rapids. When the family remonstrated and resisted Vliet's violence, he picked up a chair and was about to strike Fetters, when Elnora jerked the chair out of his hands and immediately shot him. The ball—a 22 caliber—entered the head just forward of the left ear, and, penetrating the brain, death ensued at about three o'clock on the following morning—eight hours after the shooting.

"When the fatal shot was fired, Dr. Franks, who happened to be passing, and D. O. Cuff who lives two doors away, were called in by Mrs. Fetters, and a large crowd soon gathered. The wounded man was removed to his boarding house where he breathed his last at the hour stated.

"An inquest, conducted by Justice F. D. Weller, brought out the facts substantially as here given, the jury being composed of Dr. L. A. Proper, Hunter Harrison, J. L. Thedgar, L. A. Drury, A. S. McIntyre and C. Casebeer, the verdict being that the deceased 'came to his death by a gunshot fired from a revolver in the hands of Elnora Fetters.' A post mortem examination by Drs. Combs and Baldwin, settled the fact scientifically and formally, that death resulted from the wound. The jury failed to find, from the testimony, that the shooting was criminal; and not being fully satisfied that it was justifiable, they refused to give expression to any opinion on the question, in their verdict. In the absence of Prosecuting Attorney Jas. L. Clark, the inquest was conducted in behalf of the people by Attorney John J. McCarthy, Mr. Clark being present only at the closing up of the inquest.

"The Fetters girl was arrested soon after the shooting, by Under Sheriff Chas. W. Tann, on a warrant issued by Justice Jas. Paddock. The prosecuting attorney was undecided as to what course to pursue in the matter, inasmuch as all the available testimony seemed to largely justify the shooting, and, consequently, without some evidence of a rebutting character it would be a hopeless task from the start to try to convict. On

the other hand it was thought to be within the range of possibilities that the act was deliberate and unjustifiable and that the family were not such utter strangers to Vliet as they made it appear at the inquest.

"But Elnora was given the benefit of the doubt, and was discharged by order of the prosecuting attorney. On Thursday evening, May 20th, she was arrested, charged with being a bad character, and was lodged in jail at Ithaca."

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Following the thread of Elnora's case it is found that her examination as a bad character resulted in her discharge after several witnesses had been sworn, B. H. Scoville, of St. Louis, acting for the prosecuting attorney. Afterward, on the same day, she was arrested on a charge of murder, in shooting Adelbert Vleit, and was taken to the county jail.

When it came to the examination on the charge of murder, the case was adjourned, and then the charge was withdrawn and Elnora was once more arrested as a bad and undesirable citizen, on a warrant issued by Justice Giles T. Brown of Ithaca. At her trial she was found guilty and sentenced to the School for Girls at Adrian till 21, a period of nearly six years. This would seem to end the matter so far as the interests of this history are concerned; but there was a sequel to the matter, which, on account of its ludicrous features, is deemed worth rehearsing, the record of which, as told in a local publication, is as follows, under date of August 27, 1886:

"Elnora Fetters, who was sent to the Reform School at Adrian a few weeks ago, as a girl of bad character, seems to be of no use to that institution; but whether too good or too bad for that climate we have been unable to learn. At any rate, Sheriff K. P. Peet went after her last Tuesday and brought her back to her old quarters in the Ithaca jail. On the way he had to stop over night in Jackson, and the papers state that she there attempted suicide by closing her doors and windows and turning on the gas at full head. She was unconscious when found but was soon restored. Nora's case is a puzzle for the officers. By industry and luck she has succeeded in becoming the most noted woman in Gratiot County; and all from a very humble start and in the space of a few short months. We await the next move in this celebrated case."

The "next move" came about four weeks later and is recorded as follows: "Elnora Fetters, who has passed through vicissitudes various, many and unsavory within the past few months, the subject matter of which, together with the details, is familiar to our readers, has this week been released from the county jail on suspended sentence. And thus endeth one more chapter in her eventful career."

And thus endeth her eventful career so far as it has to do with this history.

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### Alma Had Its Ed. Palmer.

Alma has one murder to her credit, if such an expression is allowable. A murder most foul in some of its features, and in some of its details repulsive and brutal in the extreme; referring to the murder of Mrs. Eliza Palmer by her husband, Edwin R. Palmer, night of September 28, 1887. Who in late years has not heard of the "Palmer murder case," or of the "Palmer trial"? Doubtless the most exciting and most talked-of criminal case that Gratiot County has ever known. There is, however, one consideration that tends to mitigate the atrocity of the crime, and that is the fact

that a strong presumption existed and still exists that actual murder was not premeditated, but that a quarrel resulted in a personal struggle, during which, in his anger and excitement and with his superior strength, the man blundered into a murder that was not intended, the realization of which came too late. If "blundered" is not the best word that might be employed, it will at least do very well. It was the heathenish disposition of the body after he found that he had committed the terrible crime of killing his wife. **He buried her in one of the stalls in his horse stable,** and then went about his business as if nothing had happened. Choked her to death, half buried her under a few inches of earth and filth, and then went about manufacturing lies as to her having gone away on a visit. These, in brief, were some of the revolting and heartless circumstances that shocked and exasperated the people, not only of Alma, but of the entire county.

Edwin R. Palmer and his wife Eliza had lived in Alma ten or twelve years. He was described as a man addicted to drink, and was rather a worthless and dissipated character. The wife was mentioned as being an industrious and hard-working woman, supporting herself and husband by hard work as a sewing woman. He worked by spells in the capacity of a horse trainer or manager. They had no children, and though the evidence at the trial did not show a positive lack of congeniality, their relations evidently were not such as should exist between husband and wife. The last seen of Mrs. Palmer alive was on the evening of September 28, 1887, when those who had been sewing with her at her home left for their homes. When they returned next morning to resume their work, they were met by Palmer with the story that his wife had been suddenly called to visit a sick brother in Sanilac County, and had gone on an early train. He afterward told different stories to account for her absence, and these conflicting statements, together with the fact of his acting suspiciously, and having articles of clothing with blood stains on them washed at a neighbor's, aroused the suspicions of the neighbors that all was not right. The officers were notified of the suspicious indications, and when, in answer to letters of inquiry it was ascertained that Mrs. Palmer was not then, and had not been at the places and with the relatives as alleged by Palmer, there seemed to be no doubt that there had been foul play.

In the meantime Palmer had gone to the lumber woods near Clare, and the officers determined to make a thorough search of the Palmer residence and premises. On January 31st a searching party consisting of Sheriff P. D. Pettit, J. H. McGreanor, Geo. Willard and perhaps others, proceeded to investigate the Palmer premises, and, entering the barn, they found in one of the stalls that had no floor, indications that the ground had been disturbed. A little digging brought to view the top of a box, and in the box the body of the missing woman; the dead and decaying body of the poor woman, murdered and buried in a filthy stable.

A coroner's inquest was held, conducted by Justice Yerington, of Alma, acting as coroner. The jury was composed of the following named citizens of Alma: Bert Woodward, A. Pierce, F. D. Adams, C. L. Delavan, Hiram Utley and B. S. Webb. An autopsy by Drs. Suydam, Yerington and Downie revealed the fact that the throat had been injured by violence that had crushed the wind-pipe, and this, together with attendant circumstances that were fully brought to the attention of the jury, satisfied them that death was caused by strangulation, and that Edwin R. Palmer was the murderer. A verdict was therefore rendered accordingly.

Armed with a warrant, Sheriff Pettit found Palmer where he was at work in the lumber woods, north of Clare, and brought him to the county

jail. He acknowledged that he had buried his wife where she was found, but averred that he did not kill her, but that she poisoned herself and had left a letter addressed to him stating that she had killed herself, being tired of living with him as his wife without having been legally married to him, and requesting him to bury her secretly on the premises. All this was shown to be a fairy tale, the analysis of the stomach showing no trace of poison, and the letter was shown to be a forgery.

The case came on for trial July 5, 1888, before a jury consisting of Samuel Millspaugh, Jas. Quick, Martin Lewis, John H. Markman, L. Benton Longwell, Jas R. Daniels, Hamilton Allen, L. F. Moon, Seymour Koutz, Oscar A. Waldorff, Fred Warren, Chester Cratsenburg. Prosecutor B. H. Sawyer was assisted by Elisha McCall, of Ithaca. T. W. Whitney, of St. Louis, looked after the interests of the respondent, the trial lasting nearly a week. The prosecution proved its case so clearly and so nearly without the shadow of a doubt, that the defense concluded to not put in any testimony, Mr. Whitney contenting himself with a rigid and searching cross-examination of the witnesses for the prosecution. Besides the matters of evidence already mentioned, and the expert testimony of physicians, the people introduced evidence to show that the letter alleged to have been written by Mrs. Palmer was a forgery and probably written by Palmer himself.

The jury took about eight hours to consider the evidence and arrive at a verdict, which was, "Guilty of murder in the second degree." Judge Hart pronounced a sentence of twenty years at hard labor in Jackson prison.

It may not be deemed out of place to close this record with a quotation from a Gratiot County newspaper in its closing remarks describing the scene when the sentence was pronounced:

"He," (the prisoner) "stood stolidly, with perfect composure while the judge addressed him at some length, and when the solemn, impressive and just words were spoken, fixing the term, during which, to our mind, a man might perferably be dead, he manifested no feeling, but quietly turned and took his seat, while the vast audience which had watched the proceedings so intently and with almost breathless interest, quietly dispersed.

"The verdict and sentence give general satisfaction, but were it not for a feeling that by a bare possibility actual murder may not have been intended, a life sentence would be considered none too severe for the cruel and inhuman crime, supplemented as it was, and intensified by the barbarous desecration of the lifeless remains by wantonly and ruthlessly crowding them into a rude box, and consigning them to a resting place so degrading and repulsive."

### The Deplorable Becker Tragedy.

One of the worst tragedies ever enacted in the county was that of June 11, 1895, in which Mrs. Herman Becker, of St. Louis, was the principal actor, and her two children joint victims with her in the terrible denouement. Mrs. Becker, aged 35 years, daughter of Frederick Wolf, all well-known people of the village, shot and killed her children, Carl and Edith, aged four and five years, respectively, and then shot herself. She had been ill for some time and symptoms of insanity had been noticed. A letter to her husband, found after her death, bewailed the fate that compelled her to go and take the children with her. She seemed to think that she must take

them along to save them from a worse fate. The deed was committed in the cellar of their home. When they were missed and a search was instituted, the oldest son, Richard, first discovered the dead bodies.

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### Sam. Brownell Shoots Albert Worden.

Albert Worden, of Alma, was shot and instantly killed by Sam. Brownell, at the Brownell home, near the Cheesman bridge, St. Louis, June 6, 1898. Worden, who was intoxicated, stopped at Brownell's at 8 o'clock in the evening and got into an altercation in front of the house with Mrs. Brownell, in the course of which she got a shot gun from the house and threatened to shoot. But Worden being too drunk and reckless to take heed, tried to get possession of the gun. In the melee Sam. appeared on the scene, when Mrs. Brownell handed him the gun and told him to shoot Worden. Sam. proceeded at once, very obediently, to carry out the order, shooting Worden dead on the spot. This is the substance of the story told at the trial, and it was well enough backed up by other evidence to satisfy the jury that "not guilty" was about what they ought to say, and they said it. The verdict gave general satisfaction to the people, as they had for a long time been anxious to know if there might not be at least one disreputable thing that Sam. and his wife were not guilty of. The jury, which thus relieved the anxieties of the public was constituted as follows: Edward Bohen, North Shade; Wm. Brown, Lafayette; Frank Church, Arcada; James B. Crook, Simon S. Munson, Washington; Thomas Croton, Thomas Lang, Sumner; Geo. Easlick, Wheeler; Wm. Gamble, Emerson; Ernest Webster, North Star; Jas. Wood, New Haven; Christian Young, Newark.

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### Fiendish Murder in Wheeler Township.

The brutal murder of a young lad named Dell Lloyd, aged 16, by another lad named Byron Parrish, aged 19, two miles east of Wheeler Village, October 10, 1898, was one of the worst of its kind. Lloyd, whose home was in Tuscola County, had been visiting his uncle, north of St. Louis, and was on his way to Saginaw with his bicycle. When about two miles east of Wheeler he met Parrish with a gun, and a discussion or controversy followed which ended in Parrish shooting Lloyd dead and taking his wheel. When the dead body was found next morning, some detective work of piecing together facts and circumstances resulted in finding Parrish with the wheel and he was arrested. When he came to trial he pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and got a 25-year sentence. There seemed to have been no motive for the murder, only the desire to get possession of the wheel. Was there ever anything meaner or more beastly cruel!

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### A Killing at Wheeler.

Brainard D. Nelson, a man about 55 years of age, shot and killed his wife at the Village of Wheeler, December 12, 1899. They had been living a contentious and quarrelsome life for some time owing to the woman's alleged infidelity with a single man named David Dodder. The following particulars were given at the time of the tragedy:

"The parties formerly lived in northern Lafayette, but for a few months past have resided in Wheeler Village. Nelson sold his place in Lafayette and from time to time gave his wife a portion of the proceeds till he had given her more than $200. He had also given her half of his pension money, his pension being $24 a month. All this on her promise to give up her relations with Dodder and return to her lawful husband. It was arranged that they would go to St. Louis and, with their two small children, begin over again, and with that understanding they were to take the train on that morning for St. Louis. When the time came, however, the wife refused to go, saying that she would not give Dodder up. It seems that she had squandered all the money that her husband had given her on the scoundrel Dodder. When Nelson realized how he had been deceived, a sense of the enormity of his wrongs overpowered his reason, and in desperation he drew a revolver which he carried, (the trio all carried revolvers) and shot her, killing her instantly. Nelson has the sympathy of those knowing the facts and circumstances of the recent past."

Brainard Nelson was arrested, arraigned, and on his plea of not guilty was bound over to the circuit court. At the April, 1900, session T. W. Whitney was appointed to defend him, and the case was continued. Archie McCall was prosecuting attorney. At a session of court in June, Nelson changed his plea of not guilty to a plea of guilty, and was sentenced to a term of two years in the state's prison at Jackson.

Brainard Nelson did not serve his full term, being pardoned by Gov. Bliss in August, 1901.

It may not be deemed out of place to state in this connection that David Dodder was tried for his wrong-doing and was given a sentence of two years and nine months in the Ionia prison.

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### The Killing of Isaac Gabrion, Jr.

This was one of those cases that can never be cleared up satisfactorily without a confession. True, a confession was made, but it was a confession which claimed self-defense as the cause of the killing. It had to go at that, though it required an inordinate amount of credulity, on the part of the people to harmonize the circumstances with that theory. The jury seemed to harmonize the circumstances—the facts and the theory of self-defense—returning a verdict of "not guilty". So from the law's standpoint that was the end of the matter.

Isaac Gabrion, Jr., and Jas. W. Eisenlord resided in New Haven Township, not far from the line between that township and Sumner. They both worked in the saw mill of Jay Isham, over in Sumner Township, seven miles west and two miles north of Ithaca. The two men were brothers-in-law, having married sisters. Gabrion was 24 years of age and Eisenlord was 33.

On Monday morning, March 26, 1900, they went to the mill to work. The two were not on the best of terms, having previously had quarrels of a more or less serious nature. They were alone in the mill and an altercation ensued in which uncomplimentary epithets were exchanged. Eisenlord, who was the only one left to tell the story, in narrating what occurred, said that Gabrion, in a rage, came at him with a scoop shovel drawn up ready for a blow, and that he—Eisenlord—stepped back eight or ten feet, picked up a piece of edging and as Gabrion advanced, struck him behind the left ear, from the effects of which he died within a few minutes. Eisenlord then left the mill and summoned help. A coroner's jury was

impanneled by Justice Clark, and, after examining the surroundings and hearing Eisenlord's narration of the circumstances, and Dr. McLachlan's statement of his findings, returned a verdict that deceased came to his death from blows inflicted by Jas. W. Eisenlord. The latter gave himself up and was taken to Ithaca and lodged in jail.

The case was tried in May, 1900, in the Gratiot circuit court, Judge Geo. P. Stone presiding. The prosecution was conducted by Prosecutor Archie McCall, assisted by John T. Mathews. Attorneys W. A. Leet and J. B. Kirby defended the prisoner. The jury was composed as follows: C. A. Franks, Fulton; E. R. Van Duzer, Ithaca; Lee Houck, Seville; Jas. E. Ladd, Washington; John Schanck, Lafayette; L. K. Munson, Jefferson Kinsel, Newark; Frank Shaver, Walter Whiton, W. A. Seamon, Emerson; H. A. Bancroft, Arcada; J. H. Mellinger, North Star.

The trial lasted practically one entire week, a large number of witnesses being sworn on each side. The trial attracted a great deal of attention. The jury was out only about an hour and a half and returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, committed in self-defense.

There is no desire to try the case over again nor to create a prejudice at this late day. The fact, however, that an autopsy conducted by Drs. Carpenter and Scott, showed that the victim received numerous blows upon the head, several of which were upon the back of the head, and the further fact that Eisenlord did not receive so much as a scratch, led many people to the inevitable conclusion that the self-defense theory had not been any too clearly proven. The truth of history, and justice to the living and the dead, require at least these few words of mild criticism. At the time of the trial and the rendering of the verdict, expressions of indignation were numerous and forcible.

Isaac Gabrion, the young man who was killed, was the son of Isaac Gabrion, an old resident of the county and a man highly esteemed. He now resides in Washington Township.

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### That Terrible Quimby Murder.

Three miles north of Ithaca, on the east side of the highway and well located on a pleasant site, stands a small frame dwelling. It marks the spot where once stood the log farm house of Theron Finney, a pioneer of Emerson Township who resided there with his family for many years. An excellent family, the elders of which are long since dead, the others scattered in various places. "The old Finney place" or "Finneyville" were the names by which it was designated in early times, and even up to the spring of 1901. In May of that spring the place took a new name, since which time it has been referred to as, "The Quimby place" or "The place where the Quimby murder occurred." It was a brutal and heartless crime—the deliberate murder of two little children by a stony-hearted and unnatural mother. "Atrocious" is the word that fairly designates the crime with all its distinguishing features considered. "Pitiful," when viewed or contemplated from the view-point of the innocent victims.

A comprehensive account of the crime, and of the trial and conviction of the criminals, published by an Ithaca newspaper at the time, is drawn from to some extent in what follows; and no credit will be given, for no one will be entitled to kick but the writer of these lines and he will be slow about kicking himself. In the issue of the paper referred to, under date of May 24, 1901, the following appeared:

"Happily it is only once in a while that we are called upon to chronicle deeds of blood-shed or of cold-blooded murder occurring in Gratiot County; but, with long periods intervening, a case now and then occurs that makes one shudder to contemplate, and causes a person to shrink from the task of investigating the details and giving them to the public. Such a case has claimed the attention of the people since Monday morning last—May 20, 1901—when it became known that two innocent and unoffending children had been cruelly murdered by their mother, to satisfy a desire to free them from the prospects of a life of trouble and misery and disappointment.

"Elmer Quimby, his wife Sarah and her two children by a former marriage—Beatrice Lillian, aged nine in April and Eli James, who would have been eight in September—resided three miles north of Ithaca on what is known as the old Finney place. Mrs. Quimby had been the widow of Frank Bailey, who died August 23, 1899, leaving the wife and the two children mentioned. On the ninth of October following, Mrs. Bailey was married to Elmer Quimby, a young man from Montcalm County, who had been in the employ of Mr. Bailey on the farm; Justice Beasley, of this village, performing the ceremony.

"The couple had not lived harmoniously, quarrels being frequent over the ownership of the 40 acres constituting the farm, and over the management and performance of the work upon it. The deed had originally been in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, but before the death of the former he deeded his interest to Mrs. Bailey, but there was a mortgage on the farm for nearly all it was worth. As a result of the quarrels mentioned, Quimby, on various occasions, went away, and the couple have kept a variable matrimonial partnership for some time past. Previous to a week ago last Sunday, Quimby had been absent six weeks. At that time he returned and the quarreling was renewed, he going to the house of his brother George, who resides five miles north and one half mile east of Ithaca.

"On Saturday last the parties had another conference, and it was agreed that Quimby should come over Sunday and the matter of the ownership of the land should be settled. Mrs. Quimby, a few months ago, had deeded the farm to her mother, Mrs. Odell, of Eureka, Clinton County, subject to the mortgage mentioned. However, Mrs. Odell was to deed the farm to Quimby on certain conditions, and all was to be harmoniously settled, and Quimby was going to work. But he failed to show up on Sunday, so Mrs. Quimby, toward evening, hitched up the horse and taking the two children, drove over to the brother's and had a talk with her husband, which, however, resulted in nothing but wrangling. So she returned home with the children.

"In the meantime, on Saturday last, Mrs. Quimby, in company with her mother, paid a visit to Ithaca, and while there purchased 25 cents' worth of morphine, with the intent, she asserts, of putting an end to her existence if the negotiations for an amicable settlement of their troubles should fail; and, with no thought at the time, of destroying the children. However, when she returned from the unsatisfactory interview with her husband Sunday night, she conceived the idea that she would share the morphine with the children, and that they would all die together.

"The story is too horrible to write in all its details. Instead of going ahead with her original plan of killing herself and thus probably ridding the world of a creature worse than useless, and ending what seemed to be a hopeless struggle, she deliberately went about the diabolical job of murdering the helpless children. A devil incarnate could not have gone about it with more fiendish deliberation. In the silent hours of the night, at about 11 o'clock, she says, she awakened the sleeping children and compelled them

to swallow capsules containing the deadly drug, morphine. Then she took a big dose herself; but in her anxiety to make a sure job of it, she overdid it, the result being that vomiting was produced before the poison had time to act fatally. Then she sat down and wrote of what she had done, and why she did it, after which she found some crape and placed it on the outside of the front door, so that her mother, who was staying all night at a neighbor's, might see it and thus be prepared for the scene of death within, when she returned Monday morning.

"Then the children, who had been dozing under the influence of the deadly narcotic, aroused up and the mother talked to them, washed them, put on to them such clothing as she wished them to be found dead in, and then—forced the children to take more poison. It had then got to be along about four o'clock in the morning, and then taking another big dose herself, she waited for death.

"But instead of death, it was Quimby that came along. Seeing the crape on the door he aroused the neighbors, and, on entering the house, found all three on the verge of death. The inhuman mother, unfortunately, was revived; but the children, poor victims of a cruel fate, were beyond relief. Quimby came to Ithaca for a doctor and Dr. F. McCandless hastened to the scene. The children were still alive when he arrived, but no earthly power could save them and they expired in a short time, and within a few minutes of each other. The mother, under the treatment of the neighbors, aided by the doctor after he arrived, was brought through alive.

"Mrs. Quimby confesses the entire crime, and only regrets that she failed to die with the children. The foregoing is condensed from Mrs. Quimby's statement, made, in the main, to the writer personally.

"Mrs. Quimby was taken into custody on a warrant issued by Justice P. D. Pettit, sworn out by Deputy Sheriff Oakes, and is in jail. On the strength of statements by neighbors, to the effect that Quimby was seen about the premises during the night or early morning, a warrant was sworn out by Sheriff Parrish, and he was arrested and placed in jail. He denies all connection with the crime.

"The murdered children were brought to Ithaca and placed in J. B. Scotts undertaking rooms. Laid out in their caskets they presented a pitiful sight, one never to be forgotten; a sight that few could look upon without tears. Nearly a thousand people looked upon the remains Tuesday afternoon and evening. On Wednesday they were taken by Undertaker Scott to Eureka, where the mother's relatives reside, and after a largely-attended funeral they were buried in the Eureka cemetery."

On Tuesday, May 21st, Justice Pettit, acting as coroner, impanneled a jury composed of the following named citizens of Ithaca: Jerry Davis, J. H. Seaver, Gaylord Helms, Henry Read, Wm. B. Scattergood and W. H. Beasley. After a partial examination, the inquest was adjourned to May 28, when it was concluded, with the verdict, "That the aforesaid Beatrice Bailey and James Bailey, late of the Township of Emerson, on the 20th day of May, 1901, came to their deaths by morphine administered for the purpose of causing and producing the deaths of the aforesaid Beatrice and James Bailey, by one Sarah Quimby, of the said Township of Emerson. And we, the aforesaid jurors, do further say that according to the evidence, one Elmer Quimby, husband of the aforesaid Sarah Quimby, was an accessory to the aforesaid crime of murder, in causing the deaths of Beatrice Bailey and James Bailey."

The latter part of the verdict, that part implicating Elmer Bailey in the crime was based on evidence that the couple quarreled on account of

the children, and that they might have got along amicably if they had been out of the way. This theory was also strengthened by the testimony of one witness who swore, at the inquest, that he saw Quimby come out of the house during the night of the murder.

Prosecuting Attorney Julius B. Kirby acted for the people. Mrs. Quimby was represented by Searl & Kress—Kelly S. Searl and Jas. B. Kress. Later Elmer Quimby employed Sawyer & Pettit—Byron H. Sawyer and Roy E. Pettit.

Mrs. Quimby was arraigned before Justice Pettit May 29th, waived examination, was bound over to the circuit court and was remanded to jail. Elmer Quimby's examination took place a few days later, and he, too, was bound over.

Early in June, after having had time to think it over, Mrs. Quimby made a new confession; a confession differing widely from her former one. She confessed that it wasn't her at all who did the poisoning, but it was Quimby who was the guilty party; it was he that made the children swallow the poison capsules, and he gave them water to rinse them down. She said she had been driven to make this last truthful confession by Quimby's indifference as manifested by his singing songs, in her hearing in the jail, and thus showing his light-heartedness. The new confession went for what it seemed to be worth, as each individual looked at it, but there were few who considered it of much value.

Elmer Quimby's trial came on first, and it was concluded November 21, 1901; Judge Geo. P. Stone presiding. The jury was composed as follows: J. M. Davidson, Chas. K. Tuttle, Wm. Tracy, Alfred Wheeler, Wm. Hook, Waldo Curtis, Wyman Stanton, Theo. Bloss, Peter Britton, Rollin A. Wood, Grant Mouser, Wallace P. Birmingham. Nearly 25 witnesses were sworn on each side. Prosecuting Attorney J. B. Kirby was assisted by T. W. Whitney. B. H. Sawyer and Roy E. Pettit conducted the defense. The evidence was, to a large extent, circumstantial, and was more or less contradictory, the jury having a difficult problem to solve, but they rendered a verdict that seemed to meet the minds of a majority of the people—murder in the first degree. There were some, however, who felt that a verdict of manslaughter would have been nearer the correct thing. The jury took six hours to decide the matter.

Elmer Quimby was given a life sentence at Jackson.

Sarah Quimby's trial was taken up immediately following the verdict in her husband's case. After the rejection of a large number of jurymen on examination, the following were accepted: Alfred Youngs, Bert Mellinger, Henry Cook, Thomas Frice, Lewis Marr, Frank Fox, Peter Shank, W. W. Wyman, Geo. Meyer, Edgar Andrews, Ray Turner, Jas. D. Smith. Prosecutor Kirby was assisted by T. W. Whitney; John T. Mathews and W. A. Leet appearing for the defense. The theory of insanity was the main dependence of the defense, and evidence was introduced to show that insanity had prevailed more or less in the family; but the theory and evidence were evidently given but little weight by the jury, for on Saturday, November 30th, after being out but a trifle over an hour, the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. She was immediately sentenced by Judge Stone to state's prison for life, and Sheriff Parrish took her to Jackson the same afternoon.

In closing this account of the most cruel, most heartless, most unnatural crime ever committed in Gratiot County, there are but two more incidents that seem worthy of mention; one for each of the condemned couple. That

referring to Elmer Quimby, possibly is first in importance; at least it comes first in order. His life sentence proved a short one. He died with typhoid fever, Friday, February 14, 1902, after an incarceration of only about three months. Before he died he was questioned by the chaplain as to the crime of which he and his wife were convicted—the poisoning of the wife's two children. He made no statement as to his own guilt or innocence, but in regard to Mrs. Quimby he said, "Yes, my wife is guilty; there is no mistake about that." Making no further statement, he died soon afterward. Mrs. Quimby, serving a life sentence in the Detroit House of Correction was told, on Saturday, of her husband's death. She was greatly moved, bursting into tears. She asked if he confessed before he died, and when told that he did not, "her cries of despair could be heard echoing through the corridors as she went back to her cell"; quoting from the published account in a Detroit paper.

The closing incident in the case of Mrs. Quimby, referred to above, came by way of a dispatch from Lansing dated November 3, 1903, reading like this: "The supreme court has affirmed the conviction of Mrs. Sarah Quimby, late of Gratiot County, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of her children, to whom she administered morphine." Her case had been taken to the supreme court, by her attorneys, on alleged errors in the rulings of the lower court during the trial, the admission of certain testimony, and on the charge of the judge to the jury. This confirmation of the regularity of all the proceedings was heartily approved by the people of the county, the sentiment being universal that in accordance with the merits of the case, and the spirit of the law as it exists, justice and only justice had been meted out, and that there should be no interference on mere technical grounds.

### A Busy and Bloody Night.

One of the saddest and most incomprehensible tragedies ever enacted in Gratiot County was that which occurred in the Village of Ithaca, Saturday evening, August 9, 1902, the result of which was the violent deaths of Samuel E. Sower and his wife Virginia Sower, by the insane act of the former. Circumstances connected with the terrible deed furnished conclusive evidence that the husband was insane; and corroborative evidence brought out at the inquest showed that his mind had been breaking down for some time previously, though such an ending had not been dreamed of by anyone.

Samuel E. Sower was the son of the late Dr. Elias Sower, who settled in North Star Township in 1854—one of the first settlers in the county and one of the best known, most respected, and most useful of Gratiot's pioneers. Samuel was born in 1845, had spent most of his life as a resident of Gratiot County, and was justly reckoned as one of the county's first-class citizens. He married a Kentucky lady—Miss Virginia Snead—who was held in high esteem. Mr. Sower owned farms and lived at different times in Lafayette, Newark and Fulton Townships. Mr. and Mrs. Sower were the parents of two children—Ellis M. and Nannie. The latter had met a premature and violent death in November, 1889, by the accidental discharge of a gun.

Mr. Sower had recently bought the Jas. S. Lance farm in Fulton, and his son resided there , while he and his wife had taken up their residence in the southeastern part of Ithaca Village. There the double tragedy was enacted, which ushered the two victims into the great unknown.

Only the main facts will be given here; facts revealed on the morning following the tragedy and at the inquest. A. S. Loomis, a neighbor living eight or ten rods from the residence of Mr. Sower, went out of his kitchen door on Sunday morning to get a pail of water. On the steps or platform he found a large pocketbook covered by a board. Naturally surprised at such a circumstance, he was further surprised to find upon examination that the pocketbook belonged to his neighbor, Mr. Sower. He started to go to the Sower residence to deliver the pocketbook to its owner, but seeing Mr. Sower's barn door open and presuming that he was inside attending to his morning chores, he turned in and was confronted by the sight of Mr. Sower hanging by a rope about his neck, dead, cold and stiff. He immediately notified the officers and the neighbors.

Proceeding to the house, and expecting to find further gruesome work, the fears of the party were fully realized by finding the dead body of Mrs. Sower in her blood-soaked bed. The great ax-wound in the head of the poor woman had evidently been received as she slept, death doubtless being instantaneous, as there were no evidences of even a movement after the death-blow was received.

Mr. Sower seems to have gone deliberately about the preparations for his work of destruction. The placing of the pocketbook seems to have been for the purpose of notifying neighbors as early Sunday morning as possible.

An open letter was found on the dining room table, written by Mr. Sower to his son Ellis, and though not dated, was evidently written shortly before the dreadful work was begun. The letter was as follows:

"Dear Ellis—This could not be any other way. I knew weeks ago that it must be insanity or suicide for me, and I decided that insanity would be worse for all of us than suicide; but I could not possibly bring myself to feel that it would be otherwise than cowardly to leave mamma to the awful suffering and death that either insanity or suicide would mean, for her, so I decided it would be best for all—especially for her—to take her with me.

"What can I say to you that will in any way help you to bear this awful blow! Nothing! Nor am I able to advise you as to your future course, excepting to say, consult Mr. Grace and Charlie Webster and Ben; and if possible do not let this crush you. This depression has been something most awful, and I am utterly powerless to control myself, but am tossed like a babe by the billows of unutterable despondency. I am getting very weak, and cannot possibly conceal my condition longer from mamma. In fact I think she suspects it now. I can write no more. No one is to blame for this. My wife has been an affectionate, pure and self-sacrificing woman, and my son a most dutiful and helpful boy. I could not explain so I would be understood, what has led up to this, but Nannie's death hastened it, and if I should write page upon page I would not be understood.

"Good bye, my dearest boy, and poor Millie, and sweet baby; and brothers and sisters, good bye. I have no fear whatever for the future, as I have done the very best I could, with the light and strength I have had through life. No just God would punish me for what I could not help. Good bye, all."

Such was the letter. Strange, pitiful, hopeless explanation and last words. Those mentioned as suitable for Ellis to counsel with were Wallace Grace, of Fulton, Ben Sweatland, Ellis' cousin, of North Star, and Chas. E. Webster, of Ithaca.

A jury composed of J. B. Zarbaugh, Edward Drayer, Fred L. Howard, Gaylord Helms, T. O. Daniels and Peter P. Lennox was impanneled by Justice W. H. Beasley acting as coroner, and an inquest was held. Only

three witnesses were sworn—A. S. Loomis, Dr. W. D. Scott and Prosecutor J. B. Kirby. Dr. Scott testified that about three weeks previously Mr. Sower came to his office and expressed a great deal of anxiety about himself, saying that he was afraid he might go insane, and that the feeling was growing upon him; that he had spells of despondency ever since his little girl died. He felt that his mind was growing weaker, and he was afraid he would lose it entirely. "He did not talk suicide to me," said the doctor, "only he said he did not know what might happen if he kept growing worse. There is no question that he was insane. He seemed to realize his condition."

A. S. Loomis said that he had noticed during the previous two months that Mr. Sower had acted and talked a little queerly at times but he had not paid much attention to it. Ellis Sower, the son, said that he could not remember back to the time when his father did not have occasional spells of despondency.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts as herein stated—that the double-tragedy was enacted while Mr. Sower was in such a demented and insane condition as to not be responsible for his acts.

The double funeral was held at the M. E. Church, Wednesday, August 13th, and was attended by a great concourse of people, not half of whom could get into the church. They came from Lafayette, North Star, Emerson, Newark, Fulton—from far and near to pay their last respects to the unfortunates whom they had known and had esteemed highly. Rev. M. M. Sherrick conducted the services; burial in Brady Cemetery, North Star Township.

### Davison-Peet—Murder-Suicide.

A double murder and suicide—a triple butchery—which shocked the people of Gratiot County beyond the power of expression, occurred in Hamilton Township, March 7, 1910, in the home of Julius Peet, three miles east of Sickels. Mr. Peet, his two young daughters, Lillian and Lena, and their brother Glen, constituted the family, and living with them was William Davison, his wife, who was another daughter of Mr. Peet, and their little child, nine months old. It was said that the parties had frequent disagreements, many quarrels occurring between them; that Mr. Peet was of a quiet, peaceable nature, but that Davison was inclined to be quarrelsome. In the afternoon of the day mentioned the three children of Mr. Peet were away at a neighbor's, and for that reason there is no positive knowledge as to what led up to the tragedy on that afternoon, which was only discovered when the two young daughters came home along about four o'clock. The dead bodies of Davison and his wife and Mr. Peet was the sight with which they were confronted when they entered the house.

The girls ran screaming from the house, giving the alarm to the neighbors who hastened to the scene. Mr. Peet was found sitting dead in his chair, holding a newspaper in his hands, and with the back of his head crushed in as by a blow with the but of a gun or some other equally heavy weapon. On the floor by the cook stove in a pool of blood lay Mrs. Davison, quite dead. A horrible gash in her throat, taken in connection with the blood on the floor, formed conclusive evidence of the cause and manner of her death. Further investigation revealed the dead body of Davison lying on the floor in the adjoining bedroom with his head blown to pieces by the discharge of a gun which lay by his side. The stock of the gun was broken, which circumstance seemed to point to the conclusion that Davison had used the butt of the gun to murder his father-in-law, Mr. Peet.

In its cradle sleeping peacefully was the babe, unharmed. The presumption was that a quarrel had taken place and that Davison, in a rage, had seized the gun and struck his father-in-law a death-blow; then, with a razor and after a terrific struggle had cut his wife's throat. The appearance of the rooms indicated a fierce and prolonged struggle. After this fiendish double murder Davison evidently concluded that the best thing he could do for himself and for the world would be to end his own life. So taking the gun and placing the muzzle in his mouth, he kicked the trigger and ushered himself into eternity; the last act in the frightful drama, so far as this earth is concerned. But what a lamentable ending of the lives of three intelligent human beings, all of one family and all happening within the space of only a few minutes. And what a heart-breaking memory for those left behind.

### Another Crime at Sumner Village.

The next great crime occurring in Gratiot County that can be recorded in the pages of this volume was the killing of Clarence Gager by Wilbert Clow, at Sumner Village, Friday evening, July 22, 1910.

Both were single men, in the employ of Arthur Fowler, proprietor of the Sumner flouring mill and of a farm close by. Gager, the victim, was about 25 years old, while Clow is about 40. The killing had no witnesses excepting the participants, but the chain of circumstances was so strong and conclusive that there was really no other tenable theory but that which made Clow the perpetrator of the terrible deed. The two entered the barn of their employer on the evening mentioned, and while there a quarrel ensued, in the course of which Clow, with a pocket knife, slashed a deep gash in one of Gager's legs, on the inside, above the knee, severing the femoral artery, from which wound Gager bled to death within a few minutes.

A coroner's inquest conducted by Coroner Ludwig found that death was caused by a stab wound made by a knife in the hands of Bert Clow; the jury being composed of Chas. L. Booth, Henry O. Lang, H. C. Ferris, Wm. H. Pelton, Seymour Arris, R. M. Forquer.

Clow's examination resulted in his being bound over for trial, but he was admitted to bail which was readily furnished. The trial came on at the February term of court, 1911. The people were represented by ex-Prosecuting Attorney John M. Everden, who, as prosecutor, appeared for the people at the inquest and examination, and also in the preparation of the case. He was assisted by Prosecuting Attorney Chas. H. Goggin. The defense was handled by Geo. P. Stone and John C. Watson, of Ithaca. The jury was made up of the following named gentlemen: Lucius Beach, Frank E. David, Oscar Mills, Edgar Ware, John L. Richard, Erle Lewis, Geo. Weaver, M. S. Davidson, Wm. Shaver, Jacob Weidner, H. M. Boots, Lewis Vance.

The trial was ably conducted, and attracted a great deal of interest and attention. There was no defense that appealed to the jury with sufficient force to overcome the very strong circumstantial case of the prosecution, and the jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter, after considering the matter about two hours.

Judge Searl sentenced Clow to the Ionia prison for not less than seven years nor more than fifteen years, with a recommendation that it be ten years.

The case was more than usually distressing in some of its features, in that the families of both parties are highly respectable people, and not at

all entitled to the sorrow and disgrace that was thus thrust upon them. As in a large share of the crimes of this sort, strong drink was largely responsible for this unfortunate case.

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### Tabor Murder and Suicide—North Shade.

North Shade Township was the scene of a murder and suicide on the morning of Friday, March 24, 1911. John Tabor, an old resident of the township, and aged about 55, slew his wife by stabbing her to death with a large pocket-knife, after which he swallowed a large dose of carbolic acid which finished his earthly career within a very short time.

Mrs. Tabor, whose maiden name was Edith Straub, and whose people reside at Hubbardston, was aged about 31, and was Tabor's second wife. They had no children excepting an adopted daughter, Gladys, aged 13 years. The couple had not lived happily for several years, Tabor being jealous of his wife, though according to the belief of neighbors and acquaintances he had no adequate cause for any suspicions. Tabor had been in Florida during the winter, looking after some business interests, he having invested in some real estate there. Mrs. Tabor and the little girl had been in Ann Arbor for some time, where the daughter was being treated for deafness. They had all returned to North Shade recently, and were preparing to resume housekeeping, having moved their household goods into a house on the Valois Todd farm a little distance west of Brice, and about five miles southwest from Middleton. The night previous to the tragedy had been spent at the home of Albert Thompson, a neighbor, where they had been caring for a sick friend, Andrew Goodell. Friday morning the couple went to their new home, to arrange the household goods, the little girl following an hour or so later, when she was horrified to find the dead bodies of her parents on the floor in a pool of blood. She at once gave the alarm and neighbors hastened to the scene. It was found that the poor woman had been cruelly slain with a large pocket-knife which lay near the bodies, a terrible wound in her side telling the story of her death. Tabor was dead from the effects of a large dose of carbolic acid.

The immediate cause of the double crime can only be conjectured. There was no witness to tell of a quarrel, a desperate struggle, or the details of the final ending. The ghastly results were there, and it was left to the imagination to fill in the sad and sickening story. His jealousy, however, was generally well known, and the fact that quarrels had been frequent and serious, furnished sufficient foundation for the presumption that their quarrels had been renewed on that morning, and that in a fit of insane rage and jealousy he had committed the double crime.

Sheriff Rowell and Coroner Ludwig were immediately notified. An inquest was held, which found in accordance with the facts as here stated, substantially, the personnel of the jury being as follows: C. H. Sherman, Wm. Brownell, Geo. Springer, Harry Thompson, Wilson Springer and E. Fockler.

North Shade Township has been peculiarly free from serious crimes, nothing approaching this in seriousness ever having been enacted within its borders; and it is earnestly hoped that the time may be far distant when another of like nature occurs.

# SOME CONTRIBUTIONS AND SELECTIONS.

## Interesting—Instructive—Mirth-Provoking.

During the course of the years that this volume has been in process of construction, a large number of facts and fancies have accumulated on the side, so to speak; matters not strictly necessary for the purposes of this history, but having a certain bearing and flavor that commend them to consideration in this connection. Some of the best of them have been selected and given place, in promiscuous order, in these closing pages, as follows:

### One Night's Experiences—T. J. Tann.

Scores of readers will remember that old pioneer and prominent citizen of Seville—Thomas J. Tann. He was an intelligent, jovial, kind-hearted and impulsive man, and had harmless characteristics peculiar to himself. He was born in London, England, April 27, 1813; came to Gratiot and settled on section 35, Seville Township. He died November 13, 1901, aged over 88 years. He had some literary talent, and a keen sense of humor.

Here is a contribution to pioneer history written by Mr. Tann in 1884 and published in his favorite county paper:

"I think I can lay claim to some experience in the pioneer business, for out of the heart of that thriving and aristocratic City of Rochester, N. Y., I wended my way west and dumped myself down into the Gratiot woods, retched up and halted, for weal or woe in the Township of Seville, in 1854, and purchased a quarter section of land of Uncle Sam for 50 cents an acre. At the present time it is worth—well, all it will bring. When I bought it, it was a howling wilderness, the howl of the wolf, the hoot of the owl and the scream of the wild-cat were sounds that grated harshly on the ear of a newcomer. At that time fried oysters, quail on toast and ice cream were never thought of nor dreamed of or even imagined, in this country. My first experience worth mentioning, or worth remembering, was when I wanted to go quite a distance in the course of my business, and had to cross Pine River. I chopped down a tree to fall across the stream, but it only reached about three-quarters of the way across; and the result was, I swam, waded and wallowed the remaining distance, and then had to travel about six miles after that ducking. The result was that my clothes were frozen stiff before I had gone two miles, and I felt more like a walking lumber yard than a human being. I can truly say that I yearned and hankered for a tight room, a hot fire, or a spot just under the equator. This experience took place on the 23rd of November, if my memory serves me right.

"Now you fellows that are lolling at your ease in your comfortable carpeted counting-rooms and in your magnificent hotels of almost oriental splendor, and in the editor's sanctum with his easy, cushioned chair, with your bicycles and tricycles, your velocipedes and carriages, your palace cars with that iron monster jerking you through space at the rate of 40 or 50 miles an hour; think for a moment of the old pioneer, the basis, foundation

and forerunner of all those grand achievements; how they left their old haunts, their friends, relatives, society, amusements, churches, schools, their all, to fight the bear, the wolf and the wild-cat, to hack away, piecemeal, the interminable forest and make the land to bud and blossom as the rose.

"I had a neighbor call on me one day to go on a fishing trip to a sheet of water called Mud Lake, about three miles from our cabin. We started with rifle, spear and torch-jack, and got there a little before sunset. Now my chum—a heavy man who kicked the beam at 240 pounds—was an excellent shot with the rifle, while I was not an expert with a gun. So he says to me, 'You split the kindling wood for fishing, and I will take the rifle and go to an old slashing about half a mile from here and the chances are that in less than twenty minutes I will have a deer. After you hear the crack of the gun, if you hear me holler, you come as quick as you can.' Sure enough, in about twenty minutes I heard the ring of the rifle, followed in less than half a minute by a smothered yell of 'help, help!' I want you to know that I lit out with a hop, skip and jump, leaving my hat and coat. I could feel by hair raise and my blood tingle. I crossed a creek, just how I never knew; and again came that smothered cry for help. I bit my finger to quiet my nerves. I felt like a hungry, caged tiger just broke loose. My old friend John I felt was in mortal danger and I must save him. He was my doctor when I was sick, and my steward when I lacked meat. So I rushed like mad through the 'deep, tangled wildwood', when that smothered cry again smote upon my ear, apparently from the ground, and I shouted, 'I'm coming, brace up, I'm coming!'

"I reached the spot at last, and this is what I saw: He had shot a large buck at long range, through the jaw; the deer fell and he had rushed to the scene of action just in time to grasp the deer by the hind legs. My hunter was flat on his face when I arrived and the deer had dragged him five or six rods. He had hung on and was nearly exhausted. 'The gun, the gun,' said John, 'shoot him in the head!' I hunted for the gun, but it was empty. 'Cut his throat,' said John, but the knife was lost. I found the powder by the merest accident, and poured some loose powder into the barrel, how much I never knew, grabbed some leaves and rammed them down. The bullets were loose in his vest pocket and all gone but one, which I dropped in and shoved some more leaves down after it. I fished out a cap from his vest pocket and in doing so got kicked more than a rod, I should guess, though I didn't stop to measure it. I then stepped to the front with my loaded gun and sighted for his head, (the deer's head), but before I could shoot, the deer gave a tremendous bound and over I went. 'Shoot quick,' shouted John, but when a man has got 150 pounds of live deer and 240 pounds of humanity on top of him, he don't feel much like shooting. I felt more like a funeral with myself as the central figure, than I did like a sportsman. But I got to the front once more, and during a short lull in the kicking I planted a bullet between the deer's eyes and sent him to grass for good.

"The report of that gun John said he would never forget. It frightened him, but it almost killed me. John's first words were, 'Oh, Lord!' and I shouted 'Victory'! We presented a rueful appearance. His arms were beaten black and blue, his shins ditto, his nose skinned, his mouth, nose and ears filled with dirt; and his clothes wouldn't have brought a nickel if put up for sale. 'You're a pretty good shot' said John, 'at short range, say 30 inches.'

"We then started for our fishing grounds, and got safely to the creek spoken of. We crossed over on a moss-covered log; that is, John did, but

I didn't. I slipped and went head foremost into that slough of despond. I strangled, floundered and crawled out; and I am ashamed to say that I used some very improper language. John had got safely over with the deer, but there I was, looking as if I had been diving into a vat of soft soap and had then dropped through a chimney flue. We finally got to the lake, arranged our toilets and dressed our deer. Then we put the carcass into the boat and paddled to the middle of the lake. It was dark now, and the wolves were holding high carnival, and what we lacked in wolves we made up in wild-cats.

"In the middle of the lake was a long pole stuck firmly down into the soft mud, and to this we hung our deer, by his hind legs which were tied with basswood bark. We were afraid to risk our boat on our fishing operations with so heavy a load. We rowed back to shore, lit our torch and went fishing, capturing about 40 pounds. Then we paddled for our deer on the pole, and found it—gone. Our fastenings had slipped, and the whole business had slid down the pole. This seemed to be the last straw, and my pioneer friend, in despair, said, 'Let's go ashore and go home.' 'Not much,' said I, 'I'm going for that deer.' 'Why, my little man,' says John, 'are you crazy? There is over 20 feet of solid water on top of that buck, and soft mud that was never measured. Now for God's sake don't make a lunatic of yourself, and drown both of us in the operation, for I can't swin no more than a crow-bar.' I believed I could hold by breath long enough to shin down that pole and back again. It was worth trying anyway, so I grasped the pole and stepped overboard. Down I went, probably clear to the bottom, but I didn't wait to make sure of that. I got my deer and worked my way to the surface with it. Probably I wasn't gone more than half a minute, but I was glad to get a mouthful of air when I got to it.

"But we hadn't yet reached the end of our troubles. The climax came when I reached the surface. John grabbed me, and in his hurry and excitement lost his balance, and overboard he went head foremost, upsetting the boat in the operation. He sank like a soaked log, but rose again and fortunately grasped the boat and pulled it right side up. There he was on one side and the deer and myself on the other, which made a pretty even thing of it. I told him to hold his grip and I would kick the whole business to land. I had the deer in one hand and the boat in the other and then swam frog fashion.

"We reached the shore in safety, built a rousing fire, dried ourselves and had some roast venison; roasted on a stick. At daylight we started for home where we arrived safely and feeling that we had had a night of it.

"And thus ended our day's experience as a pioneer; somewhat out of the ordinary, to be sure, but the details truthfully given in all particulars."

## Some Humorous Records.

In the early days, when settlers were few and far between, and those few settlers consisting of individuals of the poorer classes to a great extent, it was not strange that some who were elected to official positions were more or less deficient in educational attainments. Quite a number of the old records bear witness to this fact. Now it is not the purpose of this section to belittle anybody, living or dead, by holding them or their efforts up to ridicule. Far be it from the intention. But a few matters and passages of a ludicrous nature are well calculated to attract the attention of the

searcher for facts, and well calculated to not only call out a smile but to even produce a broad grin; or, according to one's sense of humor, to actually force an audible chuckle. The author's of the passages alluded to have left something more than ordinarily interesting; perhaps those funny passages are the only portions of their writings worth mentioning; and they are only worth quoting because they are funny. Why then is it not showing them a distinct honor by quoting them, and thus preserving a record of their earnest, though humorous, efforts. There are some passages that contain facetious or ludicrous features mixed in throughout this volume; passages that will need no guide-board or label to disclose their location or identity, to the reader.

This short department may also contain some amusing things besides those shown by the official records. Might as well have quite a hearty laugh while about it.

Dividing the county into quarters, in the imagination, there is a township in the northeast section that has furnished a number of matters calculated to amuse. Here is one of them: At a meeting of the township board, along in the early '70s, there was a tie vote on some question, the vote standing two in favor and two against. This created an able-bodied dilemma. The problem was solved, however, by the chairman casting another vote and thus breaking the tie. Doubtless this solution didn't meet with unanimous approval, for the record goes on to say that, "to give the board time to get c o u n s i l of the prosecuting attorney, to see if the chairman could vote when his vote makes a tie, and if so, could he cast another vote to break the tie." The record is silent as to what the prosecutor wrote in answer to the inquiry, but on motion it was ordered that the prosecutor's letter be kept on file in the clerk's office. The motion to so keep the letter, the record says, "was carried u n a m u l o u s." At the same meeting a certain citizen was appointed to act as chairman of the board in place of the supervisor, "who was sick at home with the m e a s u l l s.

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At a township meeting held in one of the townships in the southeast quarter of the county, it was thought best to raise money to pay up all outstanding indebtedness, and take a new start. So this is the way the action taken appeared on the records:

"Motioned that we rais a Sufficient Sum To pay out Standard In deptiness to pay road orders. Motion carried."

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February 17, 1864, the township board of Bethany appointed Welcome Phineas Partello supervisor in place of Alfred Clark, who had resigned. Sam. Skinner was township clerk and this is the way he recorded the fact of Phineas taking the oath of office: "W. P. Partello appeared before March 2 and was sworn to perform the duties of the office of supervisor to the best of his k n o w l e d g e. S. C. Skinner." Of course, "to the best of his knowledge" might mean much or little, according to circumstances, but as Phineas lasted only to the April election following, his knowledge wasn't put to a very severe test.

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Down in the southwest quarter of Gratiot County, in one of the best townships of that section, road jobs were let in one of the early years, and every contractor was bound by an iron-clad contract which forced him to perform the job "in a good and respectfully manner, and good workmanship." But there were mighty few "respectfully" roads in those days, notwithstanding the binding nature of the contracts.

Along in the '70s there was a township clerk over in Wheeler Township who was so put to it for time that he condensed his official record of an election to a degree quite unusual. He put down the number of votes received by two candidates for an office and then bunched all the rest as "scattering." In one case, at least, his record reads, "Scattering 17." How is that for accuracy in giving details of an election!

Writing out an oath of office seemed to "stick" a clerk worse than almost anything else. In one case the clerk wrote out the oaths for the township officers to subscribe their names to, and they ran like this: "I do sollumnly swear that I will perform the duties," (so and so) "to the best of my ability so help y o u God." Another had it, "I do s o l e m n y swear," etc.

In the pioneer days they used to mark their live stock, each man with his own peculiar mark, so as to distinguish them from their neighbors'. For they all had to run together in the woods. The practice was applied mainly to sheep, but hogs and cattle in some cases were served in like manner. The mark was executed on the ears of the animals, and the mark or marks adopted were recorded in the township clerk's books. Thus it is recorded that "Richard W. Bunce's hogs, sheep and cattle were given a mark by which they might be known at home or astray, said mark being described as follows:

"A s t r a i t e slit in the right, and an under bit out of the left ear."

Martin Sutfin's mark: "Square crop off the left ear and a s t r a i t slit in the right ear."

Hason Sinclair's mark was "a round hole in each ear and a square crop from the right ear."

Isaac Wooley, "a swallow-tail out of the end of each ear."

Dewey Smith, "a hole in the right ear and a crop off the left ear."

Hiram G. Briggs, "a swallow-tail in right ear."

Joseph Wright, "a half c r o o p out of the top side of the right ear.

F. M. Street, "a hole cut in the W r i g h t ear."

Charley Webster, Fulton, had his sheep marked, the clerk said, with a w h o l e in the right ear.

Another had a "slit in the left ear and a h a p p a n y (half-penny) in the underside of the right ear."

Still another mark consisted of "two scallops out of the w r i g h t ear, one at the end and one near the head."

In a township in the southeast quarter of the county a special election was held June 28, 1856 to elect a township treasurer. Eleven votes were cast and a good man was elected, no doubt. Then the record goes on to say, "It was motioned and voted that the township shall rais $150. for the purpose of highways and b r i d e s." Possibly bridges was meant.

### A Midnight Episode.

A copy of the Ashley Post issued in August, 1895, tells of an exciting adventure in Ashley in which a prominent business man and his wife were the chief actors. It was told for a fact, and as it has never been denied, that anybody has heard of, it seems to be no sin to repeat it here. The Post tells it in this way:

"C. E. Chittenden was aroused the other evening about midnight by his better half, and told that someone was in the wood-shed stealing chickens Mr. Chittenden has a large flock of chickens, (three) and immediately flew out of bed in his mother hubbard and went to see what was wrong. When Mrs. C. arrived in fairy array on the scene of action, Charlie was hanging on to one end of a chicken to the tune of 'Johnny get your gun' and a monster mink was pulling at the other end. White wings flew into the house and brought out the gun and when it went off the mink lost its head, the chicken was dead, and the midnight heroes went back to bed."

### Possibly It Saved Their Lives.

A tender-hearted old pioneer who went through the period of destitution in Gratiot County, told the writer the circumstances concerning what he considered the most pathetic of his experiences in that unhappy time. He had a pair of oxen that he was trying to winter through, and with so little fodder that in spite of rigid economy he ran out some time before grass started in the spring. Everything had been exhausted that the oxen could eat, even the straw in the last straw bed had been devoured. One day after the cattle had lived some time on browse and were about famished he bethought him of an old straw hat that he had hoped would do him for another year. He concluded, however, that he could go bareheaded rather than take the risk of losing his steers. So he searched out the old relic, and, by a dextrous twist and hard pull divided it into two equal parts, giving a half to each steer. The morsels were eaten ravenously, and then one of the steers, turning to the old man with pathetic expectancy plainly depicted in his countenance, asked—in ox language, of course, but perfectly understood by the old man—"Aint-there-any-mo-o-o-o-ore?" A truthful and candid old man, and tender hearted, as before remarked—a resident of North Star Township, by the way. "My friend," said the old man, "I never had anything make me feel so bad in all my born days." The oxen pulled through with a tight squeeze, he said, but just how much credit was due to the old hat he could not positively say; but he never regretted making the sacrifice.

### A Fortunate, Unfortunate Excursion.

Along in the '70s it became the fashion in the summer season to run excursions from this county by rail to Saginaw, then by boat down the Saginaw River and across Saginaw Bay to Point Lookout. It made a very pleasant and popular trip. Families and groups took along the necessary "grub" for the occasion and a real picnic holiday was enjoyed.

The purpose of this item is to record the main facts connected with the last of those excursions—the one of August 22, 1879. The writer didn't happen to be a member of the great crowd that took that trip, but there are scores yet in Gratiot County to whom only a mere hint is necessary to recall the experiences of the day. The morning was an ideal one for the start, but later the winds arose and by the time the excursion boat was well on its way down the river, loaded to its full capacity with its joyous pleasure-seekers, the winds increased to a gale, and the trip across the bay was made in the face of a hurricane and the gravest danger of shipwreck. The excursionists were in a panic, but as there was no way of escape they

had to take it. And practically the entire company became desperately seasick, with the consequent results to be imagined but not to be described in print. Arriving at the Point, it became apparent that a landing would be impossible, so there was no alternative but to turn about and try to get back. And the greatest danger came in the attempt to turn about, exposing the broadside of the boat to the raging gale. It was accomplished, however, seemingly by a miracle, and the return trip was made without disaster, but with the sickest and worst demoralized party of pleasure-seekers that ever escaped a worse fate. And it is no laughing matter, though it is told by eye-witnesses and fellow-sufferers, to this day, that the mixed and miscellaneous manifestations of terror, grief, rage and despair were "simply fierce." The fearful situation no doubt had its ludicrous aspect; but that more than 500 of Gratiot's best, or at least average citizens, young, old and middle-aged escaped the perils of a wholesale and deadly catastrophe was, and is, cause for heartfelt thankfulness. But statistics are lacking as to how many of those unfortunate, though fortunate excursionists forgot the good resolutions so sincerely made in their desperation, as soon as they were safely on dry land; and it was said that there were many very meritorious and appropriate promises made on that occasion.

### First Telephone—First Bicycle.

The veteran telegrapher, Albert H. Lowry, who pitched his tent in St. Louis in 1875 and who is still the boss manipulator of the electric key in St. Louis, has the distinction of having installed the first telephone line ever put up in Gratiot County. This happened in 1878. "Al" roomed in the Kress block, the predecessor of the present Drury block, and had his telegraph office up in the Newton section of town, diagonally across a block and two streets, and then a little further on. In some way "Al" got a hint that a line drawn taut would carry the human voice to a considerable distance. So he procured a ball of strong twine and stretched it from his office in the Newton block to his room in the Kress block. For how nice it would be to be able to sit in his office and talk to his room-mate, Almer E. Crossman, and vice versa. The cord was strung high in the air and was anchored at convenient though irregular distances and by a zig-zag course to roofs, trees, posts or whatever came handy. A tin can at either end of the line constituted the combination transmitter and receiver. The string was let into the room by way of a convenient hole, the end was slipped through a small hole in the bottom of the can, and a knot tied in the end of the string prevented it from pulling out. And there you had the open end of the can to talk into or to listen to; and the bottom of the can was the vibrator. There was no "central" to bother with. To get your man, who, of course, had to be in the room at the other end, you gave the can a few sharp raps with your jack-knife, and there you were. And as long as the line was kept taut, conversation could be "swapped" quite readily.

Afterward others put up short lines from house to business place, and the scheme was of considerable convenience to many. Wire was substituted for string and that was an important change. Then some outside genius annexed a little electricity to the mechanism, and the practical telephone was here, and here to stay.

"Al" also belonged to the first bicycle club ever organized in the county; and probably he owned the first bicycle ever brought into the county; one

of those big-wheel affairs with a little insignificant trailer behind. The club mentioned was formed in February, 1884, and was composed of A. H. Lowry, A. A. Andrus, G. A. Johnston, J. Archie Weller and E. L. Dodge. The present style of bicycle didn't make its appearance till nearly ten years later; and then for many years everybody had a wheel and belonged to a club.

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### Moonlight Hunting Story.

Here's an "airly day" hunting story told by John L. Ringle, now living a retired life in the little Village of Sickels, but for more than 40 years a farmer on section 17, Hamilton. I give it mainly in his own words so that if anybody questions it, or any part of it, they will know who to jump on to about it. I have all I want to do to defend my own stories.

Mr. Ringle says, "It was in the fall of 1864. My uncle, John Muffly, and cousin, Jacob Muffly, came up to our house one bright moonlight night in October to go coon hunting. We started out about nine o'clock in the evening, taking two dogs and a westerly course from our place. One dog was a hound and the other a little shaggy fellow. My counsin had his gun with him. We had gone only about 80 rods when the dogs treed a wildcat. He stopped about 30 feet up, and my cousin fired at him, just grazing his hide and causing him to jump from the tree. Away went cat and dogs, and pretty soon we heard a faint barking from 'Shaggy', apparently about a mile away. But the distance was only a few rods, for we soon found that the wildcat and the little dog were in a hollow log, holding an interview; which accounted for the faint and distant sound of Shaggy's voice. We chopped a hole at the proper place in the log, and shot Mr. Cat as he lay in the hollow.

"Going on westward about 80 rods the dogs put another wildcat up a tree—a large, dead oak. The cat lay in the forks of the tree, and we could see his eyes shine. A lucky shot took him between those shining eyes, and finished cat number two. We then resumed our westerly course, crossing the line between Hamilton and North Star Townships, then after a while turning southward and crossing the road running east from North Star Village, only the village was not yet on the map. About half a mile further on the dogs treed a coon up a large oak stub about four feet in diameter. Quite an undertaking to chop down a tree of that size, but it came down at last and we caught a very fine, large coon.

"Then taking a southeasterly direction we crossed the line again into Hamilton. By this time the moon had got pretty low, so Uncle took part of the game and started for home. Cousin and I went on east quite a distance, when all at once Shaggy set up such a terrible barking, and making such a fuss we thought he had encountered a porcupine. Running to where the commotion was going on we found that we had a bear in a standing hollow tree that had an opening near its roots. 'B-r-r-r woof woof' said the bear as he expostulated with the dogs. I confess that I was somewhat afraid, as I did not know what a bear might do when he got excited. The moon had now gone down and as we could not get at the bear with the gun we concluded to light a fire to see to get some chunks to stop up the hole in the tree and then get our bear at our leisure. But when the fire blazed up and the bear caught sight of it out he came and away he went, with the dogs after him, while we stood thinking what fools we were not to have found some chunks without starting a fire. Then all of a sudden,

before we fairly got our wits about us, out came another bear running right by us and away into the darkness. Then we thought we were bigger fools than ever.

"Then we went home, and thus ended our moonlight night's adventures in the wilds of Gratiot 45 years ago. There is nothing left but tradition, of wildcats, raccoons or bears in Gratiot County, excepting occasionally a true story of experiences, such as the one I have related. I could tell more of them, all equally true, but this will be sufficient."

### Woman Lost in the Woods.

H. T. Barnaby tells of an exciting incident occurring in August, 1854. It was a case of a woman lost and found. David Hawkins lived on section 36, of Newark, and J. T. Smith lived on section 30 of North Star, the farm afterward owned by C. Levering. Mr. Hawkins' mother, aged 60, was a member of the Hawkins family. One day in August she went across the woods, diagonally, to visit the Smith family. Toward night she started for home, but on the way she fell in with two fawns at play. She watched them for sometime and incidentally followed them for quite a distance. When she started to resume her homeward way she discovered that she had lost her bearings and her path, and was herself lost in the depths of an unfamiliar forest.

In the meantime the Hawkins family, presuming the old lady was safe at Mr. Smith's, were not concerned about her until it began to get dark, when, as she did not return, steps were taken to ascertain the reason. Finding that she had left Smith's in good time and in proper order, it was realized that the old lady was lost in the great woods. An all-night search failed to locate her. The next day was Sunday, and all the people for miles around were aroused, and joined in the search.

Mr. Barnaby tells how he armed himself with a cow-bell and ranged the woods back and forth ringing the bell, while the rest of the people spread out on either side of him, spending the entire day in the search, and without success. The hunt was kept up until Monday noon, when word was brought that the woman was safe at Arnold Payne's on section 31 of Fulton, where she had arrived at about dark Sunday night. While lost she had traveled about 20 miles in about 30 hours, without food or drink, a good share of the time surrounded by darkness, and all the time wandering as best she could through brush and over logs and all manner of obstacles. She had finally struck the Old Pine River trail, and following it came out at Mr. Payne's. The old lady lived to see the woods she had traversed, transformed into fertile fields, and to blossom as the rose.

### When Wolves Were Numerous.

The few really "old settlers" who are left will be pleased with the following wolf story told by Louis J. Marvin, son of the late Dr. Chas. W. Marvin, of Newark Township. It will doubtless remind them of some of their own experiences in the days when civilization was young in Gratiot County. Louis says:

"There were in the days of long ago—in the '50s—many wolves in Gratiot. The big swamp west of Ithaca but a mile, and a mile wide in places and six or seven miles long, was a favorite retreat for them during the day. After night had set in they would venture from their hiding places in

bands and go forth in quest of food. One autumn more than 50 years ago, Robert Reed, one of Gratiot's early settlers, now dead, started on foot to St. Louis to get some flour. He was then boarding with Russell Burgess in Arcada Township, three and one-half miles northwest of 'The Center', as Ithaca was then called. He was obliged to take the 'Old Indian Trail' running southwest from The Center to Maple Rapids, that being the nearest point at which he could cross Maple River.

"It was a crisp, frosty morning and the day was just breaking when Mr. Reed arrived at a place where the course of the trail lay between the big swamp on the west and a smaller swamp close at hand on the east, containing perhaps 50 acres. Soon after he had passed the oak stub where the trail from The Center joined the branch to 'Elyton' (Alma), and 'Pine River' (now St. Louis),—the point in question being located on what later became the Dr. Marvin farm—and was walking quietly and briskly along, his ear detected a slight sound a few rods ahead and to the left. In a moment Mr. Reed saw a large wolf come out of the small swamp, cross the trail and trot on toward the big swamp. Then another wolf came up out of the little swamp and trotted along in the wake of the first. Others followed until Mr. Reed had counted 29 of them. Although Mr. Reed was quite near and in plain sight, they paid no attention to him whatever."

No one can say that this incident lacks interest on account of a scarcity of wolves. Half of that number—not exactly half, but about half—would have been a lot of wolves in one drove. However, the fact that the number was given at 29 and not an even 30, adds plausibility to the correctness of the count—and the correctness of the story. And besides, Mr. Reed was an old soldier who gallantly fought the battles of his country; and no one would suspect an old soldier of exaggerating a story. And Lewis himself would be equally unlikely to exaggerate a matter of that kind. Certainly not when it is only a question of a few wolves, more or less. So the number stands at 29.

The "big swamp" is now rapidly assuming the characteristics of a civilized portion of the county, and you could hardly find swamp enough on its entire area to long harbor a single wolf; much less a herd of 29.

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### No Laughing Matter For Her.

When William P. Cowdrey came to Gratiot, an event that occurred in the fall of 1857, he had all his earthly possessions including his family, in one wagon, and that drawn by a yoke of oxen. They were three weeks making the journey. In places he had to cut his road through the woods, and the streams that he could not ford he had to bridge. One water course that was quite wide and about knee deep furnished a little extra excitement. The family was afraid to ride across, so Mr. Cowdrey first drove the team across and then proceeded to carry the family over one by one. After carrying the children over safely he gathered up his wife and started in. At about the middle of the stream the humor of the situation got the start of his nerve and he dropped his burden in mid-stream. The story as told by Mrs. J. L. Mouser, of North Star, who was one of the children, fails to give the exact words in which Mrs. Cowdrey expressed herself, but it is not difficult to imagine about how she felt. The youngest member of that family load was she who is now Mrs. W. S. Tracey, of Newark. The mother walked and carried her in her arms for many a weary mile on that journey.

Another incident of that memorable trip might easily have proved a tragedy. During a high wind a forked basswood tree blew over just in time to catch the wagon. Luckily no one was injured, but Mr. Cowdrey and son Inman, who were riding on the front of the wagon, found themselves sitting between the forks of the tree, and the wagon was badly damaged.

When they reached their new home in Newark they had just one dollar in money. But grit and hard work carried them through and they finally conquered all the adverse conditions and secured to themselves a good home, thus enabling them to pass their declining years in comparative ease and comfort.

### He Shot a Red Skin.

In the fall of 1854, says H. T. Barnaby, an incident occurred which, for the time, caused some little excitement and considerable merriment. Indians were plentiful, and they paid frequent visits to the cabins of the settlers. Some of the new settlers were exceedingly afraid of them. Among these was a Mr. Criner, who had bought a piece of land upon which he was "keeping bach." One day when returning from a trip to a neighbor's five miles away, he discovered, when nearing his cabin, a dark object in the brush which he took for a bear. Raising his gun—they always carried their guns—he fired, and the yell that went up from that supposed bear, proved beyond question that he had shot an Indian; and to prove it still more surely, up jumped three of the festive red skins. Criner's first impulse was to run, but not being fleet of foot he concluded to make a virtue of necessity and confront the emergency in another way. So he ventured up, and offering signs of friendship was soon made aware that he had quite seriously wounded one of his red brethren. The Indian had been sitting in such a way that the bullet had broken his wrist and had then passed through the fleshy part of his leg. The affair was amicably settled by Mr. Criner taking care of the wounded man until he was able to travel to his home in Irishtown, giving him his rifle and a small sum of money, and paying his Indian doctor something for his services. But while he remained a resident of the county Mr. Criner never heard the last of his thrilling bear hunt.

### Hired to Look Wise.

Many readers of this volume will well remember Dr. Gideon S. Case, for many years a medical practitioner at St. Louis, migrating to Pasadena, California, in 1892. If I get the idea straight in my mind he is taking life easy in that celebrated town, said to be the original Garden of Eden. And before I forget it I hasten to say that I hope that the phrase, "taking life easy," may not be construed as carrying any objectionable meaning or insinuation, for it is understood that the doctor has retired from active practice.

"Gid" Case was a successful and popular physician while a resident here. He also liked a joke, so he sends along a little incident of his early life in Gratiot; while he was preparing himself, in a sawmill, for the life-work he was to take up later on:

"While I do not claim to be a pioneer of Gratiot County, yet I was an early settler in Hamilton Township. During the summer of 1868 I worked

for Case & Turner, inspecting lumber in their mill, of which E. Hurd was foreman, Chauncey Thompson head sawyer, and Mrs. Thompson cook for the sixteen men who worked there. On Sundays we used to walk out to Mead's—five miles, for recreation and to obtain fresh milk, that being the nearest house to the saw mill. Those were times to be remembered, for we lived on the common rations of the lumberman's camp and worked twelve hours a day; yet we were contented, and supposed we were doing well.

"The summer before, I worked in a saw mill in St. Charles, and while they were sawing bill stuff and hemlock, I had nothing else to do, so I put in my time in the engine house and thus learned something about an engine. So when D. L. Case was told that his engine was 'out of line', he ordered me one morning to take the men and line up the engine. Now I did not know what that meant, never having heard of an engine being out of line. But I went right about it, determined to do as I was ordered and line 'er up. I selected A. Goodhall and his son, who I knew had run a saw mill, and we went to work. They knew what was necessary, and lined up the engine in fine shape, making it run much better; and I got the credit, Case giving me five dollars extra for my day's work; which was good pay for not exposing my ignorance.

"I was like many lawyers and politicians, to say nothing of doctors—I looked wise and said nothing. That same combination has served me many times since, while in the active work of my profession, and at other times."

Dr. Case did not locate permanently in Gratiot till 1876, settling at St. Louis in that year. He is a veteran of the Civil War and was at one time State Medical Director of the G. A. R., Department of Michigan. Since his residence in California he has served a term in the state legislature; which, of course, need not necessarily be set down against him.

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### Bears and Catamounts.

"Cage" Wood, of Forest Hill, reveals a few items from his early day experiences. He says: "Referring to pioneer days, I will say that I never was much of a lover of hunting; so my experiences and escapades along that line are not numerous nor excessively exciting. Still I was concerned in two or three adventures that had a tendency to impress themselves upon my memory. One day while on my way to Sunday school, I met a very large bear. Going back home—and it is needless to say that I hurried some—I got dogs and a gun and ran the bear to Dr. Fordyce's. The doctor shot at him, but failed to stop him. Mr. Bear then met another man who had no gun, but who yelled and took on so that the bear turned and took his back track, coming back within four rods of the doctor, but as he had no load in his gun he had to let him go on, with best wishes. The bear came within about eight rods of me, with two dogs after him. I fired but missed, and Bruin went on his way as if nothing had happened.

"I had a little fun at one time with what the boys called a catamount or lynx. I well remember the expression of his countenance, and also his size. He was as large as a large dog. I came out of the woods on the line between section two and eleven, Pine River, there being no road; only the underbrush was cut so one could drive through. The catamount ran up a large pine tree, and I ran to the tree to keep him from coming down again. But when I got within a rod or two of the tree the big

fellow came backing down, and giving me a fierce look and showing me his teeth, bounded away. Running north about half a mile, he encountered some men and dogs, and he was overpowered and killed.

"One year bears were very numerous. I saw six in one bunch; and deer, also, were plentiful. My last experience in deer hunting was located southwest of Farwell. I was then using a double-barreled gun made mainly by W. R. Doxey, of St. Louis, well remembered by old settlers as one of the most expert and ingenious blacksmiths in the country. With buckshot I dropped a deer at 22 rods distance, by actual step-measure.

"I was always pretty lucky in my hunting. I estimate that I have killed about one-half of the deer I have shot at.

"Our amusements in those days were different from what they are now. House and barn raisings and logging bees constituted a large portion of the exciting episodes in those days. I attended 60 of them in one year. But that was an exceptionally good year for amusements of that kind.

"As I said at the outset, my early experiences were not 'overly' important, but what I have told will show to the present generation of youngsters that there was something doing in the pioneer days in Gratiot."

### The Church-Seaver Siege.

In July, 1880, Ithaca had an episode as it might be called, which, for a small one, created some excitement and a whole lot of amusement. After more than thirty years have elapsed old settlers that are left are moved to laughter when they recall the incident. "Nate" Church and "Jo." Seaver were the principals in the affair and they both enjoy telling its details, though it must be confessed that their stories are not strictly identical in all particulars, notwithstanding the fact that both are men of the strictest veracity —generally speaking, of course.

It was all about the removal of the Church, Bills & Co.'s bank building from the corner now occupied by the Jeffrey block. The Church building (now used as a laundry, Pine River Street, south) was erected on that corner under a lease from the Jeffrey estate, J. H. Seaver, manager. It was, and is, a good corner, and it was decided that the Jeffrey estate could do no better to advance its interests than to erect a fine block there, in which to house, among other things, the new Steel, Turck & Co.'s bank, recently started, and in which Mr. Seaver was more or less interested. Whether or not the rival bank interests had anything to do with the differences of opinion relative to vacating the site by one bank to make room for another bank, is a matter on which each and every individual is entitled to his own guess.

It was the variation in the interpretation of the terms of the lease that precipitated the unpleasantness, Church claiming that he was entitled to a year's notice, while Seaver was sure that he was to have possession on demand, or pretty nearly so. To start things, Seaver, with a big group of hands with teams, proceeded to the work of excavating for the basement of the block. A big, cavernous hole was excavated at the rear and side of the little building, and underneath it as far as it could safely be done. Then, in order to finish up the basement pit, Seaver's idea was to jack up the building and move it, together with its contents—that is to say, bank, bankers, vaults, deposits, resources, liabilities, surplus, dividends, good will; also stockholders and directors if they happened to be in the building, all bodily into the street. His plans, however, were not to be carried out

just according to schedule as he had arranged it, for when he and a crew of men assembled sometime during the night of July 24th to consummate the moving act, they found that Church's army was there ahead of them and Seaver's forces were driven away at the point of revolvers and other dangerous weapons. They tried it again next day—Sunday—and got so far along as to be under the building, a lot of them, and were actually engaged in putting the moving appliances in place, regardless of the warnings of Church's men who were in the building. But when a revolver in the hands of Oscar Bills exploded and the bullet went crashing through the floor uncomfortably close to the heads of some of the besiegers, the latter withdrew, leaving a promise to return and finish the job. And they did return the following night, but no further aggressive demonstrations were attempted, possibly for the reason that they were met by Sheriff Geo. L. Patch, Under Sheriff Alfred A. Wood, Justices Wm. L. Phillips and Jas. W. Howd and other conservators of the peace who gently but firmly gave both armies to understand that the war was over. Negotiations followed, and along in the following month the building was moved to new quarters and peace was restored.

It was a spirited contest while it lasted, and it engaged the lively interest of the entire town. The few survivors who took an active part in the exciting though humorous episode speak of it as one of the most interesting of Ithaca's many interesting happenings. And the two principal actors—Church and Seaver—are ever ready to give their individual versions of the affair, and to indulge in a good laugh at the recollection of its ludicrous phases.

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### Some Bear Statistics.

All accounts go to show that bears were quite plentiful in Gratiot County along in the years when people were much scarcer than they are now. In an ancient periodical publication it is mentioned that one Henry A. Smith, of Clinton County, killed a bear in the edge of Gratiot County in 1848. Possibly this was the first one killed by a white man within the borders of the county. Mr. Smith was a resident of St. Johns after that town was founded.

Mention is made in the press of several being killed as late as the fall of 1874—three in Arcada, one in Washington. That same fall several wild cats were shot—one in Arcada, one in Seville, one in Sumner, and another in Newark. March 2, 1875, Truman Shaver, a well-known resident, killed a bear in Emerson Township. In November, 1877, David and Daniel Kostenbader and Edwin Bennett killed a bear in Emerson that would have taken the premium at a bear show in any county. After being dressed it weighed 494 pounds. The hide weighed 52 pounds.

Wm. Parrish, of Wheeler Township, had an encounter with a cub and its mother in September, 1878, and as he was armed only with a club, he might have been worsted had not help come just in time. Mr. Parrish was a pioneer, father of ex-Sheriff John H. Parrish. In May, 1879, a large lynx was shot in Pine River Township by Harvey Parsons.

In June, 1879, three bears crossed the railroad track just ahead of a train from Saginaw as it was approaching Alma. The trainmen notified the Almaites, and the nimrods of that town went in pursuit, the result being that Chas. Spicer succeeded in capturing one of the bears, and another one of the trio was laid low before the hunt ended.

In October, 1881, a bear was shot by Geo. Hawkins on the farm of Philip Fritz, section 35, Newark. Next day another was captured near Fulton Center. Chas. E. Webster wounded it, and Jas. S. Lance finished the job.

B. Frank Gulick, of Lafayette, has a record as a bear hunter. September 16, 1883, he killed a large one. In July, 1885, he and his father, Dr. Thos. J. Gulick, and Seymour Adams, killed three bears. Again in January, 1896, he killed another one after an exciting chase in which about 30 men and as many dogs took part.

The township records show that there were quite a number of wolf bounties paid; conclusive proof of the prevalence of the beast in the county.

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### Cupid No Respecter of Names.

The first marriage recorded in the record of marriages in the county clerk's office took place in Pine River Township May 14, 1854, and was solemnized by Rev. E. G. H. Meissler. The marriage probably was performed at the Bethany Mission one and a half miles down the river from St. Louis. Bethany Township, as now known, was a part of Pine River at that time. The witnesses were Jas. Gruett and John Duncle and the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation. The names of the happy parties to the interesting transaction were Egbend Bednecwegonebe and Mary Makadexeasowaque. It may not be out of place to mention the fact that, though the names have a foreign look, the parties were really native-born Americans. They were Indians. Another couple married at the same place by the same minister, November 18, 1855, were even worse afflicted in the matter of names than were the first couple. They were Julius Gotnelff Asay and Johanne Justine Wilhelmine Bxemer. As to the nationality of this last couple any one is free to guess.

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### Proof of a Bad Road.

Twenty-seven years after the county fairly began to be settled—that is, in 1881—one of the worst pieces of roads known to civilization was the eight miles that connected—or rather separated—Ithaca and St. Louis. Here was a piece of road that ought to have been one of the best in the county, for it was located in the oldest settled portion, and had its terminals in two of the big villages of the county; but it was so bad that it was avoided as much as possible, except when the country was suffering from its most disastrous drouths. At such times it was possible to get through if one could stand the jolting. The road has been a by-word even up to recent times, but within the past few years it has been greatly improved, so that now, though not the best road in the county it is by no means the worst.

It was in June, 1881, that the St. Louis Herald, anxious to do or say almost anything to encourage improvements on that section of road, was moved to remark: "The abomination known as the Ithaca and St. Louis State road, is receiving particular attention this season from the inhabitants along the route, who are actually hauling earth into some of the worst places, and are apparently endeavoring at last to make the thing passable,

at least in spots." The editor of the Detroit Evening News saw this item, and quoting it, commented after this manner: "This seems almost too good to be true. The writer of this paragraph has had experience with that piece of road. Not many years ago he went over that road accompanied by a faithful and favorite hound; but alas! It was the dog's final trip. On the last half mile the poor dog broke a leg and unjointed his tail trying to get through. It is an awful road."

No doubt this is a truthful narration of an incident that actually occurred; and it must be conceded that a road so bad that a dog would be disabled and dismembered in trying to navigate it must have been bad indeed.

It was a standing joke that I have heard repeated time and again, that there was but one mud hole between Ithaca and St. Louis; but it was eight miles long.

Just one more dab at that road and I leave it. Along in the '70s, in the fall of the year, a traveling salesman had occasion to drive from Ithaca to St. Louis with a horse and buggy. Getting a late start it was well along in the evening when he got through, and I heard him relate his experiences, which were truly pathetic. But the point I am driving at was the way he closed the story of his trials. "Finally I got through and on to the hill out here," said he, (it was Newton's hill that he referred to) "and you may not believe me, but I felt so thankful that I got right out of the buggy, and, dropping to my knees on a dryish spot, I fervently thanked a kind Providence that had finally got me to a landing place; and I felt so grateful that I volunteered a solemn promise that I would never be caught in such a scrape again." If I could think of the man's name, doubtless many readers would remember him, and thus the truth of his story would be verified. And anyway, there are many people who know where Newton's hill is located.

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### A School Day—Mrs. Harter's Pen-Picture.

At the pioneer meeting held at the court house in 1907, Mrs. Lydia (Franklin) Harter, of Ashley, who was one of the early girls of North Star Township, gave what might properly be called a pen-picture of a school girl's one day's experiences in the early '60s, in Gratiot County. While it may not be considered an essential part of a county history, it has the effect of recalling "the happy childhood school days" in the country, and will be appreciated by many who had country school experiences a half century or more ago, not necessarily in Gratiot County but in any county.

"My first thought on being awakened that morning was that I must dress in the dark because I read so late the night before that the short bit of candle I was permitted to have was burned out; so I fumble around after my clothes and draw on my stockings. My stockings are home knit, and colored with butternut shucks; and I hate them. My best are white and I feel quite determined that when I get a little older and can earn some money of my own I will never wear colored stockings. My stockings do not reach quite to the knee, so they are fastened up by winding a long knitted garter or string around them, then turning the tops down over and tucking them under the string for security. Then come my shoes; heavy, calf-skin, cut low in the ankle and made from the tops of father's old boots. I feel quite satisfied with them, as so many of my young friends have not

as good; but they are frozen stiff and I have to go to the fire to warm them. There is the stove with its elevated over, red-hot all over the top and sending out a fine glow of heat in every direction except underneath.

"I am told to hurry up and get ready to bake the pancakes for breakfast. The batter is in a tin can or pail and I am cautioned to leave enough to start a mess for dinner. We have buckwheat cakes twice a day from early fall until late in the spring; and that batter-can is never empty during that time; just scraped down on the inside and kept bright on the outside. I am sent to get some soft sugar—maple, of course—for the cakes, and feel quite jubilant to know that we are to have real coffee for breakfast, sweetened with muscovado sugar. This is because someone has stayed with us over night, and it is thought necessary to have something a little extra. They say that it is the war that makes everything so dear, and I think it would be so nice to have the South give up. Everybody thinks it will before long; everybody but some old 'copperhead' who will not go to church because the preacher prays for the union soldiers.

"After breakfast I help with the dishes and get ready for school. When ready, I wear a skirt made of blue denims, straight and full all around; a waist of the same material made perfectly plain and fastened tightly to the skirt; a shawl folded three-cornered, and a hood made of some dark material, and lined with butternut-colored flannel. The cape and face are edged with something of a brighter color, and I always hated it because a would-be wit told me one day that it made me look like a woodchuck with his mouth full of corn.

"Going to school I meet a team or two, and step out into the deep snow to let them pass. My fingers and toes get as cold as ice, but I run races with the boys and, when I find a favorable place, slide along the wide, smooth track made by the sled runners. Some of the children have been forbidden to slide as it wears out their shoes.

"After reaching the school house it is such fun for all the scholars to crowd around the red-hot, big, rusty box-stove, and pretend to be cold as long as we can. After the usual routine of lessons in reading, arithmetic, grammar and geography are over, the spelling classes are called upon the floor. They are numbered 'first', 'second' and 'third'; the third class being called on the floor first, and being composed of the poorest spellers. These spelling exercises close the forenoon and the afternoon sessions of the day. All who were advanced enough took a hand in them with a vim. One great, lumbering fellow studies his spelling lessons all the time but cannot learn how to spell. By the time he gets his wrinkled, rusty boots where they belong, and his arms folded behind him, he does not know how to spell a single word. The lesson for my class today is composed of the longest words in the speller, such as 'incomprehensibility' and 'immateriality.' We are obliged to spell them and pronounce every syllable separately, thus: I-n in; c-o-m com, incom; p-r-e pre, incompre; h-e-n hen, incomprehen; s-i si, incomprehensi; b-i-l bil, incomprehensibil; i, incomprehensibili; t-y ty, incomprehensibility. The spelling class was the only chance for contest, competition, promotion or distinction in the whole business, for if one missed a word he was turned down by the first one below him who could spell it right. Then at night after the roll was called the query comes, 'Who was at the head of the first class; second class; third class?' The proper credit being given—'Now, children, I want you to all go right straight home; school's dismissed.'

"At noon the smaller children go out to play, but I have been told that I am too big to play, so I knit on a stocking I brought rolled up in my

pocket. Some of the girls piece quilt blocks. In the afternoon the younger scholars speak pieces, and some of the older ones read compositions; after which all the scholars stand up and spell down. On my way home I stop at a neighbor's and get our candle molds that have been borrowed, as mother has to run up a lot of tallow candles in the evening, and it is my part to put the wickes in the molds.

"We take a paper, the only one taken in the neighborhood, and I think it gives us quite a distinction. Either father has just returned from his long tramp to St. Johns, where he frequently goes to get the latest war news, or that weekly paper has just arrived, for several of the neighbors call in the evening to hear how the battles are going on. They read with intense interest and with many comments the long list of killed, wounded and missing; they talk about the boys who have enlisted in the cavalry, and in the infantry, and about those who are missing. And how wild they act over one who has returned home on furlough. After our callers have left for their homes, I retire, having gained possession of another piece of tallow candle, and close the day by reading a chapter in—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

"During the school season the teachers and scholars had a holiday every alternate Saturday. The children generally spent their holidays at home, and were kept busy shelling corn, piling brush or wood, or running errands.

"In the summer months a Sunday school was held in the old log school house, at half past nine in the morning, and every child that could toddle was there from a distance of two miles or more. We committed our lessons to memory, many children committing to memory whole chapters from the scriptures. Helps like the lesson leaves and quarterlies that we now have were not known, and a children's day or an excursion were never thought of. Many times in going to school we had to wade in water and mud above our shoe tops. Overshoes had not then come into use, and children sat with wet and cold feet all day. The smallest children sat on backless benches, and not able to reach the floor with their feet in many cases. The goose quill pen had not entirely gone out of use, and a scholar who possessed a Joseph Gillott steel pen was considered a lucky fellow. So now you can all afford to be charitable to the old folks who are poor pensmen.

"So many and great changes have been made in Gratiot County since the time of which I write they can hardly be realized. Gratiot County with its new and commodious school houses, its churches, its elegant homes, well cultivated farms, beautiful villages, its various industries, and its schools with their corps of efficient teachers, can be classed second to none in the state. And in closing this paper I will say that I am proud of Gratiot County; proud that it is still my home, and glad that I was bred upon its soil; and it gives me pleasure to remember that I was a pupil of the first school ever taught in the Township of North Star; and that I was a member at the beginning of the first teachers' association ever organized in the State of Michigan, namely, the Gratiot County Teachers' Association."

## WELL-MERITED COMMENDATION.

I wish to call special attention to the excellent work of the firm of Seemann & Peters, printers, engravers and binders, as exemplified by their part in the production of this volume. The members of the firm and the employees concerned in the work have all shown commendable interest and zeal, with unfailing courtesy and with an evident determination to achieve the best possible results in style and workmanship.

## PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO HAVE HELPED.

It is a pleasure to give credit to the camera artists who have contributed of their skill and taste to aid in properly illustrating this work. A work of this kind could be but a partial success at best without suitable pictures of scenes and people treated of; and I believe the facts in this particular case will bear out the assertion that this volume is appropriately and finely illustrated. Though there are a few of the personal portraits of old pioneers not entirely what could be wished for, no pains have been spared to do the very best possible under existing conditions. And the work of the engravers is certainly above criticism.

The list of local photographers whose work has found a place in these pages is practically complete as follows: Whittaker, Boice and Bisbee, of St. Louis; Horn, Case, Baker and Braidwood, Alma; Wasson, Dangerfield, Blair, Feazsel, Nooney, Wagner and Miss Iva Smith, Ithaca; C. M. Chaffin, North Star; Hill, Breckenridge; Wight, Ashley. Many of the portraits are from photographs taken by leading artists in outside cities. And here may plausibly come in a

### Conditional Correction or Apology.

Every illustration and every portrait is true to name; just what it claims to be. That naturally would be assumed as a matter of course. But there is one possible exception—the portrait of Gen. Charles Gratiot, on page 25. Since the page and portrait were printed I have been led to think that by a possibility the portrait may be a freak of somebody's fancy, though its authenticity and genuineness at the time of its insertion was not a matter of doubt; and the preponderance of presumption is still on the side of its genuineness. The matter is not really of much importance, but to avoid pretenses that cannot be fully and positively verified and sustained, this precautionary explanation is here offered.

## ERRATA.

On page 8, 19th line from top, read "through" instead of "thorough."
Page 42, 10th line from bottom, read "revised" instead of "raised."
Page 122, read "L. G. Hull" instead of "L. C. Hull."
Page 134, 21st line from bottom, read "Haring" instead of "Raring."
Page 161, 15th line from bottom, read "Dalgleish" instead of "Dalghish."
Page 177, 18th line from top, read "course" instead of "sourse."
Page 312—death of G. W. J. Willoughby, leave out "G. M. Willoughby."
Page 607, read "Howard Hoyt" instead of "Howard Hozt."
Page 1052, read "Lewis Rumsey" instead of "Lewis Rumse."

## CLOSING REMARKS—BEST WISHES—OPTIMISTIC HOPES.

So, after more than five years' labor and research in an earnest and toilsome endeavor to produce an exhaustive history of Gratiot County, a history so complete, so reliable and so generally interesting and valuable as to merit the approval of the people of the county, the work is completed, and is submitted for a decision as to whether my "earnest endeavor" has been successful or a dismal failure. The case is submitted to the jury—the people.

There is one encouraging feature, or at least a feature that should be encouraging: I promised a book of 800 or 1,000 pages; and here I am fulfilling with a book of more than 1,300 pages, and weighing about eight pounds. Certainly if bulk counts for value, the patrons are getting the worth of their money. But we all know that quantity is not always a valuable asset. Supposing the criticisms should run like this: "The book would be tolerable, only the covers are too far apart!" Too much of a bad thing.

But joking aside, I am really quite optimistic in my views and in my anticipations; am not without some faith in the judgment of those prominent people who encouraged me to undertake the work, personal mention of whom is made in the "proem" to the volume. Furthermore, though the pages have run up to an unconscionable number, I know every one of those pages by heart, and I am going to say, from my own personal observation, and on my own judgment, that there is not a single page that has not good value in it, or that could be spared from the book without serious loss. Maybe that's egotism rather than optimism; but whether egotism or optimism, and though the extra hundreds of pages have cost me many extra hundreds of dollars, I am glad the pages are there; and they are thrown in absolutely free, for good measure.

One prime reason why the book has grown to such large proportions lies in the fact that I have been possessed of a hobby or notion that a chief item of value in a history of pioneer days and pioneer people rests in the mention of as many of the old settlers as possible; favorable mention, of course. Not merely those who took the lead and thus got themselves into the limelight and into the offices, but also the hundreds of others, a much larger crowd, equally deserving and equally entitled to immortality, who missed the limelight and the offices. If I have erred in this, I claim the credit of erring on the side of justice and in behalf of the great majority, who, but for this brief recognition, would be, in a very few years, as dead to memory as they will be physically dead to the hustling, bustling on-rushing world of the passing generations.

But I am reminded that I said, above, something about the case being submitted to the people; so, lest I be accused of tampering with the jury after the case has been submitted, I refrain from further comment along that line, only venturing further the confident hope that every family coming into possession of a copy of the book may find something of interest and value every time its pages are opened, even for many, many years to come. Of interest and value, not by reason of its classical style nor yet for its dry abstractions; but for its facts, facts; concrete and individual facts, plainly, truthfully and faithfully chronicled.

W. D. T.

Ithaca, Mich., December, 1913.

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